

the tireless work of Federal employees from several Agencies that has kept this snake out of Hawaii.

Since the creation of the Brown Tree Snake Program nearly 20 years ago, not a single brown tree snake has been found in Hawaii because the program works. The Federal investment in equipment, training, and hiring personnel works. Several Agencies, including the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Defense work together on the research, interdiction, and management of the brown tree snake.

But the firing of just one individual who served as the Brown Tree Snake Program coordinator in Hawaii threatens to nullify all of that successful work. This individual was responsible for ensuring that prior security protocols were being followed in coordinating amongst the different Agencies involved in the program. He has been doing this for a number of years. He has the expertise to do this well, to keep this snake out of Hawaii. He oversaw the implementation of the Brown Tree Snake Program for the entire Pacific region.

As I give this speech today, his position was eliminated for no good reason by Musk and Trump. To this day, his position remains vacant. As we know, there is a hiring freeze imposed by the President also. So if he is not reinstated, the likely scenario will be that it will not be a matter of if brown tree snakes are introduced to Hawaii, but when.

Let's be clear. If this snake makes it to Hawaii, I fear it is only a matter of time before it reaches the rest of our country.

Trump and Elon Musk think they can just take a chain saw to our Federal workforce and budget, hacking away with no consequences. But in 10 years, when brown tree snakes have decimated Hawaii's ecosystem and wreaked havoc in other States across our country, it will, obviously, be too late.

Mr. President, the brown tree snake is a real threat that Hawaii takes seriously. And in every State across our country, red and blue alike, there are Federal workers doing critical, often unseen work, to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our communities—critical Federal employees. Firing these employees will inevitably make our country and our communities less safe, less prosperous, and more vulnerable to outside threats from foreign governments to invasive species, and everything in between.

I stand ready to work with anyone serious about making our government more efficient, but these cuts are having the opposite effect.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join me in standing up for the critical Federal programs in our States and to the well-being of the American people by rejecting this administration's attacks on our government and the people who keep it working and who protect our communities.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, here we go again. In just a little over 24 hours, Federal funding will run out, and the government will shut down.

Let me state for the record that my Republican colleagues and I are ready to get on with matters and ready to fund the government for the rest of this year. We all know that the faster we move it over the finish line, the faster our Federal Government can get to work on behalf of the American people and implement the agenda that the American people elected us to get done.

But after our Democratic friends had a nice long lunch on Capitol Hill yesterday, Senator SCHUMER took the floor to announce that their caucus would not support funding the government because, as he put it, "Republicans chose a partisan path." But here is what Senator SCHUMER is really saying: Democrats would rather shut down the government than pass the funding bill just to shift blame to Republicans for our current funding predicament. Democrats are going to shut down the government to protect the government.

In the next 24 hours, even, Democrats are planning to use the very same filibuster they have opposed and tried to abolish to shut down the government. In the last administration, former Vice President Kamala Harris said that Joe Biden and the Democrats are "kinda done with those archaic Senate rules." But here they are using those archaic Senate rules to shut down the government.

There is nothing that could explain such a drastic change of heart among my Democratic colleagues other than rank hypocrisy. Democrats are quick to criticize Republican efforts to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in our bureaucracies on behalf of hard-working American taxpayers. Yet in the same breath, Democrats are fighting to withhold the paychecks of air traffic controllers, our troops, Federal custodial staff. They can't be serious. The level of hypocrisy displayed by the minority leader and my Democratic colleagues is appalling to the office they hold and the constituents they serve. A government shutdown, of course, doesn't just affect the Federal workforce. For instance, food inspectors will be forced to stop their work, interrupting our food supply chains. It is as if the Democrats are trying to finish Joe Biden's job of driving up prices in the grocery store.

Let me remind everyone of why we are on the verge of a government shutdown. Just a few months ago, Senator SCHUMER and my Democratic col-

leagues held the majority here. During that time, Republicans joined with Democrats to vote 11 out of 12 government funding bills from committee—11 out of 12. Six of them were unanimous. The other five passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. That would seem to be a great accomplishment in a too-often-divided Washington—11 out of 12 bills, 6 unanimous, 5 with overwhelming bipartisan support.

But even though we had all those spending bills ready to go last summer on a bipartisan basis, then-Majority Leader SCHUMER failed to bring a single bill to the floor from August to the end of last year. Not a single bill. Even though—let me say it again—11 out of 12 passed out of committee; six were unanimous; and the other five were overwhelmingly bipartisan. Not a single one.

Senator SCHUMER had 224 days to bring those bills to the floor for a vote—224 days. What did we do, instead? He chose to prioritize election-year stunts trying to distract voters from Joe Biden's disastrous border crisis. He had a vote on mandating government-funded fertility treatments for biological men—more important than funding the government.

We also confirmed a whole host of unqualified Biden nominees you have never heard of for jobs you didn't know existed, not to mention a whole host of unqualified judges in States with two Democrat Senators who couldn't have gotten confirmed for the first 4 years and were only jammed through in a lameduck session, when we also could have been passing those spending bills to fund the government so we wouldn't be in this position.

Senator SCHUMER claims to care about the livelihoods of Federal workers, but as leader, he seemed more preoccupied with putting on a big political show. Yet here is Senator SCHUMER claiming that Republican partisanship is the reason for shutting down the government. Spare me.

It continued this year. Since Republicans took over, he blocked negotiations that would have made this funding bill a bipartisan effort from the start. Senator COLLINS, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and TOM COLE, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, made multiple, multiple offers to their Democratic counterparts to negotiate on a bipartisan basis government funding bills, just like we did last summer. But, no. Senator SCHUMER blocked it time and time again until just a few days ago.

Yet now, supposedly, the clock has run out. He wants another 30 days—another 30 days—when he had 224 days last year to do this, when we had over 60 days this year to negotiate on a bipartisan basis.

The time for those negotiations has regrettably passed. It is time to finish last year's business and move on to this year's business.

Democrats have one last chance to join Republicans and support a simple

yearlong funding bill. Republicans encourage our Democratic colleagues to join this effort to keep the government funded for the American people we all serve.

Shutting our government down, as many of my Democratic colleagues are apparently considering, is not just some political stunt. There are real and consequential national security risks if they choose to go through with this reckless scheme.

A government shutdown will disrupt military training and could force us to cancel planned exercises with our allies and partners. These are the very same alliances Democrats claim to care so much about supporting and preserving. Furthermore, a shutdown would disrupt ongoing work to modernize our nuclear forces, which is already behind schedule. Any further delay would make this bad situation even worse.

And the potential Schumer shutdown will hurt military preparedness by slowing recruiting, create uncertainty in our defense supply chains, and impact our ability to produce badly needed munitions. This is not the message of strength we want to send to the allies we stand beside and the enemies we stand against.

To my Democratic colleagues who still believe that shutting down the government is the principled choice that you need to—again, it is hard for me to explain their position—shut down the government to protect the government, let me ask you, simply: What does voting no accomplish? Six months ago, Senator SCHUMER said:

If the government shuts down, it will be average Americans who suffer most.

That was Senator SCHUMER. What has happened in the last 6 months? Nothing, as far as I could tell, except who the American people elected to lead the government.

So if this Schumer shutdown stunt is just a threat to get Republicans to agree to a fake short-term extension that brings us right back to where we are now, again, what is the point?

The Democrats' hypocritical arguments reveal, once again, they are not serious about putting their duty to the American people above partnership, pettiness and pride.

I invite them all to justify the Schumer shutdown to the parents who must postpone a trip to a national park with their children after months of saving and planning; or to explain your reasoning for the Schumer shutdown to the veteran who has already taken a day off work to sign up for healthcare at his regional benefits office only to find it closed; or to defend the Schumer shutdown to the Federal employee who puts all of her groceries on a credit card to make sure there is enough money left at the end of the month to cover her rent.

My friends, we have two choices before us, and they are quite simple: either keep the government open and working for the people or shut it down. To do what exactly? I don't know. I

think we can all agree that the American people deserve better than a government that is a day late and a couple billion dollars short. So I encourage my Democratic colleagues to vote with us to simply fund the government. Let's not have a Schumer shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as people all over this country understand, we are a nation today that faces enormous crises. Sadly, the continuing resolution passed Tuesday in the U.S. House and which will come to this body very shortly not only does nothing to address these crises but, in fact, it makes a bad situation much worse.

Today, at a time when we have more income and wealth inequality than we have ever had in the history of this country, 60 percent of our people are living paycheck to paycheck. What that means—I grew up in a family living paycheck to paycheck. It means that people are worried about how they are going to afford housing. What happens if their landlord raises the rent? People go to the grocery store, and they see the high prices of food and wonder how they are going to feed their kids. People are looking at the outrageous cost of childcare, but you need childcare if you are going to go to work. How can you afford childcare? Our healthcare system is dysfunctional. People worry about how they can afford healthcare if they are lucky enough to be able to find a doctor.

That is the reality of what is going on in our country today: The rich are getting richer; working people are struggling; and 800,000 Americans are sleeping out on the streets.

So, given that reality, what does this bill do—the bill written by the right-wing extremists in the House of Representatives without any bipartisan discussion at all? What does this bill do?

Well, let me count the ways. It makes the financial struggles of working people even more difficult than they are today, and it does all of that to lay the groundwork for massive tax breaks for Elon Musk and the billionaire class.

For a start, some 22 percent of our seniors in this country are trying to survive on \$15,000 a year or less, which, to me, is really quite incredible. I don't know how anybody, let alone a senior, survives on \$15,000 a year or less. Half of our seniors are trying to survive on \$30,000 a year or less. So what does the Trump-Musk administration do to address the terrible economic pressures on seniors all over America? Well, they have got a brilliant idea. They illegally fire thousands of workers at the Social Security Administration, with plans to cut that staff in half.

In America today, 30,000 people die each year while waiting to receive their Social Security disability benefits because of a grossly understaffed and underresourced Social Security

Administration. My office—and I expect the Presiding Officer's office and I expect every other office—gets calls every day from seniors, saying: I am having a problem with Social Security. I can't make contact with the Social Security people. They are not getting back to me.

That is because, today, they are understaffed. If Musk and Trump get their way and the Social Security Administration's staff is cut in half, nobody can deny that that will be a death sentence for many thousands of seniors who desperately need their benefits.

Now, Mr. Musk, who is worth a few hundred billion, may not understand that there are millions of seniors in this country who have nothing in the bank, who worry every day as to how they are going to heat their homes or buy the food that they need, and if they can't get the benefits that they need, some of them will, in fact, die.

Let me be clear: When you have Mr. Musk calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme despite the fact that it has paid out every benefit owed to every eligible American for the last 80-plus years, that ain't no Ponzi scheme.

When you have the President of the United States coming before Congress and lying—outrageously lying—about millions of people who are 150 or 200 years of age receiving Social Security benefits—a total lie—everybody should understand what is going on.

Trump and Musk are laying the groundwork for dismantling the most successful Federal program in history—Social Security—a program that keeps over 27 million Americans out of poverty. By the way, just to set the record straight, over 99 percent of the more than 70 million Social Security checks that go out each month are going to people who earned those benefits—over 99 percent. People 150 or 500 years of age are not getting Social Security checks.

But this continuing resolution that passed in the House is not just a vicious attack on Social Security; it is an attack on the veterans of our Nation—the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our country. While we made some progress under the Biden administration in improving veterans' healthcare, the truth is that the VA has remained significantly understaffed. In the fourth quarter of 2024, there were 36,000 vacancies at the VA. We needed 2,400 more doctors, 6,300 more registered nurses, 3,400 more schedulers, 1,800 more social workers, and 1,200 more custodians.

So what do the Trump administration and Mr. Musk do to address this very serious workforce shortage? Their answer is that they are threatening to dismantle the VA by firing 83,000 employees. In other words, you have got a shortage today, and their solution to the shortage is to fire 83,000 workers. Not only does this CR do nothing to stop that, but it cuts more than \$20 billion in funding needed to provide care for veterans exposed to burn pits,

Agent Orange, and other toxic substances next year.

Pathetically, our Nation—the richest country on Earth—has the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on the planet, and that is often reflected in the crises facing many public schools today. Throughout America, children are coming into school hungry; kids are coming into school with serious mental issues; kids are coming into school from dysfunctional families and families often dealing with drug abuse.

And what is the Trump-Musk administration doing about that crisis?

Well, their response was interesting. Just the other day, they fired half of the staff at the Department of Education. That means that it will be far harder to administer the title I program that helps 26 million low-income kids get the education they need and pays the salaries of some 180,000 public school teachers throughout the country.

So how does a school in a working-class community survive if you don't get the funds to pay for teachers?

Further, it means that it will be far harder to administer the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the IDEA, that provides vital resources for 7½ million kids with disabilities. We have made progress in a bipartisan way over the last number of years to say to families: If your kid has a disability, that kid can still go to a public school. There will be services available for that kid.

But when you cut the Department of Education staff here in Washington in half, that is going to be extremely difficult to do, and it means that it will be far harder for some 7 million low-income and working-class students to get the Pell grants they need to get a higher education. In fact, just hours after the Department of Education laid off half of its staff, the website for the free application for Federal Student Aid that working families use to apply for Pell grants and other financial institutions crashed. They fired workers, and the website crashed for the people who were applying for Pell grants. This CR that we will be looking at perhaps tomorrow gives the Trump administration the green light to make these horrific cuts to education.

And it is not just education. We have a major healthcare crisis in our country.

Despite spending twice as much per capita on healthcare as the people of any other major country, 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured. Over 500,000 of our people go bankrupt because of medically related debt; over 60,000 people die each year because they can't afford to get to a doctor on time; and our life expectancy is not only lower than in almost any other major country, it is a system wherein working-class and low-income Americans die 7 years younger than wealthier Americans.

So you have got a crisis: People can't find a doctor. People are going bank-

rupt because of healthcare bills. And what does this CR do? Well, at a time when, in particular, our primary healthcare system is completely broken, when we don't have enough doctors or nurses or dentists or mental health counselors, this proposal cuts—cuts—community health center funding by 3.2 percent; it cuts the National Health Service Corps by over 5 percent; and it cuts funding for teaching health centers—a program which helps train doctors in rural and underserved areas—by almost 13 percent.

So, in the midst of a horrific primary healthcare crisis in Vermont and all over rural America, this proposal will make it that much harder for people to get the healthcare that they desperately need.

But it is not just healthcare. Everybody in this country, from Vermont to Los Angeles, understands we have a major housing crisis. It is not just all of the homelessness we are seeing. Over 20 million of our people, incredibly, spend more than 50 percent of their limited income on housing. How in God's name do you pay for anything else? How do you buy food? How do you take care of healthcare if you are spending 50 percent or more for your housing?

So how does this CR address the housing crisis? Well, it does it by cutting rental assistance for low-income families in America by \$700 million, which could lead to more than 32,000 families in our country being evicted from their homes. Well, that is a heck of a solution to the housing crisis: You make it much worse.

But it is not just housing. I know that the President might disagree. He thinks that climate change is a hoax. The whole scientific community understands that it is an existential threat. They understand that the last 10 years have been the warmest ever recorded, and extreme weather disturbances and natural disasters have been taking place all over the world—from California to India, across Europe, to North Carolina.

So what does the CR do about the existential threat of climate change? It does not even specify funding levels within the Environmental Protection Agency. In other words, the administration can simply eliminate funding for climate change and environmental justice, and that would be consistent with this CR.

And on top of all of this, the administration is already indicating that they will simply ignore the provisions of the spending bill they don't like. This week, it was reported that Vice President JD Vance said to the Senate Republican caucus: I want everyone to vote yes. The President, under section II, will ensure allocations from Congress are not spent on things that harm the taxpayer. There is so much grift in Washington. Let's move this CR, get to reconciliation, and for Congress to pass appropriations.

In other words, what Vance is saying is: Don't worry about what is actually

in the bill. If the Trump administration doesn't like it, they won't do it.

And let's be clear: The House CR that was passed in an extremely partisan vote—I think they won by 3 or 4 votes. One Democrat out of—whatever—215 voted for it. The House CR and the Trump administration are doing everything they can to lay the groundwork for more tax breaks for billionaires, paid for by massive cuts to Medicaid, nutrition assistance, housing, and education. So you are looking at a one-two punch: a very bad CR and then a reconciliation bill coming down, which will be the final kick in the teeth for the American people.

This legislation that the Republicans are working on—the reconciliation bill—would cut taxes for billionaires in the top 1 percent by over \$1.1 trillion over the next decade. According to a recent study, if all of Trump's so-called "America First" policies are enacted, the bottom 95 percent of Americans will see their taxes go up, while the richest 5 percent will see their taxes go down—way down.

I should also mention that that reconciliation bill which Republicans are working on right now would also cut Medicaid by \$880 billion.

Tax breaks for billionaires; throwing low-income kids off of healthcare; decimating nursing homes all over America, because nursing homes receive two-thirds of their funding from Medicaid; making it harder for community health centers to survive, which provide healthcare to 32 million Americans, because 43 percent of their revenue comes from Medicaid—cut Medicaid by \$880 billion, and you will significantly deteriorate the quality of healthcare all over America, at a time when the system is already broken.

Further, the reconciliation bill proposes to cut at least \$230 billion from nutrition. Today, nearly one out of five kids in America rely on Federal nutrition programs to keep them from going hungry. I find it rather remarkable that the richest person on Earth, somebody worth hundreds of billions of dollars—that he and his other oligarch friends are working night and day to cut programs for the working people of this country and to actually deny food to hungry kids in America. There is no world, no universe, no religion that would not believe that that is grossly immoral and unacceptable. You don't give tax breaks to the rich and take food away from hungry children.

The House CR bill that we will be soon voting on here is a piece of legislation I cannot support. Instead, what the Senate must do is pass a 30-day CR so that all Members of Congress, not just the House Republican leadership, can come together and produce a good piece of legislation that works for all Americans and not just the few.

We have an opportunity now to serve the American people. We have an opportunity to write something that reflects what people in the Congress feel, what the people in America feel.

I go around the country, and, just a couple of weeks ago, I held a telephone townhall in Vermont. We are a small State. We only have about 650,000 people. Yet on that telephone townhall, there were 34,000 people listening in. It is a significant percentage of a small State.

I have been in many parts of the country recently. I have been in Iowa. I have been in Wisconsin. I have been in Nebraska. I have been in Michigan. And what I can tell you with absolute certainty is, whether people are conservative, whether they are Republican, whether they are progressive, whether they are moderate, whether they are Independent—whatever they may be—there are very few people in this country who think we should give a trillion dollars in tax breaks to the rich and cut back on Medicaid, education, and nutritional programs for hungry children.

So, Mr. President, what I strongly propose is that we pass a 30-day CR; that we do what has always been the case here in the Senate: have both bodies, both parties work together to come up with a good piece of legislation.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. I ask that the previously scheduled rollcall vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON KESSLER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kessler nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Slotkin
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Bennet	Blunt Rochester
Baldwin	Blumenthal	Booker

Cantwell	Kim	Sanders
Coons	King	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Schiff
Durbin	Lujan	Schumer
Fetterman	Markey	Shaheen
Gallego	Merkley	Smith
Gillibrand	Murphy	Van Hollen
Hassan	Murray	Warner
Heinrich	Ossoff	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warren
Hirono	Peters	Welch
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
Kelly	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the motion to invoke cloture on S. 331.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 18, S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Dan Sullivan, Ashley B. Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Bennet	Boozman
Banks	Blackburn	Britt
Barrasso	Blumenthal	Budd

Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Capito	Hoeven	Paul
Cassidy	Husted	Peters
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Coons	Johnson	Ricketts
Cornyn	Justice	Risch
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Rosen
Cotton	Kelly	Rounds
Cramer	Kennedy	Schatz
Crapo	Kim	Schmitt
Cruz	King	Schumer
Curtis	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Durbin	Lee	Shaheen
Ernst	Lujan	Sheehy
Fetterman	Lummis	Slotkin
Fischer	Marshall	Smith
Gallego	McConnell	Sullivan
Gillibrand	McCormick	Thune
Graham	Moody	Tillis
Grassley	Moran	Tuberville
Hagerty	Moreno	Warner
Hassan	Mullin	Whitehouse
Hawley	Murkowski	Wicker
Heinrich	Murray	Young

NAYS—15

Alsobrooks	Merkley	Van Hollen
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Warnock
Booker	Padilla	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	Welch
Markey	Schiff	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 15.

The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 331) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune (for Grassley) amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the last 2 months, the United States has confronted a bitter—a very bitter truth: The Federal Government has been taken over by a nihilist. Donald Trump, in 2 months, has taken a blowtorch to our country and wielded chaos like a weapon.

Republicans in Congress, meanwhile, have caved to his every whim. The Grand Old Party has devolved into a crowd of Trump sycophants and MAGA radicals who want to burn everything to the ground. Look no further than what DOGE is doing. Now Republicans' nihilism has brought us to the brink of disaster.

Unless Congress acts, the Federal Government will shut down tomorrow at midnight. I have said many times that there are no winners in a government shutdown, but there are certainly victims—the most vulnerable Americans who rely on Federal programs to feed their families, to access medical care, and to stay financially afloat.