

Slotkin	Tillis	Wicker
Sullivan	Tuberville	Young
Thune	Warner	
NAYS—39		
Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Peters
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	King	Schiff
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Gallego	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Welch
Hassan	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Padilla	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Hawley	Lummis
Duckworth	Justice	

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.  
The Senator from Iowa.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is a good day for the Senate and a good day for the American people. The Senate will soon pass a bill that is entitled “HALT Fentanyl Act.” The House is expected to take the measure up very soon and send it to President Trump, who is waiting with pen in hand to enact one of his campaign promises.

The HALT Fentanyl Act permanently schedules these deadly substances that have been the main driver of overdose deaths in the United States. No longer does the Drug Enforcement Agency need to play this game of Whac-A-Mole every time a cartel develops a new fentanyl knockoff. In other words, today, a fentanyl knockoff might be illegal, and then they change the chemical makeup of it, and it becomes legal. It is a nightmare for law enforcement.

So no longer will Congress be kicking the can down the road with temporary extensions. We have had many, many extensions over the last several years to keep fentanyl scheduled and its analogs scheduled in I. It also revises policies to research schedule I substances. These are changes the research community has welcomed.

Drug overdoses in the United States have exploded to the highest levels we have ever seen, and, of course, this is thanks to fentanyl and fentanyl knockoffs. The Drug Enforcement Agency has called fentanyl and its knockoffs the “deadliest drug threat the United States has ever faced.”

Since 2016, I have been raising the alarm on deadly synthetic drugs like fentanyl. As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I held a hearing on these substances and the need to stay ahead of the peddlers of this poison. Sadly, it has taken us 9 long years to get to permanently scheduling these deadly knockoffs.

Of course, we thank each of the previous Congresses that, on a temporary basis, extended the scheduling of fentanyl and fentanyl knockoffs, but this bipartisan HALT Fentanyl Act

takes care of this by making it permanent.

Senators CASSIDY, HEINRICH, and JOHNSON were very instrumental in this effort. Their interest in permanently scheduling fentanyl knockoffs inspired the Senate to move this bill to the floor. Republican leadership was also crucial in prioritizing this bill for the floor and helping us navigate the floor process.

Credit is also due to our House colleagues—Representative GRIFFITH, Chairman GUTHRIE, and now retired Chairwoman McMorris Rodgers—who led and championed the HALT Fentanyl Act on the House side.

I would also like to thank Dr. Tim Westlake, who came up with the temporary scheduling structure that we have been using since the year 2018. He has testified before my committee and before the Congress on numerous occasions, and I thank him for his hard work and unflappable dedication.

So, in the end, this campaign earned the support of nearly every major law enforcement organization and also several medical associations and research associations supporting the research component of this bill.

Most importantly, we must say thanks to the countless families organized over a long period of time across the country that have lost loved ones to fentanyl poisoning and have not given up on this type of legislation to make permanent the scheduling.

I want to thank my Senate staff who helped make this possible, especially Colleen Bloss and Michael Perkins, who spearheaded this effort for me and all the committee members. Together, we have taken steps to open the doors of research to permanently schedule the deadliest substance the United States has ever faced and to send a clear message that Congress is willing and ready to act. Together, we have taken an important step to live up to our commitment to our constituents and to the loved ones lost to put them first and to serve them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

REMEMBERING ALAN K. SIMPSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor with my colleague from Wyoming, Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS, to mourn one of Wyoming’s most beloved and fiercest champions. He passed earlier this morning. That would be former U.S. Senator Al Simpson—not just former Senator; former member of the Wyoming House of Representatives and former Army veteran. He passed away earlier today at the age of 93 in his hometown of Cody, Wy-

oming. I talked to his wife Ann this morning. She said it was a beautiful, full moon, and Al went to Heaven on a moonbeam.

He is known in Wyoming and in this body and across the country for his incredible life of service and really an unparalleled sense of humor.

Throughout his life, Al boldly fought to uphold the values and the ideals of this great Nation. Whether he was serving in the Army or the Wyoming House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate, his commitment and his contributions were evident everywhere.

He was well known for rolling up his sleeves and working with anyone regardless of party to do what he thought was best for Wyoming and the Nation. When the Nation called on Al Simpson, when they called on him to serve, he was always there fighting for our best interests.

Al once said:

Never let them distort who you are.

So let me tell you about the real Al Simpson. His life and his legacy are defined by the c’s—the c’s standing for his hometown of Cody, and collegiality is a big part, but also there was courage, character, and credibility.

He represented Wyoming in this Chamber as a U.S. Senator from 1979 to 1997, and for that reason alone, Al looms very large in Wyoming’s political history. There is a lot more. He left an indelible mark here in the Senate. While others ran from tough issues, Al welcomed them. It was an opportunity to serve. He actually never backed down from a fight. He embraced the fights as long as he was fighting for what he thought was right.

He sponsored legislation that helped protect our clean water and our clean air. He secured better grazing rights for Wyoming farmers and ranchers. He fought to secure our borders and imposed stiff sanctions on employers who hired illegal immigrants.

He once said:

The first duty of every nation is to secure its border.

He was so right.

He was elected by our Republican conference in the Senate in 1985 to serve as the assistant Republican leader. He was the first Republican whip from the State of Wyoming. He was the whip for 10 years, and he did it under the leadership of Senator Bob Dole. So I am proud to hold the office today that he once held. His leadership brought Wyoming values to Washington, and he left a lasting national impact.

Al came from a family of public servants. His father Milward was both Wyoming Governor and Senator. His dad Milward was Al’s role model for public service and civic leadership. His big brother Pete once explained:

The extent to which we became men we owe to our father.

Everyone who knew Al well knows that his most important influence in his life came from the love of his life,

his wife Ann—his wife of 70 years. Al and Ann first began dating when they were students at the University of Wyoming. They were married in 1954. For seven decades, Wyoming was fortunate to listen to and learn from Al and from Ann.

They were an inspiration to all of us—to me, to my wife Bobbi, and they were, I know, to Cynthia and her husband Al. They made a legendary team, always working together to make both Wyoming and Washington a better place.

Al liked to say:

Everything in Wyoming is political, except for politics, which was personal.

Yet, for Al, politics was never personal. His debates were passionate and they were principled. He was friends with Ted Kennedy. They collaborated together on legislation. From energy, to border security, to fiscal responsibility, Al worked across the aisle to tackle the tough issues. He always did what he believed was best for the country. In today's political environment, Al's example of bridging partisan divides is more important than ever.

In the art of persuasion, Al Simpson could teach a master class. One reason Al was so persuasive was his humor. He had an incredible sense of humor. He had close personal relationships with Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush. The title of his biography tells a lot about Al. It is called "Shooting from the Lip." Al was a gunslinger when it came to clever quips. There are too many to count. We don't want to recount some of them on the floor of the Senate; they would probably be stricken from the record. But that is who Al Simpson was. He made you laugh. He also made you think. And that is what made Al so special. He took his service seriously, but he never took himself too seriously.

Al and Ann returned to Wyoming after he retired from the Senate. Fortunately for Wyoming and our Nation, that service did not end because they never really retired. Al enthusiastically served numerous groups and organizations, which all have benefited from his presence. From his beloved alma mater, the University of Wyoming, to the world-renowned Buffalo Bill historical center, Al Simpson devoted his time, his talent, and his treasure.

When Al saw an unmet need in his community, he worked to see that it was addressed. He was especially active in mentoring future leaders. It is no wonder that he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2022. It is the highest honor an American civilian can get for service to our country.

He was a model of leadership for everyone, regardless of party. He did it all across Wyoming and through the years here in Congress. Once, he said:

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters.

Integrity, work ethic, incredible whit—Al truly leaves behind a leg-

endary career. For Wyoming, Al is a native son and also a North Star and a rock star.

For the U.S. Senate, Al is a leader, a legislative craftsman, and a principled lawmaker.

For me, he was a mentor and friend.

To Ann; to their children, Bill, Collin, and Sue—I talked to Bill and Collin this morning; to their entire extended family, I join the Nation and Wyoming in sending you our heartfelt condolences.

We can take solace in knowing that the decades of work Al did to make Wyoming and our country a better place will be felt for generations to come.

Senator LUMMIS.

Ms. LUMMIS. Thank you, Senator BARRASSO, for those lovely remarks. We both loved Al Simpson, and we will always love Al Simpson.

Today, we join the entire State of Wyoming, his family, and his close friends in celebrating his life and mourning the passing of U.S. Senator Al Simpson.

He was absolutely larger than life and always will be a beloved statesman. He dedicated his entire life to serving others, his entire life of 93 years—for 18 years here in the U.S. Senate, 12 years in the Wyoming House of Representatives, and 28 years as a very active elder statesman, particularly in his efforts to help and serve our beloved alma mater, the University of Wyoming.

He tirelessly advocated for the State of Wyoming, fighting to ensure that every corner of our State was not only a great place to work but a great place to make a home and raise a family. Indeed, he contributed to that as well with his children and grandchildren and his beloved, beautiful Ann Simpson.

My gosh, I saw a picture in the hallway in their home of Ann Simpson when she was in college. She was an absolute knockout. They became the inseparable, dynamic duo of Wyoming—she playing the straight woman to his hilarious antics that everyone so loved.

There was no stronger advocate for the needs, industries, and interests of Wyoming than Senator Al Simpson.

As Senator BARRASSO mentioned, during his U.S. Senate tenure, he was repeatedly chosen by his colleagues to serve in leadership as the Republican whip and was a close friend and ally of both Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush.

Those who met Senator Al Simpson knew he never forgot a face or an interaction, good or bad, and he was happy to remind you of either. Those who were privileged enough to call him friend enjoyed his fierce loyalty, truly fierce loyalty—the kind we all hope we might have with someone in our lives.

His famous sense of humor—I once went to a reception here in Washington, DC, at a beautiful home, and we walked in, and there was a fireplace in the hallway with an original

Pissarro hanging over the fireplace, and he goes: Oh, look, Cynthia, it is a "piss-a-roo." That was classic Al Simpson. Al was well known around the Capitol for his pithy one-liners.

Families in Cody looked forward to spotting him towering—he was a very tall man, maybe 6 feet 7 inches or so, and he would tower above the trick-or-treaters—in his costume, by the way, of Frankenstein. He called himself Frankenal. He would imitate the monster, which he also had perfected over the years.

Al loved life. He loved public service. He loved the State of Wyoming and, particularly, the University of Wyoming.

My gosh, he was so good to the law school, to the trial advocacy clinics. There was just nothing he wouldn't do to help the University of Wyoming excel as an institution.

But he never missed an opportunity to praise his beloved Ann, his children, his grandchildren. I was in law school with both Colin and Bill Simpson. The legacy of that family for the practice of law in Wyoming and elsewhere in the country is truly significant, in addition to the many other legislative victories and policy wins and the fabulous museum, the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in Wyoming, which is truly a world-class—world-class—institution, in large part because of Ann and Al's complete dedication to it.

Last year, Ann and Al celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. How did they celebrate it? They held an ice cream social at Cody City Park with family, friends, and neighbors. That was the Simpson way of doing things. At every gathering Al Simpson attended, people flocked to him—and I mean flocked—for a moment with a man each considered one of their closest friends. That is the effect that he had on people. That is the incredible aura that was part of Al Simpson. He truly was a proud son of Cody, WY.

Coming from an early pioneer family, Al never forgot his ancestors and the people who came before him. Senator BARRASSO just mentioned that his father Milward was also a noted Wyoming character; and that trait continues on in the entire family.

He never forgot his goals, which were to spread integrity, humor, service, and to make sure that the Wyoming he left, the country he left, would be better for the next generation. And I can tell you, he accomplished that. He is one of those people you can look to and say: He did that in his life.

Al's family were his pride and joy, and he was our pride and joy as a beloved son of Wyoming, a great mentor, a fabulous human being, someone in your life that if you met Al Simpson, it was something you would say: What was one of my great joys in life? And one would certainly be: I knew Al Simpson.

So I ask you all to join us in celebrating the tremendous, extraordinary, curious life of U.S. Senator Al Simpson.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wanted to join my colleagues from Wyoming. I heard they were paying a tribute to Al Simpson who recently passed away. It was my good fortune 15 years ago to be a member of the Simpson-Bowles Commission where Al Simpson, who had been retired from the Senate, cohosted that with Erskine Bowles in a bipartisan effort to deal with the deficit.

I never had a better time and a more educational experience than to be on that Commission. And, of course, you can't talk about Al Simpson's public service without referring to his sense of humor.

I said to a friend the other day on the floor of the Senate, I miss that part of the Senate. There used to be, you could count on several Senators to always have a joke, and he was one of them.

And good joke-tellers, I have found, have two qualities. First, they tell the same joke many times, but it seems like it is the first time. And, second, they usually start laughing before the punchline because they are enjoying the joke so much themselves.

But in addition to his good humor and nice way about him, he was a wonderful person to work with—really bipartisan. Being a Democrat, I didn't know quite how I would deal with him since we had never served together in the Senate, but he took me under his shoulder like any Member of his own party or family.

I might also mention for the record that Al and his wife were close friends with Paul and Jeanne Simon from Illinois, my predecessor; and Ann Simpson attended the funeral service for Jeanne Simon in Carbondale, IL, and I thought that was a nice tribute family to family.

I am sorry we don't have people like Al Simpson still serving. Maybe it is an incentive for all of us to learn a joke or two.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are in the tenth week of the first 10 weeks, obviously, of this Senate's session. It has been exceptionally productive during this time period.

We have not only moved more nominees into confirmation for President Trump than any Senate has done in more than two decades, we have passed bills like the Laken Riley Act, which will absolutely help us in trying to remove criminal aliens out of the country.

We have rolled back a lot of Biden's last-minute regulations that he literally threw in in the final hours that did not have the oversight, did not have the appearance. And they, obviously, didn't do it in the first 3½ years of their term. They stalled it till the very end on that for a reason: because it was unpopular with the American people.

Those have been rolled back, many of them, and we still have several to go.

Today we are finishing up a bill called HALT Fentanyl. The fentanyl epidemic is raging in our country.

If you go back to just 2019 and compare that to 2023, in that short period of time, in my State of Oklahoma in 2019, we had 50 people who died of fentanyl. Fast-forward 4 years to 2023, the last year that we have complete records on; that is actually 730 people died. In 2023, across the country, we had 74,000 Americans who died from fentanyl overdose.

Again, go back to 2019. Only about 10 percent of the opioid deaths in my State had fentanyl connected to it. Fast forward to 2023, 90 percent of the opioid-related deaths were connected to fentanyl.

What the Mexican cartels are doing and what Chinese precursor chemicals coming into the country are causing is the death of fellow citizens, as they slip it into different fake pills, as they slip it into methamphetamine, as they slip fentanyl into cocaine, as they slip it into different places, to have someone who is using a drug or someone who never intended to use that drug to take their life. It has to stop.

Even worse, the cartels not only know what they are doing, but they are trying to find specific ways to be able to avoid our laws. Fentanyl has a very specific definition in science of exactly what makes up fentanyl. And so what the cartels are doing is they are changing that chemical makeup ever so slightly in what they call an analog, and so it is really not "fentanyl" as a definition—meaning law enforcement, when they see it on the street, it has the same effect: It still kills you, but it is, actually, technically, not fentanyl, so you can't be prosecuted for it.

This bill that we are bringing to the floor today opens up the fentanyl definitions to deal with fentanyl and the analogs of fentanyl so that the cartels can't continue to bring these deadly drugs into our country to take the lives and increase addiction in America and get away with it. This puts it in the hands of law enforcement, where they have been disarmed in that area, enforcement priorities, so they can actually enforce the law on these cartels and on the drug dealers and so we can identify it for what it really is. It is a killer drug.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is incredibly important. And I am fully aware that in a week where our country is talking about: Are we going to have another government shutdown, it is going to slip through and people aren't even going to notice it. But law enforcement will notice it, and families in the future will notice it.

The folks aren't dealing with the same addiction, as we are putting one more piece out there to be able to take this off.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, as we talk about the government shutdown looming tonight

at midnight, I want to remind you and this body again: This is something I have spoken out on for years. Years ago, I sat down with my Democratic colleagues and said: How do we take government shutdowns off the table? How do we end this?

There have been proposals for literally decades to be able to end government shutdowns. Republicans have had a proposal for decades that said: Well, if we get to the end of the fiscal year and we haven't passed all the bills, we will just cut spending 1 percent every month, and that will force us to come to the table. And my Democratic colleagues have said to me over and over again: You guys are so crazy about reducing Federal spending, you will never reopen the government; you will just cut funding every single month. It is easy. Never going to vote for that.

My Democratic colleagues literally have a bill to say: We will end government shutdowns by every single month that we don't have a bill passed on it; we will increase funding by 1 percent every single month. And Republicans have looked at our Democratic colleagues and said: You have lost your mind. You want to increase spending every single month anyway. You will never pass a bill. We are never going to do that. There was a bill that was out there for a while—it sounds great—called No Budget No Pay.

That says if we don't pass our budget, we don't get our appropriations bill done, then Members of Congress won't be paid. And a lot of people say that is a great idea. I smile at folks back home, and I say: I hate to be blunt, but do you know how much most Members of the Senate are worth? Their congressional salary for many of my colleagues is a rounding error to their investment portfolio.

They are really not worried about their congressional pay to be able to make ends meet at the end of that month. In addition to that, constitutionally, you actually can't change a Member's pay during the time that they are actually set. So all it would mean is they wouldn't get their paycheck for however long it took to negotiate it, then they would still get their money.

That is really not going to make a difference. When I sat down with my Democratic colleagues several years ago and said: What is the one pressure point that we all feel that we can hold the American people harmless but actually get our work done? It is the same thing, rich or poor, live far away, live close, all of us have the same precious possession that we are all attentive to and it is time.

We all have the same amount of time in a day. And we all fight our calendars because they are full. So our simple solution to end government shutdowns is, if we get to the end of a fiscal year, like we are at tonight, and we haven't got our work done, like it has happened so far, the government stays open, same year's level as last year, nothing