

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 1968 be withdrawn and that the motion to proceed to H.R. 1968 be agreed to; further, if cloture is filed on H.R. 1968, the Senate immediately vote on the motion to invoke cloture, and if cloture is invoked, the only amendments in order to H.R. 1968 be the following: Merkley No. 1273, Duckworth No. 1274, Van Hollen No. 1272, and Paul No. 1266; that the Senate vote on adoption of the amendments in the order listed, with 60-affirmative votes required for adoption with the exception of the Paul amendment; that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each vote; further, that upon disposition of the Paul amendment, all postcloture time be expired, the bill be considered read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill as amended, if amended, all without further intervening action or debate; further, that following disposition of H.R. 1968, the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. 1077; that there be up to 10 minutes for debate on the bill, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage, with no amendments or motions in order to the bill, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; finally, following disposition of S. 1077, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume executive session and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Phelan nomination; and if cloture is invoked on the Phelan nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate immediately vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Landau nomination; and if cloture is invoked on the Landau nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader no earlier than Monday, March 24.

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

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1968) making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before we finish today, I would like to say that soon, the Senate will vote on a bipartisan piece of legislation that will make an important DC funding fix.

This legislation will make sure that we take care of the residents of the District; that we will support law enforcement and firefighters and teachers and city services. The legislation is very good news for the residents of the District of Columbia. I am happy we are passing the bill today.

I thank my colleagues for working quickly to bring this bill to the floor. Once the Senate acts, we urge the House to act quickly.

Government funding expires at midnight tonight, and the vote before us is a Hobson's choice. The CR bill is a bad bill, but as bad as the CR is, I believe that allowing Donald Trump to take even more power via a government shutdown is a far worse option.

A shutdown would allow DOGE to shift into overdrive. It would give Donald Trump and DOGE the keys to the city, the State, and country, and that is a far worse alternative.

I want to remind everyone that it was Republicans who pushed this false shutdown choice. Their inability to govern has led us to this precipice. Our caucus Members have two bad choices. Different Senators will come down on different sides of the question, but that does not mean that any Senate Democrat supports a shutdown.

Whatever the outcome, our caucus will be united in our determination to continue the long-term fight to stop Donald Trump's dangerous war on our democracy and on America's working families.

Now, I want to be clear about what this bill does and does not do. The full-year CR is a law that sets funding levels for the full year. The President and executive branch have a legal and constitutional duty to faithfully execute the CR. The CR does not change the underlying law making the Trump administration's impoundments and mass firings illegal. This is true as a matter of law.

Nothing in the CR changes the Impoundment Control Act, the foundation of Congress's appropriations authority, and the authorization laws that require USAID and other Agencies to exist and to operate the programs as Congress has assigned to them. Nothing changes title 5, governing the civil service, the Administrative Procedure Act, and so on.

One of the reasons I am voting for cloture is for the very reason that these actions are illegal and no new law is needed to declare that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 26, H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Katie Britt, John Kennedy, Todd Young, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Jon A. Husted, John Barrasso, Bernie Moreno.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for information of all Senators, there will be up to nine rollcall votes. I will ask unanimous consent that all votes following the first vote be 10 minutes in length, and that if Senators will stay in their seats, we should be able to get them done even more quickly than that. Everybody be here after this first vote. These are going to be 10-minute votes.

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

The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

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. 26, H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Katie Britt, John Kennedy, Todd Young, Tim Sheehy, Kevin Cramer, Jon A. Husted, John Barrasso, Bernie Moreno.

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 H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 128 Leg.]

YEAS—62

Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cortez Masto
Boozman	Cassidy	Cotton

Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Crapo	Johnson	Risch
Cruz	Justice	Rounds
Curtis	Kennedy	Schatz
Daines	King	Schmitt
Durbin	Lankford	Schumer
Ernst	Lee	Scott (FL)
Fetterman	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Fischer	Marshall	Shaheen
Gillibrand	McConnell	Sheehy
Graham	McCormick	Sullivan
Grassley	Moody	Thune
Hagerty	Moran	Tillis
Hassan	Moreno	Tuberville
Hawley	Mullin	Wicker
Hoeven	Murkowski	Peters
Husted	Peters	Young

NAYS—38

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Rosen
Baldwin	Kelly	Sanders
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Heinrich	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Paul	Wyden
Hirono	Reed	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 38.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we have already locked in 10-minute votes for the balance of the number of votes, but if people stay here in their seats, we can execute that a lot more quickly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

AMENDMENT NO. 1273

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1273 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 1273.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To except the application of certain rescissions)

On page 6, line 11, strike “and 639” and insert “639, and 640”.

On page 7, line 15, strike “and”.

On page 7, line 18, insert “, and except section 530” before the period at the end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, colleagues, let me keep this very simple. We provided a lot of funding in the Inflation Reduction Act so that those who have very sophisticated finances and very powerful advisers that try to avoid ever paying their taxes don't get away with it, because it is a fundamental fairness all across America.

Ordinary working people have the money taken out of their paychecks every week. Just because people have enormous paychecks and fancy consultants, it shouldn't mean that they get a license to cheat.

And all of that money went to make sure that those upper income folks knew that somebody might be taking a look at their finances.

If this amendment fails, it will increase the deficit by \$46 billion. So I hope all of you who are fiscally responsible and care about fundamental fairness to workers across America will vote for this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, this isn't about spending \$46 billion; it is about saving \$20 billion.

The Democrats' partisan supersized IRS funding is something we have been battling over for a couple of years now. It is a textbook example of the type of out-of-control spending that President Trump and Republicans have rightly opposed.

Rather than working together to help the IRS solve its massive taxpayer service and IT shortcomings, the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act went to fund untargeted and heavily handed enforcement improvement.

As I had mentioned at the time, the last thing hard-working Americans need is an IRS funding bloat that disproportionately hurts them.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment to provide the IRS nearly two times its entire annual budget in unaccountable enforcement dollars.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1273

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. MERKLEY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—53

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

Sullivan	Tillis	Wicker
Thune	Tuberville	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 53.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1273) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

AMENDMENT NO. 1274

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1274 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Ms. DUCKWORTH] proposes an amendment numbered 1274.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To make veteran Federal employees who were involuntarily dismissed without cause eligible for reinstatement and to require reports from Executive agencies on the number of veteran employees fired from such agencies)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ REINSTATEMENT ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES; EXECUTIVE AGENCY REPORTS ON REMOVAL OF VETERANS.

(a) ELIGIBILITY FOR REINSTATEMENT.—Any individual who is a veteran and who was involuntarily removed or otherwise dismissed without cause from a position in the civil service during the period beginning on January 20, 2025, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be eligible for reinstatement to such position or any other position in the civil service for which the individual is qualified.

(b) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until January 20, 2029, the head of each Executive agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on former employees of such agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The total number of former employees of the agency who are veterans and were removed or otherwise dismissed from the agency during the period covered by the report.

(B) The reason for each such removal or dismissal.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) CIVIL SERVICE.—The term “civil service” has the meaning given that term in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, what Trump and Musk have done to our veterans in just 8 weeks since Trump has been back in office amounts to a total betrayal. He has already fired more veterans than any other President in modern history—6,000 and counting—for no apparent reason, forcing the bravest people you and I could ever meet to have to worry about how they are going to put food on their family's table next week or keep a roof over their heads next month.

These are folks who did one, two, six, seven tours and then came home and chose to continue serving their Nation by joining Federal service. These are heroes who deserve our utmost gratitude. Instead, Trump and Musk are giving them the middle finger.

Cadet Bone Spurs may like to wrap himself in the flag with one hand, but with the other, he is signing off on the orders that sell out our veterans to line billionaires' pockets, and our warriors deserve better.

That is one reason I am urging my colleagues to vote yes on my Protect Veteran Jobs Act—a simple amendment that would reinstate every veteran who has been fired because of Trump and Musk's betrayal.

If Republicans actually care about our veterans like they claim to on FOX News—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. DUCKWORTH.—then they will vote yes on this bill and help give our veterans their jobs back. Otherwise, they are making it clear that they would rather bow down at the altar of Donald Trump than stand up for our heroes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. SHEEHY. Mr. President, where was the Democrat outrage when 8,000 Active-Duty Reserve troops were unceremoniously and with no due process fired out of the military without benefits? Where was the outrage when thousands of first responders and police officers, firefighters, nurses, and doctors lost their employment because they had COVID vaccine hesitancy? There was no outrage, there was no call of betrayal under President Biden when all that happened.

The truth is, this bill is pro-veteran. It adds \$6 billion to our veteran spending. It adds the largest pay increase for our warfighters in a generation. This is a pro-veteran bill.

Let's stop using veterans as political pawns and keep the government funded.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1274

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the adoption of the amendment.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—53

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	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 53.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1274) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

AMENDMENT NO. 1272

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, together with my Maryland and Virginia Senate colleagues, I call up my amendment No. 1272 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maryland [Mr. VAN HOLLEN] proposes an amendment numbered 1272.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of appropriated amounts by DOGE)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . LIMITATION ON USE OF AMOUNTS FOR DOGE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act may not be used by—

- (1) the United States DOGE Service, or any successor agency;
- (2) the U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization, or any successor agency; or
- (3) a detailee of an agency described in paragraph (1) or (2) working at any other agency.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this amendment shuts down the illegal Musk DOGE operation, which has nothing

to do with government efficiency and everything—could I have order, please, Mr. President

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this amendment shuts down the illegal Elon Musk operation, which has nothing to do with government efficiency and everything to do with rigging the government for people like Elon Musk and powerful special interests.

That is why they started by firing all the independent inspectors general in the U.S. Government, which just opens the door to more corruption. And they have lied and lied to the American people.

They illegally fired over 200,000 patriotic Federal employees, including 6,000 veterans, and added insult to injury by lying that they were fired for poor performance. That was untrue, and this is why judges are ordering the Trump administration to return them to their jobs.

They gained access illegally to highly sensitive personal information on Americans, and just today we learned—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent for 10 seconds.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No objection.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Finally, they also have essentially tried to clear the way—clear the way—for tax cuts for very wealthy Americans.

And I will end with this. They have also lied about their savings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator, your time has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I say it is time to delete DOGE. Please adopt the amendment.

Thank you, my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, since January, DOGE has saved \$115 billion. That amounts to—order, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order.

Ms. ERNST. That amounts to \$714 per taxpayer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order.

Ms. ERNST. Some of DOGE's findings include that the Small Business Administration gave out more than \$300 million in loans to thousands of children 11 years and younger; Agencies were paying for tens of thousands of unused software licenses; and the Department of Veterans Affairs was paying \$56,000 to water eight plants for 5 years.

Thanks to DOGE, that contract was canceled. Now the plants will actually be watered for free.

While DOGE keeps delivering more savings every day, Democrats are more upset by the effort to stop wasteful spending than by the misuse of tax dollars.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. ERNST. As I always say, if you can't find waste in Washington, you are not looking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. ERNST. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment. We can't afford the Washington business as usual that gave us \$36 trillion of debt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Ms. ERNST. I yield.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Ms. ERNST. No.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time has expired. The Senator's time has expired.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1272

The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallogo	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—52

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 52.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1272) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 1266

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1266 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 1266.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce the amount appropriated for the United States Agency for International Development)

On page 77, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following:

SEC. 11209. (a) Notwithstanding section 1101, the levels for the following accounts in title II of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) "Operating Expenses", \$288,150,000, of which up to \$43,222,500 may remain available until September 30, 2026.

(2) "Capital Investment Fund", \$44,047,000.

(3) "Office of Inspector General", \$14,535,000, of which up to \$2,180,250 may remain available until September 30, 2026.

(b) Notwithstanding section 1101, the levels for the following accounts in title III of division F of Public Law 118-47 shall be as follows:

(1) "Global Health Programs", \$677,526,500.

(2) "Development Assistance", \$668,270,000.

(3) "International Disaster Assistance", \$812,430,000, of which \$127,500,000 is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(4) "Transition Initiatives", \$12,750,000, and up to an additional \$2,550,000 of the funds appropriated to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 if the Secretary of State determines that it is important to the national interest of the United States to provide transition assistance in excess of such base amount.

(5) "Complex Crises Fund", \$9,350,000.

(6) "Economic Support Fund", \$661,368,000, of which \$51,000,000 is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(7) "Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance", \$23,800,000.

(8) "Assistance for Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia", \$130,956,780, of which \$52,700,000 is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I compliment President Trump and DOGE for exposing waste and abuse in foreign aid spending. It boggles the mind to think that some in Congress defend spending \$2 million on sex changes in Guatemala, thousands on an LGBT opera in Colombia, and thousands on a trans comic book in Peru. This is the low-hanging fruit. If Congress can't vote to cut this egregious, crazy, left-wing lunacy, will Congress ever have the courage to tackle entitlements?

Yet there does remain a significant constitutional question as to whether these cuts need a congressional vote to give them permanence. Today, with my amendment, Congress can make these foreign aid cuts the law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the Senator's amendment would indiscriminately cut \$16 billion from State and USAID, including lifesaving assistance Secretary Rubio said he wants to maintain for the purchase of food from American farmers, programs to counter the PRC influence, and efforts to ensure American businesses are more competitive overseas.

This amendment would cut funding for the USAID inspector general by 83 percent, making any waste, fraud, or abuse hard to uncover.

And it would gut global health programs like Trump, Rubio, and Musk say they allegedly want to conserve. Not even House Republicans went this far.

This amendment would undermine American workers, American businesses, and our national security. I urge a "no" vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1266

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. PAUL. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 27, nays 73, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Leg.]

YEAS—27

Banks	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Moody
Britt	Hawley	Moreno
Budd	Husted	Paul
Cornyn	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Justice	Schmitt
Cruz	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Curtis	Lee	Sheehy
Daines	Lummis	Tuberville

NAYS—73

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Ricketts
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Barrasso	Hirono	Rounds
Bennet	Hoeben	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kaine	Schiff
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Boozman	Kim	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Thune
Cortez Masto	McCormell	Tillis
Cramer	McCormick	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Wicker
Durbin	Mullin	Young
Fetterman	Murkowski	
Fischer	Murphy	
Gallogo	Murray	
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Graham	Padilla	
Grassley	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

The amendment (No. 1266) was rejected.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 1968

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Leg.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallego	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

The bill (H.R. 1968) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL FUNDS ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 1077, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1077) to approve local funds for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2025, in accordance with the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024, and to establish provisions for the use of such funds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I am pleased to introduce this bill with Senators VAN HOLLEN, MURRAY, ALSOBROOKS, WARNER, and KAINE. It has been endorsed by President Trump and also by the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, TOM COLE.

This bill would simply fix a mistake in the House CR that prevents the District of Columbia from spending its own tax dollars as part of its budget, which Congress routinely approves. Congress approves the authorization of the expenditure of DC local funds, which are paid for by DC tax revenues.

The first CR that we enacted last year included language to approve the DC's fiscal year 2025 budget, and that language was continued in the second CR. However, the House did not extend this anomaly in the yearlong CR. As a

result, unless this bill is passed, DC would have to operate under its fiscal year 2024 budget for the remainder of 2025, potentially requiring \$1.1 billion in local spending cuts.

Reducing DC's local funding expenditures will not result in a dollar of Federal savings. Since October 1 of 2024, the District has been operating under and spending at its approved level for the fiscal year 2025 budget. According to the CBO, this bill does not have any budgetary cost to the Federal Government. There are no Federal dollars involved. The issue here is just allowing the DC Government to proceed to spend its own tax revenues.

Accordingly, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure to correct a true inequity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I want to thank Senator COLLINS for working on an emergency basis to fix this problem in the House bill. She said it well, so I only want to emphasize two points.

One, what the House did does not save the Federal taxpayer one penny—not one penny. What it does is cap what the District of Columbia can spend in using its own money and based on its own decisions. So taxpayers are not saved a dime by what they did nor will they gain by our fix. The people of the District of Columbia should be able to make these decisions, and if they are having to make a budget with \$1 billion less, it will mean fewer resources, fewer firefighters, and less money for schools.

So I want to thank the Senator from Maine for working with us on this. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues from Virginia and Maryland—Senator WARNER, Senator ALSOBROOKS, and Senator KAINE. We urge its adoption unanimously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I also want to thank my dear friend from Maine. She is moving back up much higher on all of our lists for being willing to step up and help correct this.

You know, we all want what the President wants. The President wants our Nation's Capital to be the safest, cleanest, most welcoming city. DC gets 26 million tourists every year. In 2026, we are going to celebrate 250 years. We want to show off DC and the whole region. If we allow this mistake to take place, DC will lay off cops. It will close schools. It will shut down our trash removal. For those of us in the region who use the Metro, there will be dramatic cutbacks.

Let's correct this mistake. Let's make sure that we show on our 250th anniversary the cleanest, safest city in America. This will be a giant step toward that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Madam President, I, too, want to thank Senators

COLLINS, VAN HOLLEN, WARNER, and KAINE. I am glad we can work together in this bipartisan way to ensure fairness for the residents of Washington, DC.

I rise today to speak for the over 700,000 DC residents who do not have representation in this body. They are our friends and our neighbors. Beyond those who work in DC, Maryland partners with DC on resources like emergency services, police, water, and more. This bipartisan, stand-alone bill ensures that DC tax dollars stay in DC. Again, these funds that have been cut are tax dollars that have literally already been paid by DC residents. All this bill does is to continue to ensure that DC receives what it is owed. So I urge all of my colleagues today to join me in voting yes.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I can make it fast or slow.

I am joining all of my colleagues to advocate for this bill.

One-third of the Virginia population is a resident of the DC metro area and enjoys this Capital, and 150,000 Virginians come to work in DC every day. They want DC police and services to be well funded. Please support this bill. Thank you.

VOTE ON S.1077

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1077) was passed, as follows:

S. 1077

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Local Funds Act, 2025".

SEC. 2. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL FUNDS.

Local funds are appropriated for the District of Columbia for the current fiscal year out of the General Fund of the District of Columbia ("General Fund") for programs and activities set forth in the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024 (D.C. Law 25-218) and at rates set forth under such Act, as amended as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided in section 450A of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (section 1-204.50a, D.C. Official Code), sections 816 and 817 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2009 (secs. 47-369.01 and 47-369.02, D.C. Official Code), and provisions of this Act, the total amount appropriated in this Act for operating expenses for the District of Columbia for fiscal year 2025 by this section shall not exceed the estimates included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024, as amended as of the date of enactment of this Act or the sum of the total revenues of the District of Columbia for such fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated may be increased by proceeds of one-time transactions, which are expended for emergency or unanticipated operating or capital needs: *Provided further*, That such increases shall be approved by enactment of local District law and shall comply with all reserve requirements contained