

country. Today, I would start with the State of South Dakota, home of the Senate majority leader.

In 2024, South Dakota research institutions received nearly \$29 million in NIH funding, which supported 453 jobs in South Dakota.

Sanford Research/University of South Dakota and South Dakota State University were among some of the top NIH-funded institutions in South Dakota. So what did they do with this Federal money? Could they survive an audit if they had to explain how they spent it? You decide.

Sanford Research/University of South Dakota researchers used NIH funding to support their Center for Pediatric Research, with a specific focus on training new scientists to study pediatric diseases. Is that a priority? If it is your child or grandchild, you bet it is.

South Dakota State University used NIH funding to increase cervical cancer screening among indigenous women who faced higher rates of cervical cancer prevalence and death. They also used funding in South Dakota to develop new targeted therapies for colorectal cancer. They are safer and more effective than current chemotherapy.

These researchers know that cuts to medical research mean diseases will not be cured and treatments will not be found. They know the mass indiscriminate firings at NIH don't just mean we are losing talent; it also means we are losing time and progress.

Nelson Mandela once said:

May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.

I am pleading with my Republican colleagues: May your choices reflect your hopes for new cures and treatments for patients fighting cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, and heart disease; not your fears about what will happen if you cross this President.

Let us do what is right. Let's come together again on a bipartisan basis for medical research. Let's make it clear to this President and every President, regardless of party: Medical research is not partisan. Medical research helps all people—conservatives, progressives, you name it. Everybody gets a helping hand.

Let us do what is right. Let's come together and save medical research for every single person in America who is desperate for hope.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. BUDD assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Kentucky.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. PAUL. I ask consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Hoekstra nomination.

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 senior assistant 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 55, Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Katie Boyd Britt, Markwayne Mullin, Jim Justice, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Mike Crapo, John Hoeven, Bill Hagerty, Mike Rounds, Josh Hawley, Todd Young, Bernie Moreno, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James E. Risch, John Barrasso.

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 the nomination of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada, 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Ex.]

#### YEAS—60

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

#### NAYS—37

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

#### NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Justice	McCormick
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#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I saw something last week that I didn't believe. I read the article, and then I searched the internet for other articles saying the same thing to confirm that it was true, and it was true. I am still in disbelief.

The largest public school system in America is in New York City. I love New York City. I think it is the greatest city in the world. And the New York public schools publish a monthly newsletter. It is called—let's see what it is called—the Office of Student Pathways Newsletter. Every month, the public school system in New York City sends this newsletter. They blast it out to teachers, and they blast it out to parents—not just in New York City but all across the country.

In the latest newsletter they blasted out, they had one of those bullet points that they made in the newsletter that is kind of—when you look at it on the internet, it is kind of pale blue. You can click on it, and it sends you to another site.

The bullet point on the newsletter that the public schools of New York sent out was called “Guidelines for teaching about genocide.” “Guidelines for teaching about genocide.” And if you clicked on this phrase in the newsletter, it sent you to another site. Do you see what the site was? “Stop Gaza Genocide Toolkit.” “Stop Gaza Genocide Toolkit.” The administration of the New York public schools, the largest in the country, is sending this out to its teachers and its students and to the world.

If you take a look and you say “What is in this toolkit, this ‘Stop Gaza Genocide Toolkit’?” it contains the biggest bunch of anti-Semitic rot you can imagine. The toolkit, among other things, breaks down how to mobilize pro-Palestinian campaigns on social media. It tells you—it tells our students and our teachers how to boycott and encourage divestment from pro-Israel organizations. It encourages readers to print out “Palestine” yard signs and calls our kids and our parents to action.

Now, the head of the public schools in New York was embarrassed once people started going: What is going on? Why are you publishing this anti-Semitic, anti-systemic rot accusing Israel of genocide, after it was Israel that was attacked, after it was Hamas that started the war? The chancellor, Ms. Melissa Aviles-Ramos, said it was just a “troubling oversight.” That is what she said: “troubling oversight.”

But then the article goes on to say that it has been discovered that a similar version of the toolkit—this oversight—was published in the newsletter in the prior month. It was in the October-November 2024 newsletter. That document called on all the teachers and all the students in the New York public schools and everybody else reading the newsletter—it called on them to participate in “rage week” and “resist genocide” by mobilizing on Saturday, October 5, for a “day of action” ahead of the anniversary of Hamas on October 7, 2023. That was the date of the terrorist attack on Israel, which apparently the administration of the public schools wants to celebrate.

Here is what one of the teachers in the public school system said when she discovered this: It is systemic rot.

“It’s the systemic rot,” said Karen Feldman, an educator of over 26 years, who resigned. She resigned.

It should not go unnoticed that in addition to this oversight—we know it wasn’t an oversight; I mean, pigs may fly someday, but I doubt it; this wasn’t an oversight—now we find out recently that New York State education officials have rejected President Trump’s administration’s demand to do away with certain diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts that call for quotas, racial quotas, which are illegal in the United States of America under recent Supreme Court precedent. These State officials wrote President Trump, and this is what they said:

[T]here are no federal or state laws prohibiting the principles of D.E.I.

I don’t understand that. Racial quotas are illegal. You can’t use race in America, according to well-settled law, to hurt a person or to help a person. But these officials at the State level—not the local level—they said no State or Federal laws prohibit the principles of DEI, and they said that they are aware of no jurisdiction—no jurisdiction—that the Federal Government has to withdraw funding.

Well, you know what, I hope we find out. I hope we find out. This kind of stuff makes me want to jump out of a moving car, and this is the kind of, in the words of the teacher who resigned, systemic rot, rank anti-Semitism, that in New York they are sending to our teachers and to our kids and to the world.

#### PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Let me talk about a second subject quickly.

Take that one down, John, and put up the next one.

I have talked—and I am not going to repeat—I have talked a lot about the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and its two cousins: National Public Radio and PBS. U.S. taxpayers spend \$500 million a year subsidizing these media organizations. I have talked about that.

There was a time when maybe we needed to do that. Back in the 1940s and 1950s when we only had three TV stations and a handful of radio sta-

tions, it might have been necessary for the government to get in the TV and radio business, particularly to help our citizens in rural areas, but those days are gone. Now there are all kinds of forms of media. We have TV, newspapers, radio. We have the internet. We have Facebook. We have blogs. We have podcasts. We have cable TV. We have streaming TV. Yet the government continues to spend \$500 million a year to subsidize the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Public Radio, and PBS. It ought to stop. It ought to stop.

President Trump has talked about it. Many Members of Congress have talked about it. I have talked about it on the floor of this Senate.

Now, some of my colleagues say the reason all this ought to stop is because the so-called journalism being published by NPR and PBS, which get their money from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which gets its money from you, out of your pocket—\$500 million a year—some of my colleagues say: Well, we ought to stop it because the reporting is biased. And they have marshaled a persuasive argument to that effect.

I have talked about some of the articles that have appeared, paid for with the American people’s tax dollars. I am not going to go through all of them, but I will just mention a couple.

Here is one: “How racism became a marketing tool for country music.” That is pretty fair and balanced, huh?

Here is another one: “The hidden racism of young white Americans.”

“AP FACT CHECK: Trump seeds race animus with COVID falsehood.”

Here is another one: “Biden trumpets economic gains, but struggles to get credit.”

Here is another one: “Democracy on Trial, Part One: A Blueprint For the Case Against Trump.”

This is paid for with your tax dollars. This is opinion journalism. But it is not just at the national level; it is in my State too. It is in Louisiana. Louisiana has 318 radio stations. Only 10 of them get money from Federal taxpayers through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. So the folks who are publishing the articles I just referenced—pick 10 out of 138, and Louisiana said: We are going to favor you and give you money.

My State also has 48 TV stations. Eight of them get Federal money—your dollars.

I don’t know what the others did not to get Federal money, but clearly this is a case of the Federal Government picking and choosing.

Let’s see what they have done with the money. I will just read you a couple of the headlines paid for with your dollars in my local public media organization:

“How illegitimate [critical race theory] concerns shaped Louisiana’s new social studies standards.” No bias there.

“Trump’s anti-trans effort is an agenda cornerstone with echoes in his-

tory.” No bias there. That came from NPR and one of my local stations.

Here is another one: “What It’s Like To Choose Transgender Sex Reassignment Surgery.”

Here is another one: “Transgender Boy Tells Mom ‘It Shouldn’t Be Scary To Be Who You Are.’”

Here is another one. This came from WRKF, which also gets—it is 1 of the 10 out of 138 radio stations that the bureaucrats at CPB look with favor on: “‘Kids will end their lives’: Anti-trans legislation is impacting mental health in the Gulf South.” No bias there.

“Biography examines how systemic racism shaped the troubled life of George Floyd.” Nobody has to take responsibility; it is systemic racism.

Here is another one that came from WRKF: “Christian nationalism’s support is strongest in rural conservative states.”

Another one: “Dr. Rachel Levine focused on her job at HHS. Still, anti-trans politics followed her.”

Here is another one by WRKF, another example of opinion journalism paid for with your tax dollars: “These far-right media figures are getting center stage under Trump.”

But there is more, as they say on “The Price Is Right” or something like that.

Here is another one. This one came from Louisiana Public Broadcasting: “Becoming Papa: Father’s Key to Gender Justice.” I can tell you, every mom and dad in Louisiana, when they lie down to sleep at night and they can’t, they are lying there worrying about gender justice.

Not.

I mean, the title of the article suggests what you ought to believe. That is not fair or balanced.

Here is another one: “Transgender athletes seek protections to play sports.”

Let me see the next one, John.

This is John Lowery, who works with me. He is a fine American.

Here is—I love this one. This is from one of my local radio stations in Louisiana: “Arguments that trans athletes have an unfair advantage lack evidence to support.” What planet did this reporter parachute in from? He or she really believes that men don’t have a physical advantage over a woman in sports?

Here is another headline: “Trump ‘Embodies Nearly Every Aspect Of A Racist,’ Author Says.”

Another: “The Nation: Confronting Trump’s Coded Racism.”

These are coming from my local TV and radio stations that get money from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Here is another one: “Sexism Is Out In The Open In The 2016 Campaign. That May Have Been Inevitable.” I wonder who the author of this piece voted for.

Another one: “Is Trump Really That Racist?” I wonder who that reporter voted for.