

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the appropriate committee.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13667 OF MAY 12, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—PM 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2025.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order; intersectarian tension; widespread violence and atrocities; and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, including widespread violence and atrocities committed by Kremlin-linked entities such as the Wagner Group, threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states, and continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA—PM 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012—is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2025.

Syria's lack of structure and limited governance capability with respect to chemical weapons and combatting terrorist organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338.

The United States will consider changes in policies and actions of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

DONALD J. TRUMP,
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 1668. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, or endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator MARTIN HEINRICH, under the authority of S. Res. 116,

112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. KING):

S. 1632. A bill to provide for greater defense workforce integration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1633. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a pilot program that uses testbeds to develop measurement standards for the evaluation of artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1634. A bill to promote competition and reduce consumer switching costs in the provision of online communications services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. 1635. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to authorize State-licensed appraisers to conduct appraisals in connection with mortgages insured by the FHA and to ensure compliance with the existing appraiser education and competency requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 1636. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish oversight mediation committees to help resolve property boundary disputes regarding National Forest System land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1637. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to codify value-based purchasing arrangements under the Medicaid program and reforms related to price reporting under such arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1638. A bill to protect the United States from artificial intelligence applications based in or affiliated with countries of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. COONS, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KING, Mr. BUDD, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. HUSTED, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1639. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 1640. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase support for physicians and other practitioners in adjusting to Medicare payment changes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LEE, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1641. A bill to restore fairness to service members who filed religious accommodation requests and ensure their career progression is justly reviewed; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1642. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the advanced manufacturing investment credit to include materials integral to semiconductor manufacturing; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1643. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1644. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish improvements and structural alterations as part of home health services for disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1645. A bill to establish a domestic ownership investment facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1646. A bill to place further congressional oversight on any quantitative easing or tightening program or any emergency lending programs of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, to require reports to Congress relating to those programs, to require congressional approval of the extension of those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1647. A bill to limit purchases of the Federal reserve banks, to require Generally Accepted Accounting Principles standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1648. A bill to limit the total assets of Federal reserve banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1649. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain marketplace providers as importers for purposes of the excise tax on sporting goods; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 1650. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1651. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure equitable and nondiscriminatory contributions to the mechanisms that preserve and advance universal service, to reduce the financial burden on consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1652. A bill to address gun violence, improve the availability of records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, address mental illness in the criminal justice system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 1653. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for qualified automobile interest; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1654. A bill to require transportation network companies to provide customers notice when a driver has a camera in their motor vehicle and provide customers an opportunity to opt out of riding in motor vehicles with cameras, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 1655. A bill to expand congressional oversight of the operation of the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve workforce protections for all Veterans Crisis Line personnel, and to ensure robust performance standards that fulfill the Veterans Crisis Line mission and meet caller demand, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1656. A bill to provide compensation to certain residents of the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, for the use of such island for military readiness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 1657. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits under the laws administered by such Secretary on the sole basis that such veteran failed to appear for a medical examination associated with such claim, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1658. A bill to prohibit entities receiving Federal assistance that are involved in adoption or foster care placements from delaying or denying placements under certain conditions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1659. A bill to amend titles 11 and 28, United States Code, to modify the compensation payable to trustees serving in cases under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, to extend the term of certain temporary offices of bankruptcy judges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 1660. A bill to improve commercialization activities in the SBIR and STTR programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1661. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farmworkers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1662. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1663. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1664. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1665. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1666. A bill to amend title VII of the Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 1667. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIM, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1668. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, or endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1669. A bill to improve drought-related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 207. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Grand Ole Opry; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 201

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 201, a bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 478

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 478, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 688, a bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally.

S. 847

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. JUSTICE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 858, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

S. 911

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 911, a bill to amend the

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain retired law enforcement officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1289

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1289, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and to support programs at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1304, a bill to permit the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino to be located within the Reserve of the National Mall, and for other purposes.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1458

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1458, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1518

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park".

S. 1519

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1519, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1543

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1543, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1582

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1664. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a consistent set of policy guidelines for Federal research agencies to address financial instability of graduate researchers and postdoctoral researchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan RESEARCHER Act.

This legislation would require Federal research Agencies to enact policies to address the financial insecurity of graduate and postdoctoral researchers, while collecting data to better understand the financial challenges that these researchers experience.

This legislation would require the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, OSTP, to develop guidelines on addressing the financial insecurity faced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers. Federal research Agencies would then be required to use these guidelines to implement their own policies to tackle this pressing issue.

It would also improve our understanding of the financial insecurity experienced by graduate and postdoctoral researchers by awarding universities and nonprofit organizations grants to study this issue, as well as commissioning a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The future of American leadership in science and technology depends on our