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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, magnificent in mercy, plentiful in grace, and generous in love, we pause to confess our shortcomings.

Forgive us for speaking when we should listen and for listening when we should speak. Forgive us for waiting for opportunities instead of creating them.

Forgive us when we fail to ask You for mercy and grace to help us in our times of need.

Today, strengthen our Senators for their journey. Lord, give them strong hearts and sound minds to do their ethical best in representing You.

As they look to the future, give them the wisdom to join their plans to Your will and to do Your work on Earth.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I am here in the Senate honoring our Nation's law enforcement officers during our 64th annual National Police Week.

National Police Week presents an opportunity to show appreciation toward the men and women in blue for their sacrifice and selfless service and honor, at the same time, the fallen officers.

Every day, men and women selflessly and courageously dedicate their lives to keeping America safe and sound. They uphold our public safety and devote themselves to the pursuit of justice. Their devotion merits our admiration, and we are deeply indebted to them.

We especially honor the fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This year, we are honoring 234 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty.

The list of fallen includes two of my fellow Iowans, Trooper Jeffrey Brown and Senior Police Officer Phoukham Tran.

I want to make it crystal clear: I back the blue not just during Police Week, but year round.

I like to say to them when I see them: Thank you for your service, and I am not for defunding the police.

To our law enforcement officers nationwide: Thank you for your sacrifice, your service, and your dedication.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—H.R. 276

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 276) to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

REMEMBERING DAVID H. SOUTER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to mention longtime Supreme Court Justice David Souter, who died on Thursday.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO POPE LEO XIV

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I also want to mention Cardinal Robert Prevost, who on Thursday became Pope Leo XIV, and I want to extend my congratulations on his election and my prayers for his service.

I know that his election is particularly moving for American Catholics, who for the first time in history will be led by an American-born Pope. I am very happy for them, and I look forward to seeing what this son of the Midwest brings to the Catholic Church and to the world.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Thursday afternoon, Democrats abruptly ended extensive bipartisan work on the GENIUS Act and filibustered the Senate's attempt to move this bill. Democrats, I should say, who had voted for the bill in committee, inexplicably chose to vote against it here on the Senate floor. That is pretty difficult to understand.

Providing a regulatory framework for stablecoins is a bipartisan issue. The bill is the product of a bipartisan negotiation, and the vote in the Banking Committee was definitely bipartisan—which leads you to wonder, of course, if this was really about the bill at all or if this was about wanting to deny President Trump or Republicans, more generally, a legislative victory, which might be nice for Democrats but leaves stablecoin issuers and Americans who use stablecoins in the same difficult spot that they are currently in. But unfortunately, it is pretty clear that obstructing, not legislating, is the Democrats' priority right now.

Until Democrats come to their senses and allow us to proceed to the GENIUS

Act, we are going to turn to nominations, another area where, unfortunately, Democrats have made obstruction the name of the game. I certainly understand that Democrats are not going to support all the President's nominees; that is their prerogative as Senators. But the way that they are drawing out this process on even non-controversial nominations is serving no one.

Mr. President, 57 out of 58 of the President's civilian nominees have required cloture votes, an unprecedented number for recent administrations; and of those 57 nominees, 17 received 60 or more votes in support on their final confirmation vote—in other words, support from a number of Democrats as well as Republicans. And yet Democrats dragged out those nominations in the same way they dragged out the nominations of individuals that they universally opposed.

Not a single one of President Trump's civilian nominees has been confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—again, something entirely unprecedented in recent years. No other President since at least 1977 has failed to have civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or a voice vote at this point of his administration, except for President Trump in his first term in office.

And as I said, this is serving no one, nor is this going to prevent the President's nominees from getting confirmed. Democrats can drag out nominations all they want, but we are going to fill out the President's administration and ensure that his nominees get into place so that they can do their job and that he can do the job that he was elected to do.

I would like to do this the easy way and confirm noncontroversial nominees expeditiously—in batches, for example, and maybe even by unanimous consent. That would give us more time to legislate and give Members more time to spend in their States. But if we have to do this the hard way, we will. We are going to get the President's team in place.

So I guess Democrats have some decisions to make. I hope—I really hope—that they will come back to the table on the GENIUS Act, and I hope that they will cease their pointless obstruction of bipartisan nominees, but I guess we will have to see.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEDICAID

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, hospital leaders from every cor-

ner of my State of Illinois came to Washington. What was the reason for the trip? The debate in Washington about the future of Medicaid.

Each and every one of them, from the city of Chicago through the most rural areas in the State, was concerned about the plans by the Republicans in Congress to change the funding for Medicaid. From the South Side of Chicago to Macomb in West Central Illinois, as well as Rockford, 20 miles from the Wisconsin border, and Carbondale, all the way downstate, they came to see me.

These are small, critical access hospitals in rural areas, the safety net hospitals treating the poorest patients and the large teaching hospitals in downtown Chicago. They are all focused on Medicaid.

All of them told me the Medicaid cuts that Republicans have put on the table would be devastating to their hospitals in every corner of my State—devastating to the doctors and nurses that they employ and especially hurtful to the patients and their families.

One told me that it is the only hospital in a 60-mile radius delivering babies. If Republican plans to cut Medicaid go through, this life-or-death care could be out of reach for pregnant mothers.

Another safety net hospital told me they might have to close their doors altogether if the Medicaid cuts happen.

Why? Why would Republicans in Congress even want to jeopardize healthcare and ring alarm bells in hospitals across America? They are trying to "save \$880 billion."

Well, what is the critical need to save that? To perpetuate the tax breaks of the Trump administration for the wealthiest people in America. Yep, that is the game plan. That is right.

President Trump and his billionaire buddy Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, have asked Republicans in Congress to provide a massive giveaway to the wealthiest Americans, and they want to use Medicaid cuts as the piggy bank.

Let's be clear: This is not a healthcare reform plan to improve our healthcare system or lower costs for families and patients. Nope. Republicans are looking to dismantle the basic Medicaid Program to help the tax cuts for billionaires.

Don't take my word for it. It is not just another political speech. Last week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office issued a bombshell report. I am sure the Republicans in charge of the House and Senate didn't anticipate this. The Congressional Budget Office reviewed the Republican plans to cut Medicaid and determined the only way Republicans can "save money" is by removing millions of Americans from this health insurance, slashing benefits, or cutting access to doctors, nurses, and dentists.

For weeks, Republicans have been adamant that they are only focused on addressing waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid. Then comes the CBO report.