

Only now, in 2025, the EPA clumsily attempted—multiple times—to submit three of California's waivers to Congress. One might ask why they only submitted three of the six waivers issued under the prior administration if the Agency's viewpoint is suddenly that the California waivers are rules. EPA's press release announcing their intent to transmit the three California waivers to Congress makes clear that their intent is to have Congress overturn these three waiver decisions. And by attempting to use the CRA, they seek expedited procedures and a majority vote, instead of the Senate's usual cloture procedure and 60-vote threshold.

Thankfully, political appointees at executive branch Agencies do not have the ability to determine questions of privilege on the floor of the Senate, or the Senate floor would become a mockery. That role belongs to the non-partisan, expert Senate Parliamentarian. In this case, the Senate Parliamentarian has made a very clear determination that resolutions related to California's CAA waivers are not privileged under the CRA and can only be considered under regular order, and thus subject to cloture.

Importantly, the Parliamentarian's determination stands on the same foundation that has governed similar CRA determinations for nearly 20 years. It has long been established and respected by both parties that if an agency fails to submit a matter that is a "rule" under the CRA—whether by mistake or by an attempt to avoid congressional authority—that rule does not automatically escape scrutiny under the CRA. The Federal Agency doesn't get to be the final arbiter of what counts as a rule. Instead, any Member may go to GAO and ask for a legal opinion. If the GAO finds that the matter is a rule under the CRA's definition, then the Parliamentarian determines if the relevant resolutions can be considered under the CRA's expedited procedures if they meet the rest of the criteria.

Here, for the first time in the history of the CRA, an Agency submitted matters that they *knew* were not rules. Some of my Republican colleagues are now arguing that the Parliamentarian should have no role to limit this partisan gamesmanship, and the Senate should throw out the rulebook and overturn the Parliamentarian.

Why would we only look to the GAO and the Parliamentarian when an Agency refuses to submit something to dodge the CRA and not also when an Agency submits something in order to exploit the CRA? Just as the Parliamentarian determined that there should be a check against an Agency that tries to dodge the CRA by withholding a rule, the Parliamentarian has determined there should be a check when an Agency tries to exploit the CRA by submitting something that isn't actually a rule. This ensure the CRA process can't be abused in either

direction, and the Parliamentarian's decision protects the legislative branch from executive overreach.

But if the Trump EPA and Senate Republicans are successful at this ploy, the Senate will have no choice but to accept this as status quo in the future. This would grant Agencies unchecked control over the Senate floor, an unprecedented encroachment by the executive branch into the Senate's internal operations.

The current administration could submit any type of Agency action from prior administrations going back to 1996 to Congress and trigger the CRA's expedited procedures for related resolutions of disapproval. The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission could submit broadcast licenses and other approvals for media outlets when he disapproves of their news coverage. The Secretary of Health and Human Services could submit approvals by the Food and Drug Administration that he disagrees with, such as vaccines, birth control, or mifepristone. Numerous Agencies could submit decisions related to specific organizations that are targets of the President's political retribution campaigns.

None of these actions are rules, which is why they have never been submitted to Congress as rules. But if my Republican colleagues open this door and overturn the Parliamentarian's wise safeguards on this type of abuse, there would be no practical limit, and the Senate could be forced to vote repeatedly on such matters that are clearly not "rules" notwithstanding the plain language of the CRA.

Further, a future Democratic administration could respond in kind. When it comes to the environment and climate issues, future Agency heads could submit individual fossil fuel project leases, loan agreements, or permitting approvals for congressional review, arguing that these are clearly highly significant Agency actions with wide-ranging impacts. LNG export terminals and major interstate and cross-border pipelines would be fair game. In other areas, there are many Trump administration actions—from immigration to foreign policy to unilateral budget and staff cuts by DOGE—for which a future administration and Congress could use the CRA.

Since this cynical attempt to weaponize the CRA was triggered by the administration's political leadership at the EPA, at the urging of their Big Oil allies, I must object to proceeding to any nominations for the EPA pending on the Senate's executive calendar. I will continue to object until the Agency withdraws its false submissions to Congress or the majority leader commits not to overturn the Parliamentarian's determination on this matter.

#### TRIBUTE TO HOWARD LUTNICK

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the efforts of Presi-

dent Trump and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick on the U.S. Department of Commerce's decision to terminate the flawed 2019 Tomato Suspension Agreement. The termination of this agreement is a major win for Florida farmers and tomato growers across the country. By protecting our markets from being flooded by unfairly and artificially priced tomatoes, President Trump and Secretary Lutnick are standing up for American principles and the American farmer. I want to thank Secretary Lutnick for his commitment to ensuring our trade laws work to support American businesses and families.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY STINSON

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Kimberly Stinson of Bismarck on being named Arkansas's 2025 Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

As the owner of Lil Lions Daycare, Stinson has distinguished herself as a dedicated, active community leader and businesswoman.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Stinson recognized that her community in Hot Spring County was in need of a licensed childcare center when she herself struggled to provide care for her young grandchildren. Realizing that other families were facing a similar situation, she took action, working with the Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center to craft a business plan and secure financing that included an SBA-backed loan.

By October of 2021, Stinson opened Lil Lions Daycare's doors after creating an exciting, safe environment for children to learn and play. Her husband Brian helped with building and construction—both pushing ahead in the face of adversity.

But the work did not end with the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Stinson continued to pursue and secure grants that helped her operation care for even more children, including those in foster care and low-income households during a time when local families needed this critical assistance the most.

Having no prior professional childcare experience, Stinson took it upon herself to complete over 400 hours of childcare courses and trainings through Arkansas State University. She then applied her new knowledge to develop a social-emotional learning curriculum that prioritizes mental, social, and physical growth.

Stinson has proved herself to be a passionate, empathetic entrepreneur with an eye for business and heart for community. Lil Lions has received recognition not only for its positive reputation, but for the unwavering care and personal investment Stinson and her team pour into the well-being of children.

Congratulations again to Kimberly Stinson and her team at Lil Lions Daycare, as this exceptional distinction is a result of their outstanding efforts. We are proud to celebrate her and the successes that have made Lil Lions a cornerstone of her community.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARKANSAS MEDICAL SOCIETY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Medical Society's 150th anniversary.

Founded in October 1875 by 225 physicians, the Arkansas Medical Society has become a champion for medical, social, and scientific advocacy. Throughout decades of invaluable service, its members have remained steadfast in their mission to advance medicine and improve the well-being of Natural State residents.

Since its founding, the Arkansas Medical Society's efforts have had a tremendous impact on our State. To advance the health needs of Arkansans and support physicians, the organization has had a hand in the planning, creation, and implementation of our State's first State board of health in response to the yellow fever epidemic; developed Arkansas's first medical licensing laws to ensure uniformity of care for citizens; and supported the establishment of what would eventually become the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine.

Other distinct contributions include the creation of the Arkansas Tuberculosis Sanitarium in 1909, educational efforts to combat malaria and typhoid fever, and later, the creation of Arkansas Blue Cross in 1948, as well as sponsoring a statewide polio vaccination program several years later.

More recently, its members helped successfully push for the development of a statewide trauma system in 2009, enact reforms to ease administrative burdens that delay care, and organize a distribution system to provide personal protective equipment to Natural State healthcare providers and clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has continuously demonstrated the ability to positively impact our State. Through unwavering dedication to the organization's founding principles, the physicians it mobilizes have furthered public health and wellness for their patients, communities, and beyond.

For more than a century, the Arkansas Medical Society has continued to thrive due to its reputation and effectiveness. I applaud the hard work of its members, past and present, whose innovative work has spurred positive change and bettered the lives of men, women, and children across the Natural State. Congratulations on this significant milestone of 150 years.●

#### RECOGNIZING PREBLE STREET

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Preble Street on

their 50th anniversary for their outstanding contributions to the State of Maine and our Nation. Over the past 50 years, Preble Street has provided our most vulnerable Maine community members with shelter, food, medical care, casework, and support. Preble Street has evolved over the past 50 years, but its commitment to helping the people of Maine remains at the heart of its mission. Preble Street started with the inspiration and hard work of Joe Kreisler, a social work professor at the University of Southern Maine, and his dedicated students as a training ground to provide Portland's most vulnerable with basic services: clothing, food, and a place to use the bathroom. The difference this compassionate group has made is indelible; the legacy they have created will continue to change lives well into the future.

The Preble Street team has risen to meet every challenge along the way, of which there have been many. Whether assisting neighboring shelters at risk of closing to ensuring that Maine's people did not lose access to critical services—or contending with the COVID-19 pandemic—Preble Street took their operation on the road to ensure our most vulnerable were safe from both illness and hunger. Preble Street is not just a shelter; it is an integral part of our Maine community, creating jobs and hope for people from every background. In the last year, Preble Street's dedicated staff and volunteers helped hundreds of young people find safety, necessary services, and housing. Additionally, hundreds more homeless adults have been able to meet their basic needs and work toward a better future. Preble Street has also provided over 500 veterans and their families with housing support, ensuring those who have valiantly served our country have a consistent roof over their heads and steady access to healthy foods. It is the effective and passionate work of Preble Street that underscores the collective impact communities can make when coming together.

After each interaction with Preble Street—whether through supporting Stuff the Bus, a Thanksgiving food drive led by Preble Street, or the Food Hub—I and many others leave with a better understanding of what I can do to help those who are suffering in our communities. This is one of the gifts of Preble Street's outreach: to be the voice of many who too often remain voiceless and “walking the walk” to the organization's core belief that the well-being of our entire community depends on identifying the challenging problems that affect us all. Equally sincere is Preble Street's mission and desire to be a part of those solutions. That is the essence of Preble Street's gospel.

Joe Kreisler, Mark “Swannie” Swann, the staff, and volunteers at Preble Street have derived innovative solutions to the challenges faced in Maine. Preble Street's site-based Housing First model—one of the first in the

Nation—led to several locations in Portland that provide long-term housing for chronically homeless adults. In addition to reducing strain on overnight shelters and addressing homelessness, Preble Street has created an extensive system to fight food insecurity, including soup kitchens, mobile food pantries to meet people where they are, and their Food Security Hub. Altogether, Preble Street provides the greater Portland area with over 100,000 meals per month, an amount that does not go unnoticed or unappreciated in Maine's biggest city.

On top of their altruistic mission to provide barrier-free assistance to those in Maine, Preble Street also seeks to do so sustainably. Preble Street is investing in energy-efficient equipment; they partner with local farms; and they source some of their electricity from solar energy. Those experiencing homelessness are some of the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, and Preble Street recognizes this challenge. Their commitment to uplifting the people of Maine sustainably is a testament to what our communities are capable of when people come together with a mission to do genuine good and create lasting change.

From its early beginnings in the basement of a chapel, Preble Street has pioneered a way to sustainably provide homes, food, and other services to the most vulnerable in Maine. Preble Street's impact can be felt across our State and has undoubtedly saved many lives and bettered many more. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I offer my deepest gratitude for the work Preble Street has done and will continue to do in our State.●

#### 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 MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ON MODIFYING RECIPROCAL TARIFF RATES TO REFLECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—PM 27

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message