



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

No. 87

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, source of enabling strength, sustain our Senators not only in the great moments but also in the repetitive and common tasks of life. Establish their work, strengthening them to honor You by serving others.

Lord, make them agents of healing and hope as they help people live blessed by greater justice and peace. Empower them to daily develop greater respect and submission to Your commands. Fill them with Your lifegiving spirit so that they will strive to permit justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 22, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. MULLIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I need to mention the shooting that occurred last night outside an event at the Capital Jewish Museum in Washington, DC, held by the American Jewish Committee. From everything we know so far, it is appallingly clear that event attendees were deliberately targeted. And two young Embassy employees—tragically, two employees on the verge of getting engaged and starting a life together—were murdered in the attack.

I am grateful that the suspect is already in custody and for the help the Capitol Police provided in responding to the attack, and I know that he will be swiftly prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. But I suspect that is little comfort right now to the many whose sense of safety has been shattered and who are worried that they will be targeted simply because they are Jewish or Israeli.

My prayers today are with the families of the deceased, with event attendees, with the employees of the Israeli Embassy, and with all the mem-

bers of the Jewish community suffering in the wake of this attack. And to the Israeli and Jewish communities here in Washington, DC, know that we stand with you.

### UKRAINE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one other topic I want to mention before I get to the main subject today is the war in Ukraine.

For the last 4 months, President Trump has gone to extraordinary lengths to bring an end to the bloodshed in Ukraine, and we here in the Senate commend him for those efforts.

Now the ball is in Putin's court. It is time for him to come to the table in good faith and make a serious proposal for an immediate cease-fire that can lead to a just and lasting peace in Ukraine. I hope he realizes it is time to do so. If not, the Senate stands ready to act. Thanks to the dogged work of Senator GRAHAM, we have bipartisan legislation, cosponsored by 80 of my colleagues, to impose additional economic sanctions and tariffs on Russia. If Russia is not willing to engage in serious diplomacy, the Senate will work with the Trump administration to consider additional sanctions to force Putin to start negotiating.

### MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this month, I have had the privilege of welcoming two groups of South Dakota veterans to Washington during Honor Flight visits. I went simply to say hello and to thank these men and women for their service to our country. This is something I have done for many years, and it is always an occasion that inspires me and makes me grateful to be an American and an heir to what they fought for.

After one of these groups of veterans returned home to South Dakota, KELOLAND News reported on their

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3099

visit, and a quote from one Vietnam veteran in that story struck me. He said:

I'm no hero. The heroes are the ones that didn't get to come back and have families, didn't get to become grandparents. They're the heroes.

Mr. President, this is a common sentiment among veterans. I know my dad, a World War II veteran, never talked much about himself; it was always about the men he served with, especially those who didn't come back. But no matter how many times I hear this, it always stops me in my tracks because it reminds me that we ask those who serve our country to be willing to sacrifice everything—their entire future and all that it could hold. And many, many Americans have given their lives to defend our security, liberty, and peace.

This Monday, on Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who sacrificed everything in service to our country. We remember their heroism and courage, and we take inspiration from their commitment to the ideals upon which our country is founded.

This year marks 80 years since the end of World War II. Millions of Americans served in the military during the war, and more than 400,000 Americans died. Among these were about 1,700 South Dakotans, men like CPT Arlo Olson of Toronto, SD, who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery in advancing through Italy and who was killed there in 1943. He was 25 years old. Lieutenant Earl Ferguson, from Philip, who died when his B-24 bomber was shot down while targeting an oilfield in Romania. He was 26. And Private Glenn Dow, from Sioux Falls, who was killed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Private Dow was 19.

These men gave their entire lives to defend our freedom and secure peace for us. They entrusted to us the future they would not see themselves, and they call on us to defend the peace they won.

In one of his Memorial Day proclamations, President Reagan wrote:

The defense of peace, like the defense of liberty, requires more than lip service. It requires vigilance, military strength, and the willingness to take risks and make sacrifices.

He continued:

The surest guarantor of both peace and liberty is our unflinching resolve to defend that which has been purchased for us by our fallen heroes.

On Memorial Day, we remember that our freedom has come at a cost, and we recognize that it is on us to live up to the ideals for which generations of Americans have been willing to give their lives.

These are American heroes, and we are a grateful nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, just a few blocks from here, at the Capital Jewish Museum, a scourge of anti-Semitism reared its ugly head yet again in America. The sickening, cold-blooded murder of two Jewish staffers of the Israeli Embassy seems to be another horrific incident of anti-Semitism, which we all know is much too rampant in our society.

Yaron Lischinsky, Sarah Milgrim—may their memories be a blessing.

Such a blatant and targeted act of anti-Semitism, right here in the Nation's Capital, should outrage everybody—a beautiful young couple about to be married just starting their lives, gunned down seemingly because they were Jewish.

Let this be a call to all of us: We must never allow the malicious poison of anti-Semitism to fester and flourish. While we still must learn more about this tragic incident, we do know that when anti-Semitism is rife in the air, all kinds of individuals cling to it and, sometimes, unfortunately, act on it.

This morning, I am praying for those who were killed in this senseless act of violence, all those affected, and their families.

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on reconciliation, a few hours ago, while most Americans were fast asleep, House Republicans rammed through their so-called Big Beautiful Bill through the House of Representatives, in the dead of night, in the hopes that nobody would notice.

House Republicans took a bill that was already rotten to the core and made it even worse to appease the most radical factions of their party. It will bring deeper, harder, and even faster pain to the American people.

It seems the hard right over there wanted even quicker pain. It is truly jarring to watch House Republicans cheer and pat each other on the back while bond markets spiral and working families are left to worry about how they will make ends meet.

So this morning, let's take a look at a few ways this bill has gotten even worse as it has reached final passage. We will surely learn more in the coming days, but let me share a few

changes Republicans made that Americans deserve to hear.

First, this bill was already the largest cut in Medicaid in American history, but now these cuts have been rushed forward and will happen as soon as next year. Moving up the timeline now means that hospitals, particularly rural hospitals, have even less time to prepare and increases the chance that they will close and that hundreds in each county will lose their jobs.

Up to 14 million Americans are in danger of losing their health insurance. This bill will shut down rural hospitals, community health centers, urgent care clinics, and more. But while hospital beds are closing, Republicans are prioritizing a repeal on tanning bed taxes.

And, of course, at the last minute, the anti-choice radicals snuck in a new provision, penalizing enrollees in private plans on ACA exchanges covering reproductive care. Defunding Planned Parenthood wasn't enough. The radicals got their pitchforks and added a provision to effectively ban every insurance premium on every ACA exchange for covering abortion.

This is catastrophic and even increases the anti-choice provisions in the bill by a dramatic amount. It will mean that nearly one in seven Americans who has been insured through ACA since 2014 will be subject to this change.

And while our communities get sicker, our kids get hungry. Republicans weren't satisfied with simply making 4 million kids go hungry. They decided they needed to move up the timeline. Cuts to SNAP will take effect as soon as next year. That makes it even harder for food pantries to adapt—more chaos, more hunger, and more closures among our food pantries and kitchens that serve the hungry.

Widespread hunger is now on the fast track. Republicans seem to be saying that the average person who needs food gets only \$5 a day. A dozen eggs cost more than \$5 a day.

That is the price Republicans accept so they can cut taxes on the wealthy.

Republicans are stealing from hungry kids, stealing from low-income families to give trillions in tax giveaways to the wealthy.

This is not beautiful. It is ugly. It is revolting.

As the bill proceeds, perhaps the most dramatic change that occurred overnight is the surrender of America's clean energy future to China. Republicans are condemning Americans to higher energy costs and killing hundreds of thousands—even millions—of good-paying jobs.

Last night, the Republicans did something else too. They added a clean job kill switch. At the very last minute, Republicans added a provision that says any project that doesn't break ground within 60 days of this passage will lose the entire tax credit.

That is getting rid of the tax credit. No project can start in 60 days. That is