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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Eternal God, use our lawmakers today as Your instruments. Give them Your wisdom so that they can find solutions to the complex problems that beset our Nation and world.

Lord, strengthen them to serve and honor You by transforming dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Keep them from fear and frustration, as You equip and empower them to accomplish Your will on Earth.

May they find Your guidance throughout this day by seeking You in personal prayer. When they call, answer their petitions. Replenish their resources with Your peace that passes all understanding.

We pray in Your omnipotent 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. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Michael Duffey, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the first Sunday in June is National Cancer Survivors Day. According to the National Cancer Institute, there are 18.1 million cancer survivors in the United States.

We have made great strides in recent decades to prevent and to battle cancer. The disease is the second leading cause of death in our country.

I know how a cancer diagnosis impacts a family, as a result of my wife Barbara's own diagnosis and victory over breast cancer 38 years ago. For sure, early detection and access to treatment saved Barbara's life.

Now, Iowa is a rural State. A majority of our States are rural States, and every State in the United States has rural areas in it.

Of course, it is difficult to deliver quality healthcare in rural America, but it is being delivered. To accomplish that, I have championed policies to keep the delivery of healthcare services accessible in rural America.

Access to quality healthcare should not be determined by your ZIP Code. Keeping rural and community clinics open and telehealth services available is a lifeline for cancer patients.

This day, National Cancer Survivors Day, is dedicated to celebrating cancer survivors and acknowledging the struggle and strength it took to overcome the disease.

We stand with you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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 majority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are entering the sixth month of Republican leadership in Washington. We have already delivered some significant wins for the American people, and there is so much more on the way. When this Congress began, we got right to work getting President Trump's Cabinet in place. We confirmed 21 Cabinet positions at a faster pace than any administration since George W. Bush.

The Republican Senate has confirmed 68 civilian nominees so far this year, the most since the Obama administration—Secretaries, Administrators, Deputies, Under Secretaries, 11 Ambassadors to postings around the globe—the most diplomats confirmed at this point since 2001.

And our committees continue to work hard to refer additional nominees to the floor.

The Senate has also passed a number of bills already this year. In the first few weeks of this year, we took up the Laken Riley Act, a bill to require that law enforcement detain an illegal immigrant caught shoplifting or stealing. We had an amendment process on the floor, a process that made the bill stronger. And the bill that the Senate ultimately passed and President Trump signed into law requires detention for illegal immigrants who assault law enforcement or seriously injure or kill a person, as well as for those caught stealing like the illegal immigrant who murdered Laken Riley last year.

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



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We also passed the HALT Fentanyl Act to permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances as the most deadly type of drug and give law enforcement a critical tool to prosecute those who bring these deadly substances into our country and peddle them in our communities.

Last month, President Trump signed Senator CRUZ's TAKE IT DOWN Act into law to combat nonconsensual explicit images made with AI and shared online.

And the Senate is continuing consideration of the GENIUS Act this week so that the United States can continue to be a leader in financial innovation and Americans can exercise financial freedom with confidence.

The Senate has also been working to repeal burdensome Biden-era regulations. We have now passed 18 Congressional Review Act resolutions targeting regulations that would raise costs, destroy jobs, and reduce choice for the American people. That includes resolutions to block President Biden's natural gas tax, eliminate burdensome new standards for appliances, and block the California electric vehicle mandate that would drive up prices and reduce consumer choice across the country.

I am grateful to my Republican colleagues for all the hard work they have put in over these past 5 months. We have made excellent progress, but needless to say, there is still a lot more to do starting with the reconciliation bill we have been working on now for months. This bill is critical to delivering on President Trump's priorities and the promises that we have made to the American people. It will prevent trillions in tax hikes for hard-working families and small businesses. It will invest in our border security to safeguard the progress the Trump administration has already made, and it will strengthen our military and unleash American energy for a stronger and safer America.

And as I said yesterday, the Senate will consider the bill on the floor this work period with the goal of getting it on the President's desk before July 4.

Appropriations season is also upon us, and we will be working to consider as many appropriations bills as possible under regular order. Work on the annual National Defense Authorization Act is also underway, and I hope Democrats will work with us to move the NDAA and appropriations bills through committee and consider them on the Senate floor.

When the American people elected President Trump and a Republican Congress last November, they expected us to deliver. We have worked hard to deliver on our mandate, and we are not taking our foot off the gas. There is too much to do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REPUBLICAN AGENDA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, just yesterday, I heard the minority leader once again misrepresent the Republican agenda. With respect, once again, he is wrong.

Let me set the record straight because the Republican agenda is actually very popular. The latest Rasmussen poll was very clear. A majority—a majority—of Americans believe our country is finally heading in the right direction. This is the highest number of Americans who have graded our country heading in the right direction basically this century. Why? Because Americans are done with the painful Democrat years of high prices and open borders.

The contrast is significant. They are witnessing firsthand the Trump turnaround, and they are actually happy that Republicans are delivering for them after what they have been through for the previous 4 years.

Let's take a look at gas prices. Gas prices were 50 cents a gallon cheaper this year than they were Memorial Day last year. Families now save about \$10 every time they fill up, and they are going to feel this relief all summer long.

Senate Republicans are adding to the success. We are working on the bold agenda to make America stronger, safer, more prosperous, more affordable. Let me outline why we are doing this and why it is so urgent.

Our mission is to stop a \$4 trillion tax increase. That would be the highest, biggest tax increase in the history of our country. Every one of the Democrats supports this all-out assault on our wallets, on our pocketbooks, on the purses of the people all across the country. We are talking about the largest tax increases in America's history. Our goal is to make these tax cuts permanent.

Ignore the scare tactics that we hear from the other side of the aisle. This is a lifeline for middle-class families and for small businesses. This is about allowing people to keep more of what they earn. It is their hard-earned money.

We are also going to end taxes on tips. In Wyoming, 10,000 workers will benefit from this—hard-working waiters, bartenders, tour guides—all of them. We are also going to make sure that police officers and firefighters will owe no taxes on overtime. Seniors will keep more of their Social Security. Small business owners will keep more of their earnings. We will also relieve them of these incredible paperwork burdens that are a drag on their ability to build their businesses.

Republicans will also strengthen and preserve Medicaid for the Americans who need it the most. This means 1.4 million illegal immigrants will stop re-

ceiving taxpayer-funded Medicaid benefits. It was never intended for them. It is wrong. Benefits like that don't belong to them. These people are in the country illegally. They should not be benefiting from the work of hard-working Americans. Democrats want to keep all these benefits flowing to all these illegal immigrants. Well, that makes it harder for the American medical patients to get to see a doctor. I know; I practiced medicine for a long time and took care of a lot of Medicaid patients. What the Democrats have done to Medicaid—and now illegal immigrants receiving it, over 1 million—is making it harder for the American public to get to see a doctor.

To bring prices down, we are actually focusing much, much more on American energy and producing American energy—American energy that was under attack in the last administration by Biden and the Democrats. Affordable, reliable American energy is going to lower costs for people, will bring down the cost of heating your home, will bring down the cost of filling the tank.

With all the artificial intelligence breakthroughs, we need more energy to power those data centers. This is going to be done with American manufacturing. To win the AI race we are now in against China, we need more energy, not less. Republican policies will make America energy dominant once again.

Republican policies will also invite the world to build and invest right here at home in America. No more outsourcing our energy or our innovation or our destiny—Americans will be in charge.

On border security, Republicans are resolute. We will finish the wall, deport illegal immigrants, and stop the flood of illegal fentanyl that is destroying and killing communities around our country. Border Patrol agents will get the tools and the backup they need as well as the pay they deserve. These are strong measures, and they will secure the border.

Sunday, just 2 days ago, there was a terrorist attack in Boulder, CO. It is a sad reminder of the stakes. The terrorist was in the country illegally. He was here because of the open border policy in the Biden administration—one the Democrats want to continue. Every Senate Democrat right now in this body has voted to keep the borders open and opposed securing the borders.

This terrorist overstayed his visa. Joe Biden and the Democrats never kicked him out. Actually, they gave him a work permit, and even that has expired.

What do we know now? We know that investigators have found that he planned his hateful, anti-Semitic attack and was planning it for over a year, and he targeted Jews. He screamed "Free Palestine." Twelve people were injured. Eight were hospitalized. Among the victims was an 88-year-old Holocaust survivor. This is the human cost of dangerous Democrat policies.