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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

The Senate met at 4 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.

Oh, mighty God, sustainer of humanity, we thank You for commanding light to shine out of darkness, for stretching out the heavens, and laying the foundation of the Earth.

Lord, we praise You for calling us to be Your people, for revealing Your purposes in Your Holy word, and for extending to us Your mercy and faithfulness.

Bless the Members of this body and all who support them. Give them such trust in You that holding onto Your word, they may be strong in this and in every time of challenge, grief, and pain. Impart to them grace to permit You to order their steps. And, Lord, bring peace to our Nation and world.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

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.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I come to the Senate to recognize June as National Elder Abuse Awareness Month. I am introducing a resolution with Democratic Senator BLUMENTHAL for this very purpose. This is a time to shed light on a crisis that too often remains in the shadows.

Last year, an estimated one in six older Americans experienced some form of abuse in a community setting, whether physical, emotional, financial, or neglect. For every elder abuse case that is reported, as many as 24 go unreported, it is estimated.

These aren't just numbers. They are our parents, our grandparents, our neighbors, and our veterans. Elder abuse isn't limited by geography or income. It occurs in nursing homes and private residences, the very places meant to offer these elderly people care and protection.

With a fast-growing senior population in our country, the urgency to act has never been greater. This month, we recommit to building a society that views aging not as a burden but as a source of wisdom, experience, and continued contribution.

We recommit to raising awareness of elder abuse and implementing protec-

tions for those in our society who protected us first. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring older Americans this month.

In the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, I am working to support Protect Our Seniors. So tomorrow, I am holding a hearing to examine how scammers are targeting older Americans.

This continues my effort to ensure that seniors are protected from financial predators and can live with the security and the dignity that these seniors deserve.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative 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.

MINNESOTA LAWMAKERS SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the weekend, while most of the country slept, a gunman targeted two Minnesota State legislators in their homes. He pretended to be a police officer, and he gunned down Democratic State legislator John Hoffman and his wife. Fortunately, they survived and are recovering from surgery and reportedly in stable condition. We pray for State Senator Hoffman and his wife's full recovery.

Then the gunman attacked another Democratic State legislator with over

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



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20 years of service, Minnesota Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, and her husband Mark. She and her husband leave behind two children.

These killings are not only horrifying for Minnesota but a tragedy for America. This heinous act of political violence defies American values and democracy.

Unfortunately, we have seen a disturbing increase in political violence in recent years, seemingly, as part of a misguided and sickening attempt to strike fear and intimidation in the hearts of the American people and those who engage in public service.

Violence and hate have no place in America. Leaders on both sides of the aisle must speak out and condemn these violent acts. I have said this repeatedly, but it bears repeating: Political violence from the right or the left is never—never—acceptable. It is never the answer.

We must condemn these violent acts when they happen. We also must speak out against the radical language we see online and even language coming from our colleagues.

One Member of this body tweeted a picture of the Minnesota shooter and wrote:

This is what happens when Marxists don't get their way.

He tweeted another picture of the shooter and wrote:

Nightmare on Waltz Street.

Apparently, it was an attempt to blame Minnesota Governor Tim Walz for the shooting.

Another one of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle tweeted about the shooting:

The degree to which the extreme left has become radical, violent, and intolerant is stunning and terrifying.

To attempt to politicize this tragedy is absolutely unacceptable. This rhetoric from elected officials is beyond dangerous and incites even more violence. It is reprehensible, and it must be called out on both sides of the aisle—both sides of the aisle—because in the land of the free and the home of the brave, everyone should feel safe expressing their political views, and we must never do so in a way that condones violence or intimidation.

I pray for Minnesota during this heartbreaking time and vow to continue to denounce and combat political violence of any kind.

GENIUS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. On another topic, over the weekend, President Trump hosted a military parade to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and, coincidentally, his 79th birthday.

Spending up to \$45 million of taxpayers' money on this kind of pomp and circumstance, while at the same time proposing a budget to eviscerate medical research for the military and to take health insurance away from 16 million Americans is not a cause for national celebration.

Meanwhile, the President's crypto business unfolds. Throughout his first term, President Trump was officially skeptical of crypto currency. In a social media post from July 11, 2019, the President said:

I am not a fan of Bitcoin and other Cryptocurrencies, which are not money, and whose value is highly volatile and based on thin air. Unregulated Crypto Assets can facilitate unlawful behavior, including drug trade and other illegal activity.

That is a quote from the President in his first term. Once the President figured out how to personally make this part of his investment portfolio, his tune changed.

This is how President Trump is using the unregulated crypto industry to enrich himself and his family. Three days before he took office, President Trump launched his meme coin, a novelty item similar to baseball cards or Beanie Babies. Yet they hold no intrinsic value.

Meme coins are risky and highly volatile. Despite the risk, many investors purchased President Trump's meme coin, and in the first few weeks after its launch, the President, in his second term, profited up to \$100 million in trading fees, while more than 200,000 investors lost money. There has never been a precedent for anything like this in the history of the Presidency.

Then President Trump auctioned off access to himself by hosting a "crypto gala" dinner here in Washington. The President made a whopping \$148 million just off this dinner, from 220 investors willing to pay for face time with the President. But nearly half of the "winners" of this meme coin competition were still "losers." About 95 attendees suffered a net \$8.95 million loss by purchasing President Trump's meme coin. In total, 764,000 investors lost money to President Trump's meme coin scam.

But his corruption does not stop there. His family started its own crypto firm now, World Liberty Financial, and, in March, they launched their own stablecoin, right as the Senate was working on the GENIUS Act, legislation to regulate—so-called regulate—the stablecoin market.

Conveniently, this legislation allows the President and his family to continue owning and issuing stablecoins. There has never been anything like this in the history of the Presidency. Passing the GENIUS Act will help the stablecoin market grow tenfold, over the next 3 years, to a \$2 trillion market.

I am going to vote no on this legislation when it comes up this week. We prohibit Members of Congress from activity in crypto currency. The same should be true for the Presidency. Why are we having two different standards? I think the answer is obvious.

That means, if the Senate passes this legislation tomorrow, it would give Congress's blessing for President Trump and his family to further enrich themselves, with very little protection for consumers.

President Trump's crypto dealings, reportedly, account for nearly 40 percent of his net worth. All of the years and decades of investment notwithstanding, 40 percent of President Trump's net worth has been generated in just a few months in the second term of his Presidency with this cryptocurrency. In just a few months, the family—the Trump family—has pulled in approximately \$1 billion from crypto—\$1 billion.

Tomorrow's vote on the GENIUS Act could bring us closer to enabling President Trump's latest scam. This is shameful; it is corrupt—especially since we could have stopped this from happening if we had conducted an open amendment process, as Leader THUNE promised. We could have had amendments on the floor that would have brought real regulation to this industry. Instead, we have phony regulation.

I filed an amendment to crack down on ATM operators who are scamming seniors out of their life savings with crypto machines. My amendment would have created guardrails to prevent crypto ATM fraud. Approximately 13 States have done so, and we should do so on a national basis.

But we won't have that opportunity. They have foreclosed all amendments to this bill. We can't even debate it on the floor and ask for a vote.

Instead, the GENIUS Act will allow the crypto scam to continue at the expense of unsuspecting Americans and to the enrichment of the President and his family.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

MINNESOTA LAWMAKERS SHOOTINGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, law enforcement apprehended the man suspected in the assassination of Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband and the shootings of State Senator John Hoffman and his wife.

We in the Senate thank our law enforcement for their remarkable work in bringing the attacker into custody. As we have all seen, the attacker planned to continue his killing spree had he not been thwarted and had a list of over 70 public officials potentially targeted for violence, including Members of the Senate. Naturally, a number of Members in the Senate remain profoundly shaken. The victims were friends of our colleagues from Minnesota. Some of them were together at a dinner the night before the shooting. To think that one moment, you can celebrate each other's company—laugh and joke, share a meal, a drink—only for violence to strike the next moment makes us all sick to our stomachs. It is haunting.