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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, June 20, 2025, at 11 a.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

The Senate met at 11 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.

God of second chances who fills us with hope and peace, sustain our Senators and those who work with them with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Lord, work in them to do infinitely more than they can request or imagine. Give them a peace which the world cannot give or take away.

When they are weary, give them rest. And when they are discouraged, empower them to persevere. Prepare their hearts and minds to serve You and country with humility and integrity as they work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

Teach them to seek first Your honor and glory. But above all, fill them with Your inestimable love.

We pray in Your great 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. SHEEHY). 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 assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

#### WHISTLEBLOWERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I come to the floor to speak about a favorite topic that my friends know I am proud of, protecting whistleblowers and the roles that they play in government.

I have long held that government oversight can't be done without the patriotic work of whistleblowers. Even Department and Agency heads need whistleblowers to know what is really going on in their respective Departments and Agencies.

I tell people that come to my office before their Senate confirmation that whether you are in a very small number of employees Agency or, you know, hundreds of thousands of employees in our Agency, you are at the top; you

can't know what is going on at the bottom. And you need to listen to whistleblowers, and they usually come forward with very important information.

When they don't get that respect from the Department heads, they usually end up coming to the Congress, and many of them come to the office of this Senator.

Just this year, to show you the importance of whistleblowers, I made records public, exposing the political origin of Arctic Frost. Arctic Frost is the case that ultimately became one of Jack Smith's cases against President Trump. Anti-Trump FBI agents and Department of Justice prosecutors started Arctic Frost.

Based on even more records that I have made public, those very same anti-Trump FBI agents were involved in the investigation and prosecution of Peter Navarro, now serving with President Trump in the White House, like he did in the first Trump administration. Those agents that took on Peter Navarro were Assistant Special Agent in Charge Thibault and Special Agent Walter Giardina.

Whistleblowers have also disclosed to me that J.P. Cooney wanted to potentially open yet another case on Trump. J.P. Cooney was Jack Smith's deputy. Allegedly, Cooney wanted to use compulsory process to obtain more information. He improperly based that desire to do so, in large part, on partisan news outlets.

And guess who was included in the communication about the new case against Trump? That same person's name shows up, Special Agent Walter

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



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Giardina. I will have more to speak on that matter later.

Whistleblowers have told me that Special Agent Giardina openly stated his desire to investigate Trump, even if it meant false predication.

I have been able to make all these records publicly available because of brave, patriotic whistleblowers. They are patriots to the highest order. And a lot of this information that I received from whistleblowers wouldn't have been made available or even known that it existed without the help of these whistleblowers.

And because of those whistleblowers, it is now an absolute fact that these cases against President Trump and his associates were politically motivated. My investigative work won't rest. There will be much more coming from this Senator.

#### U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS

Mr. President, now on another matter, if I can continue for another minute or 2. The U.S. regulatory process for approving farmers' tools like pesticides is the benchmark for all global regulatory standards. In other words, the U.S. Agencies that deal with approving the safety of pesticides stands as a measure of how other global regulatory agencies will approve or disapprove of pesticides.

Now I am going to speak about the MAHA commission. And I don't know whether that acronym means much to people, but it stands for "Make America Healthy Again." Last month, the MAHA commission released a report taking aim at that regulatory process of deciding the safety or not-so-safe safety of pesticides.

If you undermine our already strict and effective regulatory process, you undermine our global competitiveness. The result would be losing out to our competitors on business in the form of exports and direct investment in the United States.

It would also pull other countries away from our standard in favor of others, creating nontariff barriers to trade.

The U.S. regulatory system for food and agriculture rose up alongside these important industries created by pioneers that changed the world through technology. This progress led humanity to the most prosperous time in history.

As conservatives, it is important to remember that often, it is not the lack of regulation but the overregulation of our industry that hinders our prosperity.

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.

#### ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday afternoon, the Senate Finance Committee released the text of the centerpiece of our reconciliation bill, making the tax relief we passed in 2017 permanent.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduced tax rates for every income bracket, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. That, of course, meant more money in Americans' pockets.

But those lower tax rates and the larger standard deduction and the child tax credit are set to expire at the end of this year, and if we don't take action, American families will be facing a massive tax hike starting in 2026. Americans making less than \$400,000 a year would face a \$2.6 trillion tax hike. A typical family of four making \$80,000 would need to send an additional \$1,700 to Uncle Sam—\$1,700.

Republicans promised the American people that we won't let that happen. With the release of the Finance Committee text, we are one step closer to delivering on that promise. Our bill will extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's lower tax rates. It will extend the doubled child tax credit. It will extend the nearly doubled standard deduction—but not just extend them, Mr. President, make them permanent.

Extending the lower tax rates or the standard deduction was never going to be enough for Republicans. We are making the lower tax rates and the doubled child tax credit and the increased standard deduction permanent so that American families do not have to worry about another looming tax hike a few years down the road. And we are actually going even further by increasing the child tax credit by another \$200—again, on a permanent basis.

Mr. President, that is not all we are doing. We are always going to make life better for the American people by growing our economy. In addition to cutting tax rates for hard-working Americans, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also implemented historic reform of the business side of the Tax Code. We lowered tax rates for owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches and made it easier for them to recover the cost of investing in their businesses, which in turn freed up cash for them to invest in their operations and their workers.

We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate—which, prior to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world—to make American businesses more competitive in the global economy and empower them to invest in wages and benefits for their workers. And we brought our international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses would no longer be operating at a disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

Mr. President, it worked. In the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our econ-

omy grew at a substantially better rate than projected. Real wages increased, unemployment fell to a 50-year low, the poverty rate fell to the lowest level ever recorded, and business investment increased. Everywhere you looked, there was positive economic news.

When we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we were able to make some of that business tax relief permanent. But like the individual tax relief, other provisions have either already expired, are expiring at the end of this year, or are in the process of phasing out. That includes lower tax rates for small and medium-sized businesses, the section 199A small business tax deduction, and full expensing for new capital investment and domestic research and development. Our legislation will permanently extend these key provisions.

In between these and other new pro-growth policies, like a provision to boost domestic manufacturing by implementing full expensing for new factories and factory improvements, we can expect to see further economic growth and more jobs and opportunities for American workers.

The Council of Economic Advisers, which accurately predicted the economic and wage growth that we achieved in the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, is forecasting 2.9 percent to 3.5 percent long-run GDP as a result of our legislation. That means more jobs, better wages—as much as a \$13,327 increase for a typical family—and more opportunities for American workers. It also means more revenue for the Federal Government—but revenue created the right way, through economic growth, not through higher taxes.

And I should mention that, yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office released a new H.R. 1 analysis, which characteristically underestimates the economic growth—and hence the revenue—this bill will provide. CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, did the same thing with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, when it estimated revenues would be \$1.5 trillion lower than what they have actually been.

The Council of Economic Advisers, by contrast—which was most accurate in its modeling of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's effects, including its effect on revenue—tells us that passage of our legislation will increase Federal revenues by \$4.1 trillion, more than enough to offset the CBO's deficit estimate.

Mr. President, in addition to promising to make the 2017 tax relief permanent, President Trump outlined multiple other tax proposals on the campaign trail—proposals which were endorsed by the American people with his strong win in November. And with this bill, we are delivering on those promises.

We are suspending taxes on tips for millions of tip workers. We are suspending taxes on overtime for millions of hourly workers. We are suspending taxes on auto loan interest when you buy a new car manufactured in the