

Whereas President Trump successfully ended the nuclear weapons program of Iran;

Whereas the end to the Iranian nuclear program achieved by President Trump came without military personnel on the ground; and

Whereas President Trump has shown the world that peace through strength is the antidote to forever wars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Norwegian Nobel Committee to award President Donald John Trump the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize;

(2) urges all peace-loving nations to join in that call; and

(3) expresses its deepest appreciation to President Trump for bringing an end both to the nuclear program of Iran and hostilities related thereto in only 12 days.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2357. Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KIM, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 59, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2357. Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KIM, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 59, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 19 through 21 and insert the following:

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from—

(1) defending against an attack on the United States or its personnel or facilities in other nations;

(2) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence, including with the State of Israel and other nations and international organizations as appropriate, related to threats from the Islamic Republic of Iran or its proxies; or

(3) assisting the State of Israel and other nations—

(A) in taking defensive measures to protect their territory from retaliatory attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran or its proxies; or

(B) by providing defensive materiel support for such defensive measures.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 1829, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry, dated June 25, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to

meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive session.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following

interns in my office be granted floor privileges until June 26, 2025: Zachary Fitzgerald and Caroline Martel.

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

COMMEMORATING JUNE 19, 2025, AS JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 290.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 290) commemorating June 19, 2025, as "Juneteenth National Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 290) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 18, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 303 and S. Res. 304.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD (Legislative Day of June 24, 2025) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two

leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 93, Kenneth Kies; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of my Democratic colleagues.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, over the decades, there is a lot of conversation here in the Senate about deficits and debt. And every now and then, there is a significant bipartisan effort to take on that challenge in a responsible way. But the biggest historic bipartisan effort occurred in 1974, just over a half century ago.

And in that effort, Democrats and Republicans together said: Let's start using honest numbers when we are engaged in spending and revenue raising so we will quit having smoke and mirrors, quit pretending things are not what they are, quit selling—if you will—lipstick on a pig.

Well, that effort created the Congressional Budget Office to get nonpartisan estimates. That effort created a strategy of saying we will have a regular budgeting process; and for reducing the deficits, we will have a special process called reconciliation only for reducing the deficit. And that special process had three very significant components.

One was reconciliation would not be used to create any deficits in the budget window that is in the 10-year window. The second is that it would not create any deficits in any single title in any single year any year after the first 10 years. And the third was that they would use—all of us would use—the nonpartisan numbers delivered to us on revenue through the Joint Committee on Taxation and on programs through the Congressional Budget Office.

What an idea: We are going to be honest with ourselves, and we are going to be honest with the American people about what our decisions cost.

But along the way, my Republican colleagues preached fiscal responsibility, but became the masters—the Kings—of fiscal irresponsibility. Let's look at the ways that they ran up deficit and debt here in the United States of America.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq: \$8 trillion—not to mention the incredible

loss of lives: some 7,000 servicemembers, more than 50,000 servicemembers with serious injuries.

And continuing on their deficit- and debt-creating rampage, there was the Bush tax cuts in 2001, and the second Bush tax cuts of 2003, and the Trump tax cuts of 2017, all creating an ocean of red ink compromising the opportunity for us to do right by American families in healthcare, housing, education, great investments in technology and job creation, because there is no government program that is better than a good-paying job.

All of it compromised from the Republicans' ocean of red ink.

But just making program decisions that created red ink wasn't enough for my colleagues across the aisle. No. They decided to tear down the 1974 structure for fiscal responsibility.

In 1996, they proceeded to say: You know what, we want to do a tax bill that will vastly lower taxes on the richest Americans, and we know it will create a mountain of deficit and debt. Democrats aren't going to vote for that, they said—and they were right.

They said: Let's get a ruling. Let's get a ruling that allows us to do deficit creation with reconciliation, even though all 100 Senators voted for reconciliation as a special filibuster-free pathway only for deficit reduction.

It was really a dark moment for the Senate. The majority brought in a new Parliamentarian to get a ruling that reversed what everyone had understood in the 1974 law. And then they proceeded to use it three times already in 2001, 2003, 2017. And now they are doing it a fourth time—more red ink.

That amount is about \$3.4 trillion. And over 30 years, the debt they are creating as compared to current law is over \$30 trillion of additional debt—\$30 trillion.

So, please, don't come to this floor—I say to my colleagues across the aisle—and preach fiscal responsibility. If you can't walk the walk, don't talk the talk.

There is one way to be fiscally responsible, and that is not to vote for a bill that creates \$3.4 trillion in debt over 10 years and more than \$30 trillion in debt over the next 30 years.

That is the way you have fiscal responsibility. You do it with action, because actions speak louder than words.

It is part of what makes Americans so cynical to hear speeches about fiscal responsibility and then see the actions are the exact opposite.

But there is a sense of embarrassment among many of my colleagues across the aisle because they have given speeches back home about fiscal responsibility. So they don't like the idea of voting for a bill that creates \$3.4 trillion in debt over 10 years as compared to current law or more than \$30 trillion in debt over 30 years as compared to current law.

So they said: Let's create a magic math baseline that pretends these provisions don't create debt. That is just a

horrific strategy—to lie to ourselves, to lie to the American people about what this bill costs.

This little myth being hoisted on this Chamber and the American people, they put a fancy name on it. They called it current policy baseline.

So let's revisit what has happened to the 1974 law. It said: No deficit creation in a 10-year period, and Republicans tore that down in 1996 and used it now three times, and now today a fourth time this week to create an ocean of red ink.

Second of all, that 1974 agreement was that there be no deficit created in any title in any year after that 10-year window.

This reconciliation bill is tearing that down right now, the second main pillar being devastated because they are making the tax cuts permanent and then creating a phony baseline to say it doesn't really create additional deficits far into the future. But everybody in America knows it does. Everybody in America knows that they are creating a phony baseline, doing exactly what was done before 1974, taking us to the same place where we are deceiving ourselves or attempting to or deceiving the American people.

Third of all is that they are tearing down the integrity of using honest numbers.

So they tore down the 10-year agreement—no deficits in the first 10 years. Now they are tearing down the second pillar—no deficits in any title in any year after the first 10 years. Now they are also tearing down the third pillar—be honest about the numbers.

Now, this strategy—my colleagues across the aisle will say: Well, there is this provision in the budgeting law called section 312, and it gives the Budget Committee the power to resolve technical difficulties when we come to costing out programs.

But what I am conveying to you right now is that this is not in the section of the law that deals with reconciliation. Section 310 deals with reconciliation, section 313 deals with reconciliation, but section 312—no.

So here is what we have. This provision the Republicans are saying they want to use to give the Budget chairman the power to create an artificial baseline to pretend this bill doesn't cost and to be able to extend debts far into the future or deficits far into the future, creating more debt—it has never been used in a partisan manner before.

Here are the times it has been used in all these different ways: Crime Victims Fund, Power Marketing Administrations, preventing double counting of a dairy program, adjustments to the Fiscal Responsibility Act—every single time a technical difficulty worked out in a bipartisan fashion. But I can assure you, there is nothing bipartisan now about trying to use this in reconciliation.

This provision from 312—has it ever been used in this broad fashion, even