



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

No. 110

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, June 24, 2025)

The Senate met at 3:30 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, 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.

Creator of the universe, all loving, all wise, all powerful, move in our Nation and world. Your lawmakers need You for such a time as this, and You promised to supply their needs.

Today, supply their need for wisdom. Lord, illuminate their minds as they seek to do the right thing. Infuse them with supernatural power to make sense out of the riddles that baffle so many. May they be able to look back over today's work and know they have glorified You. Lord, astound them with new thoughts and fresh insights they could not conceive without Your omnipotence.

We pray in Your mighty 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. SCHMITT). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor this very day to correct the public record. That public record has become so distorted by fanatical allegations of Republican tyranny that it no longer records actual history.

My Democratic colleagues have obscured the transcript with tales of a constitutional crisis, corrupt law enforcement, and Democratic knighthood defending the very rule of law that they abandoned for open borders not 1 year ago. Dare they pause in their breathless accusations, the historical record might reflect the consequences of Democratic leadership.

It was Democrats who threw open our southern border with foolish policies that paroled over 6,000 criminals and terrorists into the United States and lost track of over 2 million known "got-aways." Those same Democrats are now criticizing efforts to remove those threats.

They have hurled one-sided accusations of "masked agents acting with unnecessary force." This inflammatory rhetoric is a breeding ground for physical threats. As we have seen on TV, law enforcement have been pelted with rocks, assaulted with homemade explosives, and defamed and doxed by the far left.

At a hearing I just held, agents told the Senate Judiciary Committee of an officer whose photograph was taken during an operation and posted on Instagram with a message that the community needed to remind him

where he came from and where he was. The officer felt so threatened, he changed his appearance to protect his family. In another example, an FBI agent was threatened to back down from an investigation with photos of his children.

These men and women held the line against every national security threat while Democrat Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas and Director Wray of the FBI refused to appear for their annual congressional report on threats to the homeland because they didn't want to face the tough questions they would get on why they weren't enforcing the law.

Congress didn't make this Nation's laws subject to the whims of purported righteous indignation. Passionate protests don't justify laying hands on law enforcement, and bleeding hearts don't erase immigration laws critical to our national security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative 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 (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Republican plan for American prosperity in terms of why it is so popular.

That is because Republicans want to cut taxes. Democrats, they want to raise taxes. Republicans want to grow the economy. The Democrats, they want to grow the government. Republicans want to put working families first. Democrats continue to want to leave them behind.

Our Republican bill stops the largest tax increase in American history, and

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3545

it means permanent tax relief. That means Americans can plan their futures with certainty. It means higher wages and more jobs. That means Americans have more money in their pockets, in their purses, and in their paychecks. The Council of Economic Advisers released new data this week. Here is what it shows: Our plan for American prosperity raises wages, lowers taxes, and grows the economy.

So let me just take a second to break down the benefits: \$10,000 more in take-home pay for American families; an extra tax cut for tipped and overtime workers; \$6,000 bonus deductions for seniors on Social Security; 7 million more jobs right here in America; \$100 billion in business investments in opportunity zones, including in rural America; an additional 4 percent in economic growth; more than \$2 trillion in deficit reduction so that the next generation isn't buried in debt.

Our plan for American prosperity will also create new savings accounts for every child. These tax-deferred investment accounts start with a \$1,000 contribution. Now, those early savings will grow over time. By the time the child becomes an adult, he can use the money to pay for college, to put down a downpayment on a home, or to start a small business. We call these Trump accounts. Trump accounts are an investment in our future generation. They are financial launch pads for the American dream.

Additionally, our plan for prosperity unleashes American energy. This will help working families who have paid for high energy costs under Joe Biden.

Now let's talk about what happens if Democrats are successful in defeating our bold Republican agenda.

If Democrats block this bill—and they say they are going to—taxes will soar; paychecks will shrink; and small businesses will get strangled. Every Democrat—every Democrat—in this Chamber has vowed to vote against our economic prosperity package. The vote of every Democrat in this Chamber will raise your taxes. If Democrats get their way, middle-class families will pay \$1,700 more in taxes next year. Small businesses will see their taxes go up by 43 percent. The standard deduction, which 90 percent of taxpayers use—well, that is going to get cut in half; so will the child tax credit. Yet that is what the Democrats are fighting for: higher taxes, fewer jobs, and heavier costs on working families.

Let's not forget why Democrats want to raise taxes. They want to continue to give free healthcare to millions of illegal immigrants.

Republicans are fighting so that waiters, nurses, police officers, seniors, and families keep more of what they earn and don't continue this Washington wasteful spending. Our comprehensive plan for prosperity is going to put America back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just left the classified all-Senators briefing with the administration on Iran strikes.

One thing is very, very clear: The briefing raised more questions than it answered. It is why we need to enforce the War Powers Act.

I have always been clear: Iran must never acquire a nuclear weapon. A few days ago, President Trump claimed that Iran's nuclear program was "totally and completely obliterated." I asked what information exists to verify the President's claim, and I did not receive an answer to that question.

What was clear from today's briefing is that there is no coherent strategy, no endgame, no plan. What are we doing?

Anybody who sat in that meeting and is honest with themselves would recognize that we need to enforce the War Powers Act and force the administration to provide answers to some very important questions about Iran and our national security.

When the administration is forced to answer questions, we will get more clarity, and maybe they will get more clarity too. So it is an important thing to do.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, let me talk about reproductive care and SCOTUS. Three years after Dobbs, the MAGA Supreme Court has once again doubled down on its war on women. The Court handed down a decision that immediately endangers funding for Planned Parenthood—one of the biggest organizations for affordable women's healthcare across the whole country. It is not just about reproductive care; it endangers women's healthcare altogether.

Clinics will close. Women will lose access to cancer screenings, contraceptives, physical exams for common illnesses, and so much more. For many women, Planned Parenthood is their only resource to get healthcare services at an affordable rate.

Make no mistake. Senate Republicans own the consequences of this loathsome decision. They packed our courts with extremists. They are the chief architects of the dismal state of women's healthcare in America. Senate Democrats will never, never relent in our efforts to ensure all women in America have high-quality healthcare.

Access to healthcare is a basic right, no matter what the radicals on the MAGA Court may think.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, now on reconciliation. Everybody needs to understand exactly

what is going on with the Republican's so-called reconciliation bill. Their Big Beautiful Bill is buckling under its own weight. Republicans can't agree among themselves on just how devastating to make their own bill—should it be a lot devastating? even more devastating?

But don't be fooled. Republicans absolutely agree that one way or the other, they want Medicare cut to the bone. So now Republicans are scrambling behind closed doors trying to rewrite the bill just enough to keep their Medicaid cuts alive.

Why are they doing this? We know why. They want tax cuts for billionaires.

But here is a thought: Instead of finding new ways to pass the same old cuts, why don't Republicans keep promises they have been making for weeks not to cut Medicaid? The dissonance we are hearing from Republicans is head-spinning because, on the one hand, we have been hearing the same talking points for weeks that somehow they are not going to cut people's Medicaid; that they are "not in favor of cutting benefits regarding Medicaid"; that "no one's losing their healthcare"; that there "should not be any cuts."

These are real statements I just read from our Senate Republican colleagues in the last month—from Senators BLACKBURN and BOOZMAN and CASSIDY and CORNYN. And there is plenty more where that came from.

But their words, unfortunately, don't match their actions. The Republican bill does exactly the opposite of what they are saying. It doesn't save Medicare and healthcare; it eviscerates it.

Independent studies show the Republican bill would cut healthcare for 16 million Americans. It would decimate rural hospitals. It would harm nursing homes. It would kill nearly a million jobs. And it would raise healthcare costs for everyone, even those with private insurance. That is the bill the Republicans are working on right now, and that is what it would do.

Apparently, Republicans are OK with the consequences. Former Leader MCCONNELL shrugged off people's concerns, saying folks worried about Medicaid cuts will "get over it." They will have to get over it. Isn't that cruel?

Meanwhile, Senator ERNST told people to stop fussing because "We're all going to die."

What planet are they on? Is this how Republicans talk to people back home worried about seeing a doctor, taking care of their kids, and affording prescription drugs?

Now, a few Senate Republicans have shown some flickers of lucidity in closed-door meetings and in hallway conversations. A few, at least, claim they recognize what the rest of us already know: Their own bill would decimate their own constituents.

The senior Senator from North Carolina was handing out fliers at a recent Republican lunch detailing how his own State—and nine others—would