

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.R. 1, AS AMENDED

The VICE PRESIDENT. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 372 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—50

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Paul	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 1), as amended, was passed.

(Applause.)

PRAYER

Pursuant to the order for February 29, 1960, the hour of 12 noon having arrived, the Senate having been in continuous session since yesterday, the Senate will suspend for a prayer by the Senate Chaplain.

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal, ever-blessed God, help our Senators to walk on Your path for the glory of Your Name. Help them to walk with humility so that they will strive

to be servants of the people. Help them to walk with forgiveness, so that they will forgive as they desire to be forgiven. Help them to walk with courage, so that nothing will deflect them from the way they ought to take.

Help them to walk with endurance, so that nothing may daunt or discourage them until they reach their goal.

Lord, help them to walk with loyalty, so that nothing will ever seduce their hearts from their devotion to You.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been a long road to get to today. More than a year ago, groups of Republican Senators and staff began meeting to lay the groundwork for extending tax relief for hard-working Americans if we were given the opportunity. Voters gave us that opportunity.

Since we took office in January, Republicans have been laser-focused on achieving the bill before us today.

Now we are here passing legislation that will permanently extend tax relief for hard-working Americans; that will spur economic growth and more jobs and opportunities for American workers; that will rebuild our military, secure our borders, unleash American energy, and cut waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal programs. With this legislation, we are fulfilling the mandate we were entrusted with last November and setting our country and the American people up to be safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

No bill of this size comes together without a lot of very hard work, and I want to thank the committee members and the chairmen who worked so long on this legislation. I also want to thank the committee staff and the leadership staff and the Member staff who have put an incredible number of hours in putting this bill together. None of us would be where we are without our staffs. And nowhere is this more true than on this bill, which would not have come together without a lot of very late nights, early mornings, and long afternoons of tireless work from staffers. I hope that they take pride today in what they helped achieve for the American people.

I also want to thank all the individuals who keep the Senate floor running and who worked overtime this weekend during consideration of the bill. That includes the cloakroom staff, the clerks, the doorkeepers, the Capitol Police, and the pages who stayed past the end of their session to help out. I am very, very grateful to all of them. I hope everyone manages to get some sleep.

I look forward to the House taking up and passing this historic legislation and getting it to the President's desk. 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. 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.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from North Carolina be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from July 1 to July 7, 2025.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 106.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 106, Preston Griffith, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Jim Justice, Bill Hagerty.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 197.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of, Executive Calendar No. 197, Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Jim Justice, Bill Hagerty.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 81.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of, Executive Calendar No. 81, Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Thom Tillis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Pete Ricketts, Roger Marshall,

Chuck Grassley, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Mike Rounds, John Kennedy, Katie Boyd Britt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 58.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 58, William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

H.R. 1

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, contrary to misinformation campaigns seeking to stop commonsense Medicaid reforms from getting to the President's desk, the One Big Beautiful Bill does not take away Medicaid from those who need it. In fact, the bill will strengthen the Medicaid program, so

that it can continue to serve the vulnerable populations it was designed to serve.

Before I discuss the program integrity measures in this bill, I want to give some context on Medicaid spending. Under this bill, Medicaid will spend over \$7.4 trillion over 10 years. We are only slowing the growth of Medicaid spending as Medicaid spending will still go up at about 2 to 3 percent annually, compared to 4.5 to 5 percent annually, if we don't pass this bill.

A sizable majority of Americans support efforts to stop wasteful spending that drains resources for people who truly need this safety net and puts an unfair burden on taxpayers. Between 2015 and 2024, the total amount of improper Federal Medicaid payments was over \$560 billion. Some independent estimates put it closer to \$1.1 trillion. We must do something about it. I am also the author of major updates to the False Claims Act, a major tool to save taxpayers money.

Since my reforms were enacted, the Federal Government has recovered more than \$78 billion lost to fraud—much of it in government healthcare programs—and saved billions more by deterring would-be fraudsters. We are doing more in this bill, because taxpayers and those who rely on Medicaid deserve better. That is why we are putting an end to the billions of dollars of waste, fraud, and abuse in healthcare programs.

Let me list off a few provisions that establish some program integrity:

Reducing duplicate enrollment under the Medicaid program.

Ensuring deceased individuals and health care providers don't remain enrolled.

Payment reduction for erroneous excess provider payments under Medicaid.

We're also going to require states to check if an individual is eligible to be on Medicaid twice a year, instead of once a year.

These provisions alone save over \$94 billion, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, CBO. We establish robust verification for individuals receiving premium tax credits through the Federal marketplace.

We also ensure that if someone gets more subsidization than they are allowed based on their income, the excessive subsidy amount is returned.

Last year, I pointed out to the Treasury Inspector General that excessive payments were not being recouped. Through my oversight, I discovered over 40 percent of excessive Federal marketplace subsidy payments totaled over \$10 billion dating back to 2016. These excess payments were not recouped because of current safe harbor rules. This excessive waste will end in this bill and save over \$60 billion, according to CBO.

We also delay costly regulations that establish one-size-fits-all rules, including for nursing homes and State Medicaid programs. I am a strong proponent of nursing home oversight and ensuring our most vulnerable senior citizens and those with disabilities have access to high-quality care. We