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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Pastor Clint Pressley, lead pastor at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC.

Welcome.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Join me in prayer.

Father in Heaven, we come to You in the name of Jesus, our crucified, resurrected Savior. We come to You by the power of the Holy Spirit to seek Your blessings on this deliberative body.

We thank You, Lord, for Your constant grace, for Your providing hand, for Your guiding Word. We ask You this day to fill us with Your knowledge, the great knowledge of Your will. Give us wisdom and understanding that we might walk in a manner worthy of being called Your people.

Father, we ask that You make us a righteous people, a joyful people—joyful in adversity, hopeful in struggle, and just in all our dealings.

We pray, Lord, that You would make us a prosperous people, a happy people.

Lord, You have told us what is good and what You expect of us: to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with You, our God. May we, this day, flourish in kindness and strive for goodness under Your gracious and sovereign hand.

Father, we confess how good it is to live in this country. We pray that You

would continually empower us to be the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Help us, Lord. Help us. Bless us. Be honored through us.

We ask this in the Name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). The Senator from Iowa.

BIODIESEL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this year, I have been working hard to help the renewable fuels industry, which provides about 40,000 to 50,000 jobs in the State of Iowa and is a very big help for the family farmers of Iowa. These family farmers rely on the renewable fuels market as a source for the use of the bountiful crops that we raise each year.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, passed last week, signed by the President on July 4, supports family farmers and advances energy production—renewable energy production and, also, fossil fuel production.

During the consideration of this legislation, I pushed hard for a provision to provide transition relief to small biodiesel producers by temporarily extending the small agri-biodiesel tax credit. The previous administration, the last 4 years, failed to release functional guidance implementing the clean fuel production tax credit. Their refusal to do that contributed to many small producers shutting down their operations and leaving hundreds of people unemployed. The extension of this credit will provide relief to these plants while they await further implementation guidance from the Department of the Treasury under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

I am proud to deliver this certainty to Iowa's small biodiesel producers, to the consumers, and to the benefit of the 86,000 family farmers of Iowa.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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



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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are now at the 6-month mark of the 119th Congress, and it has been an incredibly productive 6 months here in the Senate.

We had the longest continuous work period in 15 years. We have taken more rollcall votes so far this year than at the same point in any year since at least 1989.

We confirmed the 21 members of the President's Cabinet at the fastest pace in more than 20 years. We passed 18 measures to overturn the burdensome Biden administration regulations. We confirmed 10 Ambassadors in the President's first 100 days—the most since at least the Reagan administration.

We passed two budget resolutions to advance President Trump's tax relief agenda. We passed multiple pieces of bipartisan legislation. That includes the Laken Riley Act, which requires detention for illegal immigrants who steal, assault a law enforcement officer, or seriously injure or kill a person; the HALT Fentanyl Act, which permanently schedules fentanyl-related substances as the most deadly type of drug and gives law enforcement a critical tool to prosecute those who bring those deadly substances into our country; and the GENIUS Act, which will help ensure that the United States can continue to be a leader in financial innovation and will allow Americans to exercise financial freedom with confidence.

And then, of course, we passed our reconciliation bill, which the President signed into law on July 4. This major piece of legislation permanently extends the 2017 tax relief to prevent a \$4 trillion tax hike on the American people.

It permanently extends the lower rates. It permanently extends the increased standard deduction, and it permanently extends the doubled child tax credit. It also makes the 2017 small business tax relief permanent to set us up for a future of economic growth.

And that is not all. It implements additional tax relief for parents, seniors, and other hard-working Americans. It includes new pro-growth policy to help grow our economy and complement the 2017 pro-growth tax policies that we made permanent.

It implements a program to create savings accounts for newborns, with an initial deposit of \$1,000 to help parents save and invest for their children's future needs—and so much more.

That is just on the tax front. The bill also makes a generational investment

in securing our borders. It takes a significant step forward on addressing our readiness deficiencies and ensuring that our military will be prepared to deter and defeat any threat.

It unleashes American energy, and it achieves significant savings—\$1.5 trillion in Byrd-compliant savings, to be exact—and that is including the first real entitlement reform literally in decades.

So it has been a great 6 months. But as good as it has been, we still have a lot of work to do, and we are getting on it right away. That starts with funding the government, and that will start, as it should, in committee.

This week, the Senate Appropriations Committee is marking up 3 of the 12 fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills. And the Senate Armed Services Committee is marking up the National Defense Authorization Act, which authorizes funding that will later be appropriated in Defense appropriations legislation.

I am hopeful for a robust regular-order process, with full committee consideration and debate and amendment on the Senate floor. That will, of course, require bipartisan work.

I was disappointed to see the Democrat leader in his recent "Dear Colleague" letter implicitly threaten to shut down the government, but I am hopeful that that is not the position of the Democrat Party, the Democratic conference here in the Senate, and that we can work together in the coming weeks to pass bipartisan appropriations bills.

Funding the government is our chief priority before October, but that won't stop us from considering additional measures. We will continue to confirm the President's nominees, including his judicial nominees. I intend to bring the President's rescissions package to the floor this month for debate and amendment to ratify some of the good work the administration has done in identifying wasteful and inappropriate uses of taxpayer dollars.

We have also made substantial progress on Senator GRAHAM's overwhelmingly bipartisan Russia sanctions legislation to enhance President Trump's leverage at the negotiating table and help end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I fully expect that that could be ready for floor consideration as early as this work period.

Senate Republicans are committed to working with the House and the White House to get this legislation through Congress and onto the President's desk.

It has been a great 6 months of work here in the Senate, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver on our commitment to the American people and make our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

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. 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.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" hasn't even been law for a week, and already the troubling headlines are pouring in.

This morning, let me start with a few headlines from around the country, crystallizing the devastating impact that the Republicans' signature bill has.

From News 9 in Oklahoma:

Oklahoma Healthcare Officials Warn Of Rural Hospital Closures Amid Pending Medicaid Cuts.

From CBS 13 in Maine:

Medicaid cuts lead to rural Maine hospital closures and service reductions.

From Nebraska:

Rural southwest Nebraska clinic closes, blaming expected Medicaid cuts.

So we have proof: The "Big Ugly Bill" is, in fact, already shutting down hospitals. It is cutting off healthcare. Donald Trump and Senate Republicans promised their bill would not touch Medicaid, but these headlines show that that is a lie. Worst of all, people are going to die because of Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Bill."

According to a study done by Penn on the House bill, Republican cuts to Medicaid and healthcare will lead to 51,000—51,000—preventable deaths a year. Again, that is the House version. The Senate's Medicaid cuts will be even deeper, more harmful, worse. It translates to one preventable death every 10½ minutes, all so that the billionaires can pay less in taxes.

It is profane. It is morally bankrupt. It is sickening.

NOMINATION OF BRYAN BEDFORD

Mr. President, on the Bedford nomination, today the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Donald Trump's deeply flawed nominee to lead the FAA, Bryan Bedford. I will vote no on Mr. Bedford because he has failed to show he will put safety of airline passengers above protecting airlines' profits.

He is the wrong choice for anyone worried about aviation safety, particularly at a time like this.

Throughout his career as an airline executive and during his confirmation hearing, Bedford has shown a callous disregard for the safety protocols like the 1,500-hour rule. I worked to establish this rule with the families of Flight 3407, the tragic commercial airline crash that occurred in Western New York on a cold wintry night in 2009.

Today, the 1,500-hour rule—because of the hard work of those Buffalo families—is the gold standard for pilot training. They pounded the hallways