

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

here, talking to Members, Democrat and Republican, and we got the bill passed because of their good work.

Confirming Mr. Bedford would be an insult to the families of Flight 3407 and the memory of their loved ones. It would betray everything these families have sacrificed to make sure others don't suffer the same tragedy they did 15 years ago.

The Senate should not confirm someone who will prioritize profits over passenger safety like Mr. Bedford. I vote no on his nomination.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, finally, on tariffs, 90 days ago, Donald Trump promised the world that his tariffs will lead to 90 deals in 90 days. Another Donald Trump promise. He makes these promises left and right. He doesn't care whether he executes them or not, but the American people do.

So remember 90 deals in 90 days. Well, by my count, he is about 88 trade deals short.

So what has Donald Trump done? He kicks the can down the road again and again. He talks a big game but shows little followthrough or strategic understanding of how to secure America's interests. He seems to just talk. Whatever pops into his head, he says.

Worse, Donald Trump's tariffs are yet another one of his broken promises to working Americans, just like his promise to bring costs down on day one, just like his promise to immediately end the war in Ukraine, just like his promise not to touch Medicaid.

Donald Trump's tariffs are another example of why he cannot be trusted to fight for the interests of everyday Americans. Instead of making America great, Donald Trump's tariffs are making Americans pay. The Yale Budget Lab says his tariffs will cost American families an extra \$2,300 a year. That is on top of all their other costs going up: their electricity costs going up because of the reconciliation bill, their healthcare costs going up because of the reconciliation bill, and the tariffs add an extra \$2,300, according to the Yale Budget Lab.

His tariffs are weakening America's standing on the world stage because he always makes big threats only to back down. As we all know, Donald Trump always chickens out when it comes to tariffs.

So today I urge Donald Trump to stop governing in chaos and focus on a trade plan that actually will protect American workers while holding adversaries like China in check. He has failed to do that thus far.

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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The majority whip.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the previous order with respect to the lunch recess and the 2:15 vote series be modified so that Senate recess until 2:05 today and the previously scheduled votes begin at that time and with all other provisions of the order remaining in effect.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Kapor and the Briggs nominations.

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

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to point out to the American people that the Republican plan for a safer, more prosperous nation has now been signed into law.

And yet already this morning on this Senate floor, I heard the minority leader engage in fearmongering about this historic piece of legislation.

Well, I am here to set the record straight. This is a historic triumph. This is a victory for working families all across America. It certainly includes the people of my home State of Wyoming.

It is fitting that President Trump signed our bill into law on Independence Day, July 4. That is because the law is about independence for working families. It means independence from soaring prices, independence from high taxes, independence from foreign countries on which we have become dependent, and it comes from independence for American energy.

This law is a direct attack on wasteful Washington spending. On Friday, I celebrated Independence Day in Cody, WY. It is the home of the world-famous Cody Stampede. I spoke with Wyoming families, Wyoming small business owners, Wyoming workers, Wyoming ranchers, talked about their lives and the impact of this legislation. Let me tell you, the people of Wyoming are very appreciative that this bill is signed into law.

The law does what voters sent Republicans here to do, it cuts taxes, secures the border, finishes building the wall, unleashes American energy, and it restores peace through strength.

Had Congress not passed the law, Americans would have seen their taxes go up cumulatively by \$4 trillion. This was a vote against the largest tax increase in American history. Every Democrat in this Congress voted to raise taxes on the American people; Republicans prevented it.

Wyoming would have been hit very hard if the Democrats had gotten their way. Wyoming families were staring down the barrel of a \$1,700 tax increase on Wyoming families, and 50,000 Wyoming small businesses would have seen

their tax rates soar if the Democrats had their way.

Mr. President, 10,000 family farms in Wyoming and ranches would have faced higher death taxes.

Republicans stopped this highest tax rate rise in American history. We also cut tax: taxes on tips, taxes on overtime, taxes on Social Security. No tax on tips puts about \$1,300 back into the pockets of waiters, barbers, bartenders. No taxes on overtime puts about \$1,400 back into the paychecks of nurses, firefighters, and police officers.

Ten thousand Wyoming workers are going to be benefit from the no taxes on tips. Tens of thousands more will benefit from no taxes on overtime. Seniors will see more money at the end of each month because of a larger deduction. These are all things that were included in this bill that is going to help Americans all across the country.

Republicans also expanded the child tax credit. That gives more than 65,000 Wyoming families an extra \$2,200 per child per year to help them pay their bills.

Additionally, this law is a win for Wyoming's hard-working families and ranchers. Our farmers and ranchers—they work hard. They do in your State, Mr. President. They certainly do in Wyoming. They do all across the country. They work hard to keep their operations running strong. Today, they face growing challenges. The challenge has been growing dramatically over the last 4 years—rising costs as well as natural disasters, predators that attack livestock. Our law ensures future success for our farmers and ranchers.

You know, in Wyoming, bears, wolves—they kill livestock. If they do, they are going to be compensated. If wildfires or droughts destroy your grazing land, you are covered by disaster assistance. If you invest in new equipment, you can fully expense up to \$2.5 million to grow your business.

Now, with the changes to the death tax, families can keep their land instead of having to sell it to pay off the IRS.

Additionally, Republicans delivered for Wyoming and for the country—energy. Our energy workers are the best in the world. This new law will unleash affordable, reliable Wyoming and American energy.

In the past 4 years under Joe Biden, the Democrats wanted to keep energy in the ground. Prices of energy rose 31 percent. Why? Because they declared war not just on energy but on the people who power our country. Oil and gas, coal miners, uranium—all of those things have been under attack by the Democrats. They handcuffed energy producers. They buried energy projects in red tape. You couldn't get things started. They locked up our Federal lands.

That has changed now as a result of our law and as a result of the elections. This law empowers States to produce more energy, and that certainly includes my home State of Wyoming and