

Hassan	Merkley	Slotkin
Heinrich	Murray	Smith
Hickenlooper	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Hirono	Padilla	Warner
Kaine	Peters	Warnock
Kelly	Reed	Warren
Kim	Rosen	Welch
King	Sanders	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Schatz	Wyden
Lujan	Schiff	
Markey	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—4

Alsobrooks	Murphy
Gallego	Tillis

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Alsobrooks	Lummis	Tillis
Gallego	Murphy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on Independence Day, it truly was an Independence Day for the citizens of this Nation. And our President, President Trump, made history. He signed into law the One Big Beautiful Bill, a once-in-a-generation victory that fulfills his promise to make America great again.

Across the board, this legislation will do so much for the citizens of this great Nation. And, of course, it will have such a positive impact on the lives of hard-working Tennesseans. It provides the largest tax cut in our Nation's history and that, no doubt, is going to supercharge our economy.

Now, for the State of Tennessee, Tennessee households will save an average of \$2,600 each year in taxes. The families in our State will see an average take-home pay boost of over \$10,000 each year.

These are numbers that we have received from the Council of Economic Advisers. By providing the largest ever investment in border security, this legislation empowers the Department of Homeland Security to complete President Trump's border wall and also to hire thousands of Border Patrol agents.

By eliminating hundreds of billions of dollars in far-left Green New Deal

spending, it puts our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path. By bolstering our military, it ensures that we can, indeed, achieve peace through strength. By enacting commonsense permitting reforms, it helps to make American energy dominant again.

Now, these are some of the top-line accomplishments. For months, Republicans worked to include as many wins as possible in the One Big Beautiful Bill. I have long fought to eliminate taxes on Social Security, which is why I am so pleased that we were able to secure a \$6,000 enhanced deduction for each of our seniors. And that is an annual deduction—\$6,000 per individual, per year. It also makes permanent the enhanced child tax credit while expanding access to childcare provided by employers.

These measures, which I have argued for, will empower working parents to keep their jobs while having the time to rear their children.

Year after year, I have introduced legislation that would require our Border Patrol to DNA test and fingerprint children who arrive at our Nation's borders without their parents. These measures would help end the modern-day slavery of human trafficking, and they were signed into law as part of the Big Beautiful Bill.

To support our military and our research communities in Tennessee, I was pleased to secure increased funding for our Oak Ridge National Lab and the U.S. Coast Guard in Memphis.

The legislation also levels the playing field for Tennessee's independent music creators by including my HITS Act, which provides them with additional tax relief for writing off their recording expenses.

In short, Tennesseans and Americans have so much to celebrate with this legislation, but because it was delivered by President Trump and Republicans, our friends across the aisle have resorted to fearmongering and lying about it.

Some have claimed that the Big Beautiful Bill will kick Tennessee families off Medicaid. That is false. In fact, Tennesseans will see zero cuts to their Medicaid benefits. Instead, the legislation actually strengthens Medicaid by eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in a program that saw more than \$1 trillion in improper payments over the last decade.

Those numbers come from a government audit. Twenty-five percent of the payments that are made by Medicaid are improper payments. So by placing work requirements, which are common sense, on childless, able-bodied adults in Medicaid expansion States, it protects benefits for vulnerable Americans who rely on Medicaid, including pregnant women, seniors, low-income families, and people with disabilities.

It also removes Federal benefits for more than 1 million illegal aliens who are receiving free healthcare paid for courtesy of the U.S. taxpayer.

Other Democrats have claimed that the One Big Beautiful Bill is a tax cut

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "Yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 378 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Blackburn	Britt
Barrasso	Boozman	Budd

for billionaires, and that also is false. In fact, low-income workers will see the largest percentage reduction in their tax liability.

In Tennessee, it will prevent the potential loss of 129,000 jobs, \$11.5 billion in wages, and \$22.5 billion in GDP.

Some Democrats have even claimed that the One Big Beautiful Bill fails to provide tax relief to seniors on Social Security. As I mentioned earlier in my remarks, the legislation provides a \$6,000 bonus deduction to millions of low- and middle-income seniors.

Now, it is really unfortunate for the Democrats as they continue to try to demean the bill that is now the law of the land. The American people will see through their lies because they will see all of the benefits that are coming from this legislation. When they do, one thing will be clear: This legislation that is now the law of the land, the One Big Beautiful Bill, is a victory for hard-working American citizens.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk about just a few subjects briefly today, in no particular order. I want to talk first about Russia and the war with Ukraine.

Now, regardless of how you feel about the war in Ukraine, I think most fair-minded people can agree on two things. No. 1, Vladimir Putin, who runs Russia—not the people of Russia but their leadership—is a thug. He is empowered. He has blood under his fingernails. He can't be trusted. The second thing that I think most fair-minded Americans can agree on is that we would all like to see the war ended.

President Trump has tried, and, frankly, President Putin has treated our President—as I have said before on the Senate floor, Putin has treated our President like President Trump has taken the bullet train to chump town. He says all the right things when he talks to our President, and then he does the opposite. I think he has disrespected America—"he" meaning President Putin—and I think he has disrespected President Trump. I think Ukraine is willing to negotiate a reasonable settlement, but it takes two to tango, and we are not going to have a settlement until President Putin decides it is in his best interest to stop the war, not in Russia's best interest because I don't think he cares about his people. I think the war will stop when Putin thinks it is in his best interest, and I don't think he is going to think it is in his best interest until he feels the pressure because dealing with Putin is like dealing with most tyrants: It is like hand-feeding a shark.

You can't reason with them. You have to make them feel the pain.

A lot of people think of Russia and think of Putin as this gigantic country with a lot of wealth and power, and that is not really the case. Yes, they have nuclear weapons, but, actually, the Russian economy is pretty small. The Russian economy—for example, the European economy is about \$50 trillion. That is their GDP. The Russian economy is only about \$2 trillion. New York State, in America, has a bigger economy than Russia, and I think we need to keep that in mind. Russia's economy is also not terribly diversified. It is mostly oil. Putin relies on oil revenues for about a third of his budget.

Now, why am I saying all this? Because the Russian economy is not in great shape. They are spending almost all of their money—about 7 percent of their GDP—to fuel their war machine. The Russian economy wasn't that great, frankly, to begin with. If you sit down and just look at the numbers and the statistics, you will see that, with the Russian economy, at one point, inflation was through the roof. At one point, I think they had 21 percent inflation. I think, if you look at the Russian economy, you will see that many of the commentators in Russia think that—and this is coming from the Russian commentators, not from others. They think that Russia might be on the verge of going into a recession. If you look at the numbers coming out of Russia, you will see that manufacturing in Russia is declining. You will see a lot of the consumers—people, ordinary people in Russia—tightening their belts. Inflation, which I alluded to, remains high, and the Russian budget is strained.

The price of oil is down. Remember, I said Putin depends on oil for about 30 percent to a third of his revenue, and the price of oil is down. Their growth model in Russia—their model of sustenance—is based on the war, and they are starting to feel the effects of that. For example, in the first quarter of this year, the Russian GDP grew 1.4 percent. You might be thinking: Well, that is not bad. It is not great, but it is not bad. In the fourth quarter of 2024, though, if you look at the numbers, the Russian economy grew 4.5 percent. So, clearly, it is slowing.

Once again, remember, I said the Russian economy is based on oil. Why is it slowing? Well, No. 1, the price of oil is down. We know that. No. 2, Russia is spending all of its money fighting the war with Ukraine, which has hurt other parts of its economy.

The point I am trying to make is, when you are dealing with a tyrant like Putin and you are trying to bring him to the negotiating table, what you have to do is get him down and choke him, and the way to get President Putin down and choke him is through his cashflow. Putin—and, remember, I am not talking about the good people in Russia. I am talking about their

leadership. I am talking about Vladimir Putin, the thug. Putin is only able to prosecute his war through cashflow generated by his sale of oil. That is the only way. Without that cashflow from oil, he can't continue. We need to cut off his money. We need to cut off his sale of oil.

Now, we already have sanctions on oil, and Europe has sanctions on Russia, but Russia has figured out how to evade those sanctions and continue to sell its oil.

For example, India is buying a lot of Russia's oil. China is buying a lot of Russia's oil, but we can stop that. We have a bill—87 of us have signed on—that would apply what is called secondary sanctions on Russia and not only sanctions; our bill would not only sanction Russia and its sale of oil, but it would sanction everybody who buys Russian oil, a big difference, a big difference. It would say to those who want to buy Russian oil: If you want to buy Russian oil, have at it—knock yourself out—but you are not going to be able to do business with America, and you are not going to be able to use the American dollar, which is the world's currency, to do business in America. It will put Putin on his knees within 3 months, and he won't have any choice but to come to the bargaining table.

Now, President Trump has been very patient. President Biden wasn't patient; he was giving. I remember when President Biden said to Putin: Well, you know, we don't want you to go into Ukraine, but if it is just a little excursion, it might be OK.

I remember that. What do you think Putin did? Do you remember hand-feeding a shark? He went right into Ukraine.

President Trump, on the other hand, has really tried to be rational and negotiate with Putin and say: Look, we need to have an amicable solution to satisfy both sides.

Ukraine is willing. Putin has done nothing but embarrass our President and our country. The time has come to put Russia on its knees. I hate to see it for the Russian people, but the time has come to put Putin on his knees, to get him down and choke him. The only way you are going to do that is to cut off his cashflow, and the only way you are going to cut off his cashflow is to cut off his oil sales because that is at least a third—and probably 40 percent—of his money. We have no choice. Otherwise, this war could go on forever.

We have the bill locked, loaded, and ready to go. We are waiting for President Trump to give us the high sign because we want to stay together. The President is the one who is trying to negotiate the peace, but I hope President Trump will seriously consider letting us pull the trigger because it is the only thing—it is the only thing—that is going to get Vladimir Putin to the table.

I wish the war weren't like that. There are just some people—I don't