

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 2853.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] for Mr. SCHMITT proposes an amendment numbered 2853.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rescissions Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. RESCISSIONS OF BUDGET AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the special message transmitted by the President on June 3, 2025, to the House of Representatives and the Senate proposing the rescission of budget authority under section 1012 of part B of title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 682 et seq.), the rescissions described under subsection (b) shall take effect immediately upon the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) RESCISSIONS.—The rescissions described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions to International Organizations” made available by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), \$33,008,764 are rescinded.

(2) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions to International Organizations” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$168,837,230 are rescinded.

(3) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” made available by the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), \$203,328,007 are rescinded.

(4) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “International Organizations—Contributions for International Peacekeeping Activities” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$157,906,000 are rescinded.

(5) Of the unobligated balances in the first paragraph under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Global Health Programs” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$500,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the amounts rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for the following programs: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Nutrition, or Maternal and Child Health: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso does not apply to family planning and reproductive health programs.

(6) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of State—Migration and Refugee Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$800,000,000 are rescinded.

(7) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Complex Crises Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$43,000,000 are rescinded.

(8) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Democracy Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$83,000,000 are rescinded.

(9) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Economic Support Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$1,650,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for assistance to Jordan, Egypt, or the Countering PRC Influence Fund.

(10) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contribution to the Clean Technology Fund” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$125,000,000 are rescinded.

(11) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Multilateral Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Organizations and Programs” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$436,920,000 are rescinded.

(12) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Development Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$2,500,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall be from the unobligated balances for Feed the Future Innovation Labs or the Countering PRC Influence Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds rescinded under this paragraph shall affect the administration of United States commodity-based food aid, including the Food for Peace program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

(13) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$460,000,000 are rescinded.

(14) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—International Disaster Assistance” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$496,000,000 are rescinded: *Provided*, That none of the funds rescinded shall affect the administration of United States commodity-based food aid, including the Food for Peace program and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

(15) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “United States Agency for International Development—Funds Appropriated to the President—Operating Expenses” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$125,000,000 are rescinded.

(16) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Funds Appropriated to the President—Transition Initiatives” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$57,000,000 are rescinded.

(17) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Independent Agencies—Inter-American

Foundation” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$27,000,000 are rescinded.

(18) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance—Independent Agencies—United States African Development Foundation” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$22,000,000 are rescinded.

(19) Of the unobligated balances under the heading “Related Programs—United States Institute of Peace” made available by the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$15,000,000 are rescinded.

(20)(A) Amounts made available for “Corporation for Public Broadcasting” for fiscal year 2026 by Public Law 118-47 are rescinded.

(B) Amounts made available for “Corporation for Public Broadcasting” for fiscal year 2027 by Public Law 119-4 are rescinded.

### MORNING BUSINESS

#### RESCISSIONS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, a June 25 article in the New York Times captured, in a single headline, the disaster that the misguided policies of this White House are inflicting on the world’s most vulnerable people. It also illustrates the immense damage this White House is causing to years of hard-won goodwill for the United States around the world.

The title of the article, “Promise of Victory Over H.I.V. Fades as U.S. Withdraws Support,” says it all. The headline goes on to describe how, “a new drug that gives almost complete protection against the virus was to be administered across Africa this year. Now, much of the funding for that effort is gone.”

I remember vividly, as do many of my colleagues, when President George W. Bush announced the PEPFAR program, a program that for the past 22 years has received enthusiastic bipartisan support, a program that has saved countless lives, a program that people and governments around the world have thanked the American people for.

Each year in our appropriations bills we have always, without disagreement, provided the funds to sustain PEPFAR and to fulfill our pledges to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria. The Global Fund works in close collaboration with PEPFAR, as well as in countries where PEPFAR does not, because HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases do not pick and choose who they infect. No country is immune, and no person is safe. Millions of Americans travel, work, and serve overseas, and then they return home. Everyone is at risk if the virus is not contained everywhere.

Now, the Trump administration is proposing drastic cuts to PEPFAR and our contribution to the Global Fund, two programs that by any measure have been wildly successful. This week the Senate will consider President

Trump's request to cut \$400 million from PEPFAR and another \$500 million in other global health programs. If Congress goes along with that, we will share responsibility for sabotaging one of the great public health achievements of this century.

President Trump is pushing these cuts at the cusp of a potential breakthrough in our fight against the HIV epidemic.

There is a new preventative therapy for HIV; it is called lenacapavir, and it is a twice-yearly injection that protects against infection. This drug was supposed to be getting rolled out in eastern and southern Africa.

Not many years ago, preventing HIV infection altogether would have seemed impossible. Now it is real—and it is being derailed by these reckless cuts.

Peter Sands, the executive director of the Global Fund, put it this way:

If you want countries to take on the responsibility for their H.I.V. responses, in terms of both leadership and funding, it's a very different thing to take on a problem that is still growing than a problem where you have made a significant dent in the numbers of new infections. . . . And lenacapavir gives that opportunity to dramatically reduce new infections.

We don't even know what the full impact of these cuts will be because funding for collecting the data needed to track infection rates is on the chopping block.

So I can't help but wonder why? Why is the White House walking away from these lifesaving programs that everyone agrees have been a huge success story? It would be one thing if HIV/AIDS had been eradicated. But we are a very long way from that. There are an estimated 1.3 million new HIV infections every year.

We cannot let down our guard. We cannot be so shortsighted to think that we would save money by cutting funding for PEPFAR and the Global Fund. Prevention is far less expensive than treatment. If Congress does not reject these funding cuts there will almost immediately be more infections, not fewer. More Americans will get sick. Mother to child transmission will exponentially increase. Many more people will die needlessly.

A drug developed by an American biopharmaceutical company that can prevent HIV/AIDS finally exists. Let's do again what President Bush did nearly a quarter century ago and show the world that the United States can be the world's leader in saving lives from a deadly disease.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 81, Scott Kuper, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am

working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed confirmation of the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 379.

I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 58, William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed confirmation of the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 380.

I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 64, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed cloture on the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 381.

I was unable to attend the cloture vote for Executive Calendar No. 261, Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed cloture had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 382.

I was unable to vote on Executive Calendar No. 64, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, due to my participation at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, Italy, on July 10, 2025. I am working with Senator GRAHAM to build international support to advance our bipartisan Sanctioning Russia Act in an effort to end the bloodshed in Ukraine. I would have opposed confirmation of the nomination had I been present for the vote. The vote was rollcall vote No. 383.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on July 14, 2025, due to unavoidable travel delays because of the weather, I missed rollcall vote No. 384. Had I been present, I would have voted no on vote No. 384, cloture on the confirmation of Whitney D. Hermandorfer to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

On July 14, 2025, due to unavoidable travel delays because of the weather, I

missed rollcall vote No. 385. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on vote No. 385, cloture on the nomination of Luke Pettit to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14078 OF JULY 19, 2022, WITH RESPECT TO HOSTAGE-TAKING AND THE WRONGFUL DETENTION OF UNITED STATES NATIONALS ABROAD—PM 32

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, is to continue in effect beyond July 19, 2025.

Hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals are heinous acts that undermine the rule of law. Terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gain—as well as foreign states that engage in the practice of wrongful detention, including for political leverage or to seek concessions from the United States—threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States