



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

No. 4

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Spirit of God, descend on our hearts, for apart from You, life is sound and fury signifying nothing. Lord, make our lawmakers great enough for these momentous times. Deliver them from pride and prejudice as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name.

Transform common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments because of the power of Your presence and the wisdom of Your words. Cleanse the fountains of our hearts from all that defiles and make us fit vessels for Your honor.

We pray in Your great Name. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this week, our Nation mourns the loss of our 39th President, Jimmy Carter. With grief comes reflection on his life, a life well lived.

There is no doubt President Carter made an impact on scores of Americans. As for this Senator, in 1976, I was on the ballot as a Congressman for Iowa's 3rd Congressional District, and of course Jimmy Carter was on that same ballot. Now, he and I were bit by different political bugs, but we have a similar foundation—two smalltown boys anchored in our faith.

As the only sitting Member of Congress today who served with the Carter Presidency, I remember him fondly and maybe have a couple of times to remind you about.

I don't know exactly what year it was, but I was in Iowa. He made a phone call to me asking—he was on his way to Nicaragua to observe whether or not a Presidential election at that time was going to be a fair election. He asked me if I would go along with him. I said the work of the Senate didn't allow me to do it at that particular time. So, obviously, I regretted that.

Another time, he asked me—I think this was in the 2000 period of time, maybe around 2003, 2004, or 2005—he asked if I would come and speak to a Baptist group in Atlanta, GA, that he was leading. I had that opportunity to

be there and to have a private conversation with him and his wife, the former First Lady.

Carter answered the call to serve his Nation in many different ways. We remember him as a naval officer, his call to serve in public service as our President of the United States, and his call to serve those in need after leaving the White House.

1 Peter 4:10 says:

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

The light of the Lord shone through President Carter's life of service. He used these gifts to serve others even beyond the borders of the United States. We say goodbye during this time to this man of many talents.

We know about his background as a peanut farmer. We know about his background as a naval officer and, more famously, as our 39th President and, lastly, as a homebuilder as he worked through organizations building homes for the needy. Now we remember him as he is in his heavenly home.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this past November, the American people gave President Trump and Republicans a mandate. Now the time has come to

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



Printed on recycled paper.

begin executing on it. One of the most important issues in this last election was the illegal immigration crisis. And that is the topic of the first vote that we are holding in the Senate under Republican majority.

For the last 4 years, the Biden administration's open border policies have wreaked havoc in both border communities and those far from the border. One of those communities is Athens, GA, where 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley was murdered by an illegal immigrant while out for a morning jog last year. Laken's murderer not only entered the country illegally, he was arrested twice—twice—in the United States and never deported.

This week, the Senate is going to vote on Senator BRITT's bipartisan Laken Riley Act, which would ensure that illegal immigrants are deported when they are arrested, as Laken's killer was, for crimes like theft and burglary.

While this bill sounds like a commonsense measure—and it is—Senate Democrats uniformly opposed it last year despite the bill receiving bipartisan support in the House of Representatives. We will see what they do when the new Senate majority brings it up for a vote.

We are also going to be taking a vote to support our ally Israel, something my friends across the aisle seem to struggle with from time to time. After the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israel's Prime Minister and Foreign Defense Minister in November, I called on the Democratic leader to bring up an ICC sanctions bill that had already passed the House—again, with bipartisan support. The ICC's rogue actions only enable the terrorists who seek to wipe Israel off the map, and they cannot be allowed to stand unchecked.

In November, I promised that if Leader SCHUMER wouldn't bring the ICC sanctions bill to the floor, Republicans would. And we will soon fulfill that promise and have a vote to support our ally Israel.

Senators can also expect to vote on another commonsense measure this month. As thousands of pro-life Americans come to Washington for the 52nd annual March for Life, we will take up the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This straightforward bill simply states that a baby born alive after an attempted abortion is entitled to the same protection and medical care any other newborn baby is entitled to.

This vote will ask Democrats to answer whether a living baby born after attempted abortion should be provided with medical care or be left to die. It shouldn't be a hard question.

The Senate will also be working to get President Trump's team in place. Beginning next week, Senate committees will hold hearings on the President's nominees. We will work to ensure each nominee has a fair process without unnecessary delays or obstruction,

and we will confirm those nominees swiftly so the Trump-Vance administration can hit the ground running.

Finally, Republicans in Congress are hard at work preparing to address some key priorities through the budget reconciliation process.

We have a lot to do there.

To begin with, the border security policies we expect President Trump to implement will need to be fully funded to maximize their effectiveness. Increasing the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and Border Patrol officers, increasing detention space and providing barriers and technology are just some of the resources needed to secure the border.

Border security is one key part of providing for our national security. Investing in our military is another. And we are working on investing in improvements to military readiness that will help restore American strength so that we can deter our adversaries and keep the peace.

We are also going to invest in American energy dominance. Energy security plays a key role in our national security, and Republicans plan to use budget reconciliation to help advance American energy production.

Another priority is extending the tax relief Republicans delivered during the first Trump administration. These pro-growth policies put more money in Americans' pockets and helped deliver a strong economy before the pandemic. We need to extend them to protect our economy and the American people from a \$4 trillion tax hike next year.

This is just the start. We have a lot of work to do. But the American people have chosen the right team to get it done.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LAKEN RILEY ACT—Motion To Proceed

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security

to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Katie Britt, Markwayne Mullin, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jim Banks, John Curtis, Pete Ricketts, Cynthia M. Lummis, Rick Scott of Florida, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, Tom Cotton, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger Marshall, Dave McCormick, Tommy Tuberville.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 9

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 9) to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

LAKEN RILEY ACT—Motion To Proceed

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, President-elect Donald Trump comes to the Capitol to meet with Senate Republicans. We expect they will talk about their first order of business when they assume full control of government.

And what is the Republicans' first order of business going to be?

Will it be helping working people as Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail? Will it be increasing paychecks or strengthening workers' rights or making healthcare more affordable? Will it be investing in more American manufacturing jobs, like Democrats did 3 years ago?

No, no—and, again, no. Donald Trump and Republicans promised to fight for working Americans, but their actions already tell a different story.

Before even entering office, Donald Trump is working with Republicans to give very wealthy people and megacorporations another round of trillion-dollar tax cuts. At the same time that Americans are struggling with inadequate childcare and not