

LIMITATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

SEC. 208. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN OPERATIONAL
EXPENSES

SEC. 209. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities or other official government activities.

PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION

SEC. 210. All agencies and offices funded by this Act that contract with a food service provider or providers shall confer and coordinate with such food service provider or providers, in consultation with disability advocacy groups, to eliminate or reduce plastic waste, including waste from plastic straws, explore the use of biodegradable items, and increase recycling and composting opportunities.

LIMITATION ON COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS
FOR MEMBERS

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2026.

EXTENSION OF PUMP ACT PROTECTIONS TO
CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

SEC. 212. Section 203(a)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and section 12(c)” and inserting “section 12(c), and section 18D”; and

(2) by inserting “, 218d” after “212(c)”.

SENATE PROTECTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. (a) For an additional amount for “Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate”, \$18,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$15,000,000 shall be for enhanced Member security and \$3,500,000 shall be for the residential security system program: *Provided*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection may be transferred to “Salaries, Officers and Employees—Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper” and “Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Sergeant at Arms Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Fund”: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided pursuant to the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available pursuant to this subsection for enhanced Member security, such sums as necessary may be used to restore amounts, either directly, through reimbursement, or through the transfer authority in the first proviso, for obligations incurred for the same purposes by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection shall be allocated in accordance with a spending plan submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) For an additional amount for “Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements”, \$25,000,000, to remain

available until September 30, 2030, for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training, including mutual aid and training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108-458: *Provided*, That obligation of the funds made available pursuant to this subsection be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

(c) For an additional amount for “Capitol Police—General Expenses”, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide support to the Senate Sergeant at Arms residential security system program.

(d) Each amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

This division may be cited as the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO
MEET

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct an open hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10 a.m., to hold a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 9:45 a.m., to consider nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to consider nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN
COWBOY

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 332, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 332) designating July 26, 2025, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HUSTED. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 332) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MAINTAINING AMERICAN SUPERIORITY BY IMPROVING EXPORT
CONTROL TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1316 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1316) to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HUSTED. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1316) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY
23, 2025

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, postcloture; that the postcloture time expire at 2 p.m. and the Senate vote on the motion to proceed; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Monday, July 21, ripen following the vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3944; finally, that at 11 a.m., the Senate execute the order with respect to the Roth and Hurley nominations in the order listed.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator WELCH.

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

The Senator from Vermont.

NEW START TREATY

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on February 13, President Trump said something that few expected to hear. He said:

There's no reason for us to be building brand-new nuclear weapons. We already have so many. You could destroy the world 50 times over, 100 times over. And here we are building new nuclear weapons.

We're all spending a lot of money that we could be spending on other things that are actually, hopefully, much more productive.

I could not agree more with what President Trump said. It is why I want to speak today about the soon-to-expire New START treaty and the very real possibility of a new nuclear arms race, something that neither the President, the Vice President, nor any other senior official has even mentioned, but it is looming.

It is important to step back a moment and understand how we got to this point. There is no better way to begin than with J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who led the team of physicists and engineers who built the first atomic bomb. Oppenheimer, as you know, directed the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory in a way that—it was widely believed then and is to this day—no one else could have done.

The use of the atomic bomb against Japan marked the end of the Second World War. It also demonstrated to the world that a war between two nuclear

powers would be cataclysmic for both and potentially apocalyptic for the entire world.

After the war ended, Oppenheimer and many of the scientists who participated in the Manhattan Project, knowing the dangers, spent much of the remainder of their lives warning the world of the danger of a nuclear arms race, and they advocated for international controls on nuclear weapons.

In 1954, unfortunately, at the height of the McCarthy era, Oppenheimer himself was targeted for his advocacy by the Atomic Energy Commission. No evidence was ever produced that Oppenheimer was a security risk or that he was anything other than a loyal American, and the Commissioners acknowledged as much. Nevertheless, the physicist who just 9 years before had been heralded as a hero for his role in ending the war in the Pacific had his security clearance revoked, and it effectively ended his brilliant scientific career.

The flawed AEC decision remained in effect for 68 years until my predecessor, Senator Patrick Leahy, along with 42 of his Senate colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—petitioned then-Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to vacate the AEC's flawed decision. And they were supported by distinguished members of the U.S. scientific community, including the Director and former Directors of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

On December 16, 2022, Secretary Granholm vacated the AEC's decision, thanks to Senator Leahy's multiyear effort. Her thoughtful decision recognized that the abuse of power used to discredit Oppenheimer should not remain a historical precedent. In doing so, Secretary Granholm reaffirmed the government's responsibility to encourage unrestrained, unthreatened scientific discourse.

So, Mr. President, today, unfortunately, Robert Oppenheimer's worst fear is becoming a reality. Hundreds of our nuclear warheads are literally ready to launch on missiles that can obliterate targets that are thousands of miles away in a mere 30 minutes. And we also, as the Presiding Officer knows, have hundreds of nuclear bombs in this country and others.

Now Vladimir Putin is recklessly threatening to use tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine. That is the equivalent of a Hiroshima bomb. That is what we would call it today. China is expanding its arsenal of more than 600 nuclear weapons. North Korea is expanding its arsenal of nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. And it may be only a matter of time before terrorists obtain the enriched uranium to build a crude nuclear bomb.

Unlike the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, many of today's thousands of nuclear weapons are many more times powerful. And that decision to start a nuclear war can be made by a single individual—the President—with no re-

quirement that he first consult with anyone. A single use of a tactical nuclear weapon, either by accident or design, could trigger a flurry of escalating responses with far more powerful strategic weapons that would cause incalculable loss of life, widespread radiation poisoning, and destruction on a scale unlike anything seen in human history. The number of people killed immediately is estimated to be in the tens or even hundreds of millions, and many more would later die from famine.

There is little doubt that a nuclear war would pose an existential threat to civilization as we know it. So I believe we must all, regardless of political affiliation, reaffirm what both Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev said 39 years ago:

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Yet here in Congress, despite the warnings of organizations like the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the Arms Control Association, one rarely hears a word spoken among us about this existential threat. We have become far too complacent because for 80 years, as Robert Oppenheimer and others hoped after revealing to the world the immense destructive power of an atomic bomb, the inevitability of mutually assured destruction itself has deterred the use of those nuclear weapons.

It is different today. With mercurial leaders like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, we cannot rely on deterrence alone. Existing nuclear arms control treaties are either no longer adhered to by Russia or the United States or they are close to expiring, and there are no negotiations currently underway or even envisioned on a new generation of international limits on nuclear weapons.

My colleague from Massachusetts Senator MARKEY and several others here have sought to counter this complacency, and I want to commend Senator MARKEY for the bill he introduced on January 20, the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. And last week, I also cosponsored Senator MARKEY's resolution marking the 80th anniversary of the Trinity Test and urging the United States to lead the world in reversing the nuclear arms race.

But the danger of a new nuclear arms race has received far too little attention from Congress and from the administration. This complacency cannot continue. The use of a single nuclear weapon, whether tactical or strategic, accidental or intentional, and the likely response would dwarf all the other crises that we are preoccupied with by many orders of magnitude, and by then focusing on it would be too late.

Despite our sharp differences with the Governments of Russia and China, they have as much interest in preventing an unwinnable nuclear war as we do. We and our allies must urgently seek to reinvigorate negotiations on