



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025

No. 126

Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Eternal God, the fountain of all wisdom, we bring our fragmented lives into Your presence, seeking Your wholeness and seeking Your peace. We bring our restless spirits to You, seeking Your calm, strength, and everlasting purpose. We bring You our transient thoughts, seeking the permanence of Your gracious providence.

Lord, remind our lawmakers that only as we lose ourselves in something higher can we truly find ourselves. To this end, give them great causes to embrace and a great faith to energize their work.

Lead them to a confidence that in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You who are called according to Your purposes.

We pray in Your wonderful 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 (Mrs. MOODY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3944, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MEDICARE TRUSTEES REPORT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, every year, we get what is called Medicare's "Trustees Report." I come to the floor to comment on that.

We all know that Medicare is very much a part of America's social fabric. For decades, Medicare has provided seniors and people with disabilities access to routine and lifesaving care at their local hospital, doctor's office, and pharmacy.

The trustees reported, as they do every year, that the Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund is expected to be depleted by 2033. This is 3 years ahead of the projections that came out in last year's report.

This results from higher than expected expenditures, the growth in inpatient hospital and hospice spending.

Also, for now, the eighth year in a row, the Trustees have issued what they call a funding warning. This is because Medicare's outlays for its two trust funds are expected to exceed its dedicated revenue by 45 percent.

When Congress established this combined funding warning report in the

2003 Medicare Modernization Act, we intended—here in the Senate—for Congress and the President to respond with solutions.

We should listen to this actuarial report, get on the job, and do something to preserve the Medicare program. Now, we all know that we talk more often about Social Security running out of money.

I want to preserve and strengthen the Medicare program for future generations, just like I would say the same thing about the Social Security program. The only way to make these critical programs sustainable is to follow the Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill model.

This goes back to 1983, when the Social Security system was running out of money. Ronald Reagan—a Republican—Tip O'Neill, Speaker of the House—a Democrat—got together and said: We can't let that happen.

And they made sure it didn't happen. And what they devised that I had a chance to vote for in 1983 or 1984—whenever it was—they fixed it for 50 years because that is 50 years coming to 2033 when Social Security, likewise, will run out of money.

Now, I have come to the conclusion that when you have a President Biden and a Candidate Trump both running in 2024, that they aren't going to do anything to fix Social Security.

Why isn't it being done? I have come to the conclusion that it is not being done because we don't have any Ronald Reagans or Tip O'Neills in Washington, DC, or in our government anymore.

So they did it in a bipartisan way, and Congress should step up the same way to deal with this Medicare issue that I am talking about. But there is no reason to leave Social Security out of that debate as well.

So I get back to some role that I played in the Medicare issues of 2003 when I led the effort to modernize Medicare by establishing the prescription drug program, because prior 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.

S4577

2003—since 1965—Medicare never covered prescription drugs. So since 2003, we have had a prescription drug program under Medicare.

In the first decade of the Medicare Part D program, the Federal Government spent—can you believe it—36 percent less than what was projected to be spent as we wrote this legislation. And it also improved access to prescription drugs for millions of seniors.

Separately, Senate Republicans, through the One Big Beautiful Bill, strengthened Medicare. We did that by ensuring that Medicare resources are going to Americans instead of illegal immigrants and those not here permanently.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that we will save the Medicare system \$5 billion. Now, that is a spit in the ocean compared to what we face with this 45-percent overrun that the trustees talked about.

A step in the right direction, of course it is, but it is no substitute for what is really needed in this town—a bipartisan cooperation and Presidential leadership, either Republican or Democrat, that is needed to address our long-term Medicare funding challenges.

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. THUNE. Madam 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 majority leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, during the month of June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection recorded a total of 9,306 encounters at our southern border—9,306 for the entire month of June.

It is difficult to overstate just how much progress this reflects. Under President Biden, monthly encounters at our southern border were often well over 200,000 per month. During December of 2023, Customs and Border Protection recorded a staggering 301,981 encounters at our southern border or 32 times as many as were encountered last month.

The previous three Junes under President Biden saw more than 130,000, more than 140,000, and more than 200,000 encounters. And now we are at 9,306—9,306—fewer individuals than the Biden administration sometimes saw in a day.

It is really incredible, and this isn't a one-off. During President Trump's first full 5 months in office, monthly numbers at the southern border have never exceeded 12,500 encounters.

What we are seeing here is a President committed to fulfilling his responsibilities; namely, enforcing the law. It is too bad the previous administration didn't see fit to try it.

But it is a new day. And Republicans in Congress are committed to supporting and continuing the administration's good work, and that starts with a generational investment in border security that we made this July in the One Big Beautiful Bill. That includes funding for border barriers and technology, including finishing the border wall. It includes funding for additional patrol agents, for additional detention space, for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The Acting ICE Director was on "Face the Nation" the other day, and he had this to say:

Our ranks have really shrunk, and we really don't have enough to do the law enforcement mission. One of the big hampers for us is with the increase in sanctuary cities and sanctuary policies, we have to send more officers and agents out into the community, out on the street. Where it would only take us two agents, say, going into a secure facility or a police station, county jail to arrest a public safety threat, well, [now] we have to send out four to five agents, and with the increase of assaults on officers, we sometimes have to send out eight to ten just to provide security for those officers that are making the arrest.

Leaving aside the intolerable fact that ICE agents are facing such hostility for carrying out their essential public safety mission, it is not acceptable that we don't have enough ICE officers to do the job that they need to be doing, and our bill goes a long way toward ending that problem.

We also included Department of Justice funding to hire more immigration judges to address the massive backlog in immigration cases—a backlog made exponentially worse by the Biden administration's policies.

Immigration cases should be decided in weeks or months—not years, and our bill will help move toward that goal. One of the most basic responsibilities of the Federal Government is providing for our Nation's security, and border security is an essential part of national security.

The chaos at our southern border under the Biden administration was an invitation to terrorists, criminals, and other dangerous individuals to enter our country. It placed an incredible burden on our Border Patrol agents, many of whom were pulled off the essential work of guarding the border to process the flood of illegal immigrants. And it placed a big burden on border cities and nonborder cities as well who struggled to deal with an influx of migrants.

President Trump has turned the situation around, and the One Big Beautiful Bill will ensure that his administration has the resources it needs to continue its work of enforcing the law and protecting our country. It will also ensure permanent improvements in our immigration system and border enforcement that will, I hope, last for long after President Trump leaves office.

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. Madam 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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, we have a little over 20 legislative days left for Republicans to get serious about funding the government. That is not very much time. As always, the best way forward is this: bipartisan cooperation.

Senate Democrats, for our part, are working in good faith to counter the devastating actions of the Trump administration on the American people, and in this case, the bill reverses DOGE cuts to veterans. That is a very good thing. These DOGE cuts were so cruel to our veterans.

Ultimately, Senate Republicans will have to join us to save all of our constituents from the proposals we have seen from the administration and from the House Republicans.

Now, yesterday, the Senate took the first vote on the MILCON-VA bill. This bill is not perfect, but it is a good step forward. It reverses some of the terrible cuts from DOGE against our veterans—our veterans who defend us, who risk their lives for us, who volunteer to serve their country, and, then, when they need help, cut, cut, cut—cruel, mean, un-American. The Senate version, thank God, is significantly stronger than the House version in protecting our members.

My colleague from Georgia has done good work shepherding this legislation on the Democratic side. We hope to have a good process for this bill on the floor. Republicans should allow amendments and a robust floor process. This bill shows the process can still work, but much, much more needs to be considered.

But Senate Democrats know we can't take anything for granted and will expect our colleagues to show their commitment to bipartisanship on all future appropriations bills, because for weeks—for weeks—they have tainted the Senate with their partisan reconciliation tax bill and the rescissions package.

This process won't work if they listen more to Donald Trump and Russell Vought than to the needs of the American people back home.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, now, meanwhile, yesterday was truly a sorry sight in the House of Representatives. The ghost of the disgraced Jeffrey Epstein is haunting our Republican colleagues, so much so that Speaker JOHNSON decided to cut bait and send the House home to escape discussions about Epstein, instead of doing their jobs like grownups and making progress on appropriations.

By shutting Congress down early, Speaker JOHNSON has assured that August has become the “Epstein recess,” because this issue is going to grow and grow and grow the longer House Republicans dodge this issue. Now, maybe they declared the “Epstein recess” to give Trump time to prepare papers for the pardon of Ghislaine Maxwell. Speaker JOHNSON shouldn’t be skedaddling out of town early. If the Speaker thinks he can make the Epstein escapade disappear by sending folks home early, he has got another thing coming. So, again, the Speaker should not send people home early to avoid dealing with the Epstein issue.

The American people have a right to know what happened, but, instead, Speaker JOHNSON created the “Epstein recess.” Speaker JOHNSON created that “Epstein recess.” It is an awful decision. It is derelict of their job in terms of keeping the government funded.

FEMA

Mr. President, now, on FEMA, after the heartbreaking tragedy in Texas, I called for accountability to determine if Donald Trump’s cuts played any role in hindering the rescue effort. The White House reacted by calling us liars. They said it was a “depraved lie”—Trump’s words—to question if Donald Trump’s actions harmed rescue efforts. But, sadly, the more we learn, the more we see that Donald Trump and Kristi Noem are the liars, and there is very little doubt DOGE cuts made things worse at FEMA and affected what happened in Texas.

Yesterday, the New York Times reported that the head of FEMA’s urban search and rescue unit resigned. The reason he stated is that Donald Trump has created chaos at the Agency. The former worker said Donald Trump’s cuts, bureaucratic obstacles, and abysmal response to the flooding in FEMA influenced his decision. He specifically cites, as have many others, Kristi Noem’s decision requiring her personal approval on every purchase of more than \$100,000.

Remember, experts have said that this stupid policy was responsible for getting rid of hundreds of call center staff for 5 days after the Texas flood. Thousands of calls to FEMA from flood survivors went unanswered, according to internal documents. That is unacceptable. That is incompetent. But this is the consequence of Donald Trump’s terrible policies.

So Donald Trump may have called those of us who criticized FEMA’s cuts—FEMA’s DOGE cuts and their effect on Texas—he may have called those of us who did that liars to avoid responsibility, but, in fact, he is the liar here. His actions at FEMA have caused chaos, staff shortages, delayed response. It puts people’s lives in danger moving forward.

And, unfortunately, these DOGE cuts are going to have many other dire consequences for the American people. Donald Trump may try to deflect blame, but he is the one who imple-

mented these horrible cuts across the board.

PRESIDENT TRUMP

Mr. President, let’s get to a more general subject about how Trump operates.

By now, it is obvious that what Donald Trump uses as his MO, whenever he points the finger, whenever he launches insults at others—what he is really doing—is deflecting from something he knows he is guilty of himself.

I just said Donald Trump called us liars for asking about his role in cutting FEMA funding. It turns out he is the liar here.

And, yesterday, Donald Trump accused President Obama of treason, without any evidence, saying he tried to steal the 2016 election and tried to use the issue of Russia to smear him. This is delusional. Trump sounds unwell when he accuses Obama of treason.

But not only that, who was the one who we know tried to blackmail a foreign head of state to gain dirt against a political opponent? Who is the one? Donald Trump.

Who incited the violent insurrection against the U.S. Capitol to try and prevent the certification of the 2020 election? Donald Trump.

So when Donald Trump says President Obama tried to steal an election, we know Trump is lying. We know Trump is the one guilty of the crime, and he is trying to deflect from his own lawlessness by inciting a violent insurrection in the Capitol.

To accuse others of what he is guilty of doing is how Donald Trump operates. He has for decades. But the American people are seeing through it now that he is in the high position of President.

What he did with President Obama is not an isolated example. As I mentioned, Donald Trump recently called some of us liars for demanding transparency after the tragedy in Texas. But who spent months calling for the elimination of FEMA? Who has run thousands of FEMA staffers out the door? Who cut FEMA call center staff in the name of DOGE cuts? Donald Trump.

Donald Trump even recently called a Democratic Member of this Chamber a fraud and a crook and has threatened him with prosecution without any merit. But who was it that was found in court to have unlawfully inflated the value of his own properties? Who was the fraud? Who is the crook?

Who launched a fake university that was accused in multiple States of defrauding students with false claims about educational services? Who has built a reputation as a liar, a swindler, someone who always talks a big game but never seems to follow through? That is, of course, Donald Trump.

So we know the game here. When Trump points the finger, he is telling on himself for something he has been guilty of. That is his MO. This meritless accusation against President Obama is just another pathetic example.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, on tariffs, last night President Trump announced another trade “deal,” this time with Japan. Like most of the deals announced over the past month, it was big on promises, short on details, and, crucially, provided zero relief for American families and small businesses. Whether it is this agreement with Japan, where tariffs are increasing to 15 percent, or earlier ones with Indonesia or Vietnam, where tariffs are increasing to 19 to 20 percent, the Trump tariff taxes are going up, not down. That means one thing: higher costs for the American family. Ask an American family if increasing their costs by “only” 15 percent is OK.

In the meantime—and, by the way, the media, oh, they say: Well, it is a great deal because it wasn’t as bad as Trump originally proposed but is still very bad for the American people and raises costs 15 percent.

American people aren’t going to buy that this is a good deal at all—a good deal at all.

In the meantime, the Trump administration is granting greater access to advanced semiconductor technology, surrendering to China. Higher costs for families and small businesses—Trump’s trade war has been and continues to be a huge failure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak about something critical to our Nation, and that is our Nation’s security. And for me, national security demands and starts with border security.

We were through 4 years of open borders, high prices, pain for the American people. Well, with the signing of this Big Beautiful Bill into law, we are securing the border, we are finishing the wall, and we are supporting Federal law enforcement officers.

You know, we also passed, and President Trump signed into law, the HALT Fentanyl Act. It is now the law of the land, and, today, law enforcement finally has the tools that they need to crack down on drug traffickers. These policies are what will save lives here in America. These policies will make our Nation safer.

For 4 long years, Joe Biden and the Democrats flung open the border walls, and over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our country as a result of their irresponsible behavior. This invasion raised costs for American families. People saw it all throughout their lives. They saw it when they went to the doctor’s office. They found it at the grocery store, and they found it in the housing market.

This invasion made our communities less safe. Innocent Americans are still suffering the consequences. Just this week, in New York City, an off-duty Customs and Border Protection officer was ambushed—ambushed—by two illegal immigrant criminals. They shot him in the throat.

Both of these illegal immigrant criminals had long criminal records. You say: How can that be, in America, that somebody with a long criminal record is out there on the street, shooting an officer of the law?

Well, both of these illegal immigrant criminals entered the country illegally under Joe Biden. They were arrested multiple times in New York City, the minority leader's home city—arrested multiple times. Immigration judges ordered deportations, but what happens in New York City, in the minority leader's home city? They were released due to sanctuary city policies in his hometown.

President Trump and Republicans have now made it a priority to enforce the law. Since taking office, President Trump has deported hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrant criminals. ICE arrests in my home State of Wyoming as well as my neighboring State of Colorado are now five times higher than they were during the same time period under Joe Biden.

A July poll by Harvard-Harris shows that three out of four Americans support President Trump's efforts to deport illegal immigrant criminals. The message is clear: Keep making our communities safer.

Illegal border crossings are now at their lowest level ever recorded. Zero—zero—illegal immigrants were released into our country over the past 2 months. Hard to believe but true—the number is zero. President Trump has successfully ended catch-and-release. By contrast, under Joe Biden and the Democrats, 10,000 illegal immigrants crossed our southern border on a daily basis.

Republicans promised the American people we would secure the border, and we are keeping our word.

The law we passed finishes the wall. It provides \$75 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. That gives our agents the resources they need to continue deporting illegal immigrant criminals. Our law allows and helps them hire, train, and retain Border Patrol agents. It even gives the agents a bonus. That is what we need to do to enforce the law.

Republicans are committed to help fight back against child trafficking. This is why our law funds \$300 million to vet those who sponsor children who show up at the border without an adult. And we know it happened routinely during the Biden administration. I was there on the border during the night as children would show up without an adult.

A recent report from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General is clarifying to all of us who have read it. It is disturbing, and it is frightening. The report found that the Biden administration lost track of hundreds of thousands of these unaccompanied children. In over 80 percent of the cases, the report says, the Biden administration didn't even have accurate contact information for the sponsors.

In all, our new law is the most comprehensive border security investment in American history. It has invested in immigration enforcement and border security. Not a single Democrat supported these policies.

Democrats continue today to be the party of open borders and unsafe communities. They made our country weaker, they made our country poorer, and they made our country less safe. Things have changed now. Across the country, ICE agents are doing excellent work enforcing the law and keeping our communities safe.

Earlier this month, ICE conducted a lawful raid of a Los Angeles facility that produces marijuana. Federal officers arrested 361 criminal illegal immigrants. Many were convicted rapists, kidnappers, and child predators. Federal agents also rescued 10 children from forced labor at that marijuana production facility. Eight of them were unaccompanied minors who had been trafficked into our country and exploited.

Last month, ICE arrested 1,361 illegal immigrant criminals in Houston, TX. Those criminals were in our communities because of Democrats' open border policies. Now they are off the streets thanks to an administration that is committed to our Nation's security.

As law enforcement does its job, they are increasingly under attack. They are under attack, amazingly, from criminals, and they are under attack from the radical left. ICE agents have been demonized, doxed, and demoralized. Attacks against ICE agents have soared over 800 percent in the last year.

In California, as ICE agents rescued children from forced labor, a violent mob of leftwing activists threw rocks and even opened fire on them. Now, some Democrats in Congress downplayed it; they dismissed it; they defended the violence, as the Democrats tend to do. One Democrat even said the operation was, in their words, a "misuse of federal resources."

Let me be clear. Rescuing trafficked children is not a misuse—never a misuse—of taxpayer money. If the Democrats believe otherwise, they have truly lost their moral compass.

Law enforcement deserves our support, especially as they are protecting children and when they are getting dangerous criminals off the street. This is common sense. It is exactly what Immigration and Customs agents are doing, and they are doing it very well.

The American people have been clear. They want secure borders. They want safer communities. And that is what Republicans are delivering.

Mr. President, I will assure you, Republicans will continue to protect our children, protect our communities, and protect our country.

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

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor today as we are beginning the process for this fiscal year of considering appropriations bills.

As this process works, there are 12 subcommittees in the Appropriations Committee. We report out 12 bills, presumably, and we are doing that. The first four are potentially being considered this week for consideration by the full Senate.

Sometimes there is criticism about the appropriations process, and people who are not members of the committee feel left out. I am pleased that we are on the Senate floor today, where every Member—all 100 Senators—has the opportunity to add their thoughts by offering amendments, certainly making comments—offering amendments, taking votes. We ought to make certain that every Senator has the sense that they are engaged in the process of determining how taxpayer dollars are spent.

I commend the majority leader Senator THUNE for his commitment and his keeping of a commitment that appropriations bills would be considered on the Senate floor in his tenure as the majority leader. We are off to a start today, and I am pleased that is happening.

The subcommittee report—the appropriations bill that I want to speak just a moment about before we commence a vote at 11 is the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill. It is one of the bills that fund a number of segments of the Federal Government.

As the name of the subcommittee suggests, it funds the Department of Commerce, the Department of Justice, and it has the word "science" in its title—Commerce-Justice-Science. Science is generally thought of as NASA, NOAA, and NSF, the National Science Foundation.

Our legislation that has been reported out of the subcommittee and reported now out of the full committee passed with every member of the committee on the Republican side voting in favor of it and about four—I think the number is four—members of the minority party, Democrats, voting for this bill as well.

The attempt has been made to—as it takes 60 votes to pass a piece of legislation on the Senate floor by our rules—the attempt has been made to make certain that this is a bill that has bipartisan support, and it does.

This legislation is important to the country for a number of reasons, but I would highlight a few.

The Department of Justice in particular is where law enforcement—our battle against fentanyl, for example, our battle against crime that is rampant in many cities across the country,

and our efforts to defeat the battle against violence in our country are directed at the Federal level by the Department of Justice. They do so with the various Federal agencies—the DEA, the ATF, U.S. Marshals, and the FBI. But they often work—and I am glad they do—in conjunction with our local sheriffs and police departments across our country.

This bill funds law enforcement at the Federal level and continues to encourage and provide resources for law enforcement—police departments in our local communities, sheriffs' departments in our local counties—for their efforts to work together with the Federal Agencies—the DEA, the FBI. That is the way we fight crime and have success in this country, is State, local, and Federal law enforcement working together.

This bill also funds the efforts at the Department of Commerce, particularly in this case related to trade, as President Trump is negotiating with various countries for resolution of tariff issues. The Department of Commerce—and we know that Secretary Lutnick has been engaged in those negotiations—the Department of Commerce houses the Agencies that are responsible for trade policy and trade legislation in this country, including the actual trade Ambassador who negotiates trade agreements on an ongoing basis.

So this bill funds the Department of Commerce in a number of ways, but I highlight for my colleagues the importance of trade, learning just this morning—yesterday—that the United States—President Trump—and Japan have come together in an agreement with regard to tariffs.

It also invests in science. It helps us meet our mission to get to the Moon, the Artemis Program. We have a goal of making certain the United States of America is on the Moon before the Chinese—returns to the Moon before the Chinese. This legislation funds NASA in a way to continue the efforts to support the Artemis Program and then reach further, as the President has indicated his desire to see the United States travel to Mars and explore further regions of outer space.

I highlight and offer my concerns and condolences to my colleagues from Texas in particular but across the country who have had weather-related circumstances that have caused tragedy across our Nation.

This Commerce-Justice-Science bill, in the science category, funds NOAA. We are making certain they have the resources to make certain we preserve and save life.

This all was done in a way that was designed to make certain that we met our responsibilities to the American taxpayer and that we were fiscally responsible.

Overall, with regard to the budget authority—the ability to obligate funds from the General Fund to the Treasury—what most Americans would consider to be Federal spending—be-

cause of offsetting credits and fee collections and rescissions—and we removed those. If they were there, we would have been able to spend at higher levels. But because we rescinded those opportunities, the decline in—let me say it differently.

Accordingly, as a result of those things being the case, the real increase in spending power at the Commerce-Justice-Science-funded Agencies is only a \$270 million increase—or 0.037 percent—above the fiscal year 2025 levels. Almost all of the increase went to the census. Commerce-Justice-Science is responsible—the Department of Commerce is responsible for the decennial census, and we have begun our process of gearing up for the next census to take place, so we had to appropriate money for the census.

In addition to that, we found savings—reduced spending—by reducing bureaucratic and workforce funding at both the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice.

My point is that within the allocation that we were provided by the full committee—by the chairman and vice chairman of the committee—Commerce-Justice-Science is within its funding levels, of course, that they allowed us. While we prioritized the things we thought were most important, we also did so in a way that the increase in spending is less than 1 percent and certainly way less than last year and certainly less than the rate of inflation.

I know that the 11 o'clock hour has come. I am pleased to have conversations with my colleagues about moving this bill forward.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

VOTE ON ROTH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Roth nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 426 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—7

Gallego	Luján	Warren
Heinrich	McConnell	
Hickenlooper	Mullin	

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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

VOTE ON HURLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hurley nomination?

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.