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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.

O mighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, empower our Senators to have clean hands and pure hearts worthy of a nation that depends on You. Today, may they experience Your perfect peace, which the world cannot give or take away. Keep them humble and eager to accept Your forgiveness and renewing grace. Lord, infuse them with such a spirit of civility that they will be peacemakers who are called Your children. Create in them pure hearts that they may understand Your will and follow where You lead. And, Lord, show compassion upon those who are shackled by violence, hunger, and grief. We pray in Your merciful 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.

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 Earl Matthews, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NEW YORK CITY SHOOTINGS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, before I begin with my remarks, I would like to say my condolences and prayers are with the families of the New York police officers involved in last night's tragic shooting.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

Madam President, I want to tell my colleagues how a 1-year-old baby has made history. The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is home to some of the world's best doctors, nurses, researchers, and many other topnotch healthcare professionals.

So what happens now, it is the home to the Guinness World Record for delivering the most premature baby. So on July 5, 2024, the University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's neonatology team delivered Nash Keen, whose parents live in Ankeny, IA.

Nash was born 133 days premature, or at about 21 weeks. He beat the impossible odds. Today, he is a happy and healthy 1-year-old with loving parents Randall and Mollie.

While their journey over the past year has been difficult, thanks to the University of Iowa and its world-class medical team, Nash is with us today.

The university is home to the highest survival rate for extremely premature infants in the United States. Now, it happens that babies born before 28 weeks of pregnancy are considered extremely preterm. When a baby is born

extremely preterm, their organs can't fully develop. The baby is at a high risk for serious, long-term health issues.

For newborns admitted to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital neonatal intensive care unit at 22 weeks, these babies have a survival rate of 62 percent. This is more than double the national average. At 25 weeks, the university's survival rate for preterm babies is 91 percent.

These survival rates are a medical miracle that we don't see anywhere else in our great country. When Nash arrived at 21 weeks, his chances of survival were technically nonexistent because no baby had ever been born so early and survived.

The University of Iowa Hospital has achieved this medical advancement because of its neonatology team providing some of the most advanced care for extremely premature and high-risk infants anywhere in the world.

This care includes hemodynamics that has led to an incredible patient outcome. The University of Iowa has trained two physicians in its hemodynamics fellowship program. This is the first of its kind in the United States.

The care that extremely preterm babies receive moments after birth has been very vital to their survival and long-term health.

So we should all congratulate the University of Iowa on its hard work and dedication to caring for extremely premature and high-risk infants. Your work shows that life is precious.

And a happy birthday to 1-year-old Nash.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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



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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. THUNE, Madam President, the last few years have been some of the most challenging in recent memory for America's farmers and ranchers. Agriculture is already a challenging way of life, but in the past few years, it has been made more difficult by higher input costs, higher interest rates, disease, and natural disasters; and it has left more than a few producers wondering about the future of their operations.

Earlier this year, I promised that farmers and ranchers would be a priority for the new Republican majority. Thanks to Senator BOOZMAN's leadership and the work of the Agriculture Committee, we have addressed some of the farmers' and ranchers' challenges head-on in the One Big Beautiful Bill—and not just with short-term patches to get through the season. We made lasting reforms to help get American agriculture firing on all cylinders again.

Madam President, that starts with the farm safety net. The One Big Beautiful Bill reauthorizes commodity programs through 2031 and raises reference prices for every covered commodity. In recent years, reference prices haven't even covered increases in input costs. But thanks to this bill, commodity program reference prices will more closely reflect the actual market conditions that farmers are dealing with.

We also included a voluntary base acre update for these programs—the first in a number of years—making 30 million acres available so these programs are based on current planted acres. That is just on commodity programs.

The One Big Beautiful Bill also bolsters crop insurance, the cornerstone of the farm safety net. And it includes my bill to extend crop insurance support for beginning farmers from their first 5 years of operation to their first 10 years.

We also addressed the needs of livestock producers. We improved the Livestock Indemnity Program, covering 100 percent of losses for animals lost to predation and 75 percent for those lost due to weather or disease, plus a supplemental payment for loss of unborn livestock, all of which will provide peace of mind for ranchers and other livestock producers when losses strike.

We also reduced the number of weeks of drought necessary to trigger payments from the Livestock Forage Disaster Program. Now those payments can begin after 4 consecutive weeks of drought, and they continue if the drought persists into a second month.

Our bill makes critical investments in disease prevention and preparedness efforts, an issue that has been national news as things like the bird flu, the New World screwworm, and African swine fever have threatened livestock.

There is a lot more in our bill to support agriculture and promote a strong and secure food supply for our country.

The One Big Beautiful Bill bolsters the Dairy Margin Coverage program for our dairy farmers. It improves support for honeybee producers when they suffer losses; invests in conservation programs that support wildlife habitats, like those that support South Dakota's wild bird population. And it supports research and agriculture research institutions and promotes trade opportunities for agriculture commodities.

This bill enables farmers and ranchers to make critical investments in the future of their operations. Agriculture producers will benefit from the individual and small business tax relief in this bill.

Our bill makes permanent the lower tax rates from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, increases the standard deduction and the child tax credit, and adds a bonus deduction for seniors, which means lower tax bills permanently.

Many farmers and ranchers will be able to claim the 199A small business deduction, which frees up more cash for them to invest in their operations. Plus, full expensing—now a permanent feature of the Tax Code—will allow them to deduct the full cost of new equipment the year they start using it. That is good news, whether you need a new tractor or combine or working to build a farm of the future with precision technology.

Madam President, farming and ranching is more than just a job; it is a way of life. And most farmers and ranchers I know dream about the next generation keeping that way of life going. Thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill, more farmers and ranchers are going to be able to stay in the family. Our bill raises the death tax threshold, which protects a lot more farmers and ranchers from this flawed tax. It means farmers and ranchers won't have to worry about the death tax eating up what they spent a lifetime building. It means they won't have to spend time and money on complicated estate planning to ensure their operation stays intact after they die. And it means their kids won't have to sell all or part of their family farm just to settle a tax bill.

Madam President, agriculture is a tough way of life. It is filled with uncertainty and risk. But we depend on the men and women who work hard every day to produce the food, fuel, and fiber for America and for the world, and we owe them support through the challenges that come with this work. I am proud that the One Big Beautiful Bill delivers for them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. BARRASSO, Madam President, Republicans came to the Senate with a clear mandate. That was 7 months ago. Our job as a majority was to get America back on track. We made that commitment, and we are following through on it. We are keeping that commitment. America is stronger; America is safer; and America is more prosperous than it was 7 months ago. Not since Ronald Reagan reversed the failures of Jimmy Carter have we seen such a dramatic turnaround.

Earlier this month, Republicans passed our comprehensive legislative agenda. President Trump calls it the One Big Beautiful Bill. It is now the law of the land. It delivers to the voters of this country what the voters sent Republicans here to do.

First, Republicans stopped a \$4 trillion tax increase—the largest tax increase in American history. Every single Democrat in this Chamber voted to raise taxes by \$4 trillion. Had Democrats succeeded, working families would have paid over \$1,700 more in taxes just next year. Small businesses would have seen their taxes go up quite a bit. The families of farmers and ranchers would have paid a much higher death tax. On all of these things, Republicans stopped the Democrats. Instead, we delivered a working-class tax cut. We cut taxes on tips, taxes on Social Security, taxes on overtime. No taxes on tips puts about \$1,300 back into the pockets of waiters, barbers, and bartenders. No taxes on overtime puts about \$1,400 more back into the pockets of nurses, firefighters, and police officers. No taxes on Social Security puts more money into the pockets of seniors through a larger deduction.

Thanks to Senator KATIE BRITT of Alabama, Republicans modernized tax credits for childcare. It was the first update in 25 years. This helps make daycare more affordable for hard-working moms and dads. Moreover, Republicans expanded child tax credits. Parents receive \$2,200 each year for each child. Well, that helps pay for rent, food, and school supplies.

Thanks to Senator TED CRUZ of Texas, Republicans created a \$1,000 savings account for every newborn American citizen. Now an American child born today could have tens of thousands of dollars waiting for them when they turn 18. This could be a downpayment on the American dream. If you wish to go to college, to own a home, or to start a business, all of these things are now much more realistic.

AMERICAN ENERGY

Madam President, now let's talk about American energy.

America's future depends on abundant energy resources. We know what happened under Joe Biden: Energy prices rose 31 percent in just 4 years. Today, thanks to Republican leadership, America is producing energy much more again and prospering again.