



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025

No. 131

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 1, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 2025

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 God of grace, awaken the Members of this body to the opportunities of this day. Help them to hear Your call to move forward and accomplish great things for Your glory.

Lord, enable them to discover unused resources among themselves that they can mobilize, dreams that have yet to be dreamed, talents that have yet to be awakened, and commitments that have yet to be made. Kindle a divine light on the altar of their souls that will guide them in the pursuit of Your wisdom and truth. May they confidently face their duties knowing that You are their sufficient shield and defense. Lord, make them willing to listen even to people with whom they expect to differ, united by the desire to represent You with exemplary conduct.

And, Lord, bring peace to our world as You show compassion to the children who desperately need your intervention.

We pray in Your abiding 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 Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas Gaiser, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

### HEALTHCARE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Only in Washington—only in Washington—can you let people take more than what is legally allowed under a government program and, at the same time, let them keep it. Last year, I shined a light with the Treasury inspector general that over 40 percent of excess marketplace subsidy payments totaling \$10 and two-tenths billion, dating back to 2016, were not being recouped.

So why not recouped? Because of the current so-called safe harbor recapture rules. When ObamaCare was passed, it established so-called safe harbor recapture rules for the advanced premium tax credit, also known as a subsidy.

When an individual buys a health plan off of the Federal marketplace, the government subsidizes much of the cost through an advanced premium tax credit. The subsidy is based on a consumer's estimated income. At the end of the year, the consumer reconciles any differences in their subsidy amount based on their actual income compared to their previously projected income.

If a consumer gets more than what is permitted based on their income, they must return the excess amount unless they fall within the so-called safe harbor, which is based on income and excess amount, as a consumer could misestimate their annual income and not be required to pay back any excess subsidy or maybe just a small portion.

Until now, safe harbor rules permitted keeping up to \$3,250 in excess. This policy actually rewarded fraud and wasted taxpayers' money. This is especially concerning since I have also found that insurance agents are also using targeted internet ads to fraudulently enroll consumers with false income.

Congress has tightened and simplified the safe harbor rules before. Senate Republicans, through the One Big Beautiful Bill, ended this legal theft for those over the poverty limits. This policy will save over \$19 billion in the next 10 years. Senate Republicans

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



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also established pre-enrollment verification requirements with flexibilities for special enrollment periods.

This will save over \$40 billion. This is good news for the taxpayers but, particularly, fairness in this program.

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. Mr. 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so this morning, we got more worrying news showing how Donald Trump's administration is raising costs, sowing chaos in the economy. The New York Times headline put it succinctly: "U.S. Economy Slowed in First Half of 2025 as Tariffs Scrambled Data."

And while the Trump administration will try to wave rosy headlines about the Q2 numbers, today's GDP number is, in fact, a mirage because some ominous numbers lurk under the hood. Business investment plunged in the second quarter by 3.1 percent.

The fact that business investment plunged so starkly is very troubling. It shows that, already, businesses are worried about growing their operations, worried about hiring more workers, worried about trading with their international partners, and worried in general about the future.

And this number is another data point in a larger pattern. Donald Trump's tariffs are weighing down the U.S. economy, spiking costs for small businesses and families alike. And if Donald Trump keeps up the chaos, the dangers for the economy will continue to get worse.

#### JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, now, I come to the floor this morning with some news. Today, Senate Democrats take additional action to try and uncover the truth about the Epstein files. This morning, I join all of my Democratic colleagues on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in invoking a century-old law known as the "rule of 5" to compel the Department of Justice to release the full and complete Epstein files, which, to date, of course, they have refused to be transparent about.

Under Federal law when any five Senators on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee call on the Executive branch to release investigative documents, they must comply. Our request covers all documents, files, evidence, or other materials in the possession of the Department of Justice or the FBI related to the case of United States v. Jeffrey Epstein. This includes records and documents related to Epstein and his clients while ensuring that the private in-

formation of any victims is protected. We expect the Trump administration to provide these documents by August 15.

The situation with the Epstein files is very simple. Donald Trump promised transparency, and he has broken that promise. As a candidate, Trump said on many occasions he would release the Epstein files if elected, and yet he has refused to do so.

Over the past few months, FBI Director Kash Patel and Attorney General Pam Bondi said they would ensure transparency and release the documents, but they have not done so. And 5 months later, we have zero answers, only a slew of denials.

Donald Trump was asked earlier this month if he ever had been informed whether or not he was mentioned in the Epstein files, and now we know he lied. He said no, but, in fact, he was told by the Attorney General in May that he was mentioned.

And when the House of Representatives had an opportunity this month to take a vote on the Epstein files, Speaker JOHNSON sent everyone scrambling home on an "Epstein recess," adjourning the House early.

The pattern is undeniable. Every single time Donald Trump or his administration or Republican leaders have had a chance to be transparent about the Epstein files, they have chosen to hide. The President's refusal to be straight with the American people is very disturbing. His rather desperate-sounding evasions are, frankly, odd. He will release the Martin Luther King files, which no one asked for; he will accuse President Obama of treason; he will say one wild thing after another, but he won't touch the Epstein topic with a 10-foot pole. It begs the question: If there is nothing to hide, why all of the evasiveness?

So, today, Senate Democrats take action. We are invoking Federal law and using our authority as a check on the Executive to compel transparency.

I urge Republicans to stand up for the oversight powers of Congress and join us in calling for more transparency on the Epstein files because once there is transparency, we can have the truth and so can the American people.

Donald Trump should stop hiding from the truth. He should stop hiding from the American people.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, now on healthcare, 60 years ago today, Lyndon Johnson signed into law two of the most popular, successful, and lifesaving programs in the history of America: Medicare and Medicaid. These programs provide healthcare and dignity for 134 million Americans. They are a lifeline. They are sacrosanct. But, today, Medicare and Medicaid are facing their greatest threat because Donald Trump and congressional Republicans want to decimate these programs.

The Republicans' "Big Ugly Betrayal" or so-called BBB bill codified

the largest cut to Medicaid in history. Imagine calling a bill beautiful that cuts Medicaid more than any other bill has in the past. How cruel. How heartless. How much in a bubble are our Republican friends not knowing what people go through to try and get decent healthcare? With over a trillion dollars in healthcare cuts, that will rip away healthcare for more than 15 million Americans, all to pay tax breaks to billionaires.

So later this morning, I will join my Democratic colleagues at a press conference to introduce legislation to reverse the devastating healthcare cuts in the "Big Ugly Betrayal." Our bill is straightforward. It repeals the entire healthcare subtitle of the Republicans' bill and permanently extends the ACA premium tax credits that Republicans are letting expire.

These tax credits will save Americans on the ACA hundreds, if not thousands, a year. If it is not passed as early as October, people are going to be paying a lot more for their healthcare. Why are Republicans allowing that to happen?

This is real money, life-changing money, and Americans will have to pay. And the money that they would have, if it weren't taken away, will mean greater dignity for working people so they can stay healthy and stay covered. And when Republicans cut people's healthcare, what they are really doing is assaulting working people's dignity just to help the ultrarich.

Now, we know Republicans want to make their "Big Ugly Betrayal" seem less destructive, claiming it won't affect anyone until a few years down the line. That is just false. The Republican bill is already having an impact. From one end of the country to the other, hospitals and clinics are at the risk of closing, and some already shut their doors in Maine, Nebraska, and other States. People in rural communities are worried they will have to travel even farther to get healthcare. Healthcare premiums are going to start spiking as soon as next year.

For many Americans, this legislation is quite literally a matter of life and death. Seniors, kids, people with disability—these are people who have relied on Medicare and Medicaid for several generations. It isn't too late for Republicans to reverse course, stop these disastrous cuts from taking effect, and save healthcare for millions of Americans.

Democrats, meanwhile, will never—never—stop fighting to fix our broken healthcare system and make healthcare easier to access, easier to navigate, easier to afford.

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