

MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 34, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed export of certain defense articles to Israel.

S. CON. RES. 8

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 8, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 337

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 337, a resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the postal service of the United States.

S. RES. 343

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 343, a resolution recognizing the important work of the United States Preventive Services Task Force.

AMENDMENT NO. 2958

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2958 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3004

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3004 intended to be proposed to 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3008

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3008 intended to be proposed to 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3041

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3041 intended to be pro-

posed to 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3084

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3084 intended to be proposed to S. 2296, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2545. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to provide for certain ways in which credit unions may be Agent members of the National Credit Union Administration Central Liquidity Facility; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan NCUA Central Liquidity Facility Enhancements Act.

In December 2022, the temporary statutory enhancements that assisted the agent membership of corporate credit unions expired, leaving 3,322 smaller credit unions without access to the National Credit Union Administration's, NCUA, Central Liquidity Facility, CLF. This also contracted the facility's capacity by almost \$10 billion.

This bill would grant the NCUA Board permanent statutory authority to determine the amount of capital stock in the CLF required for a corporate credit union to become a member of the facility, allowing more institutions to access this important backup liquidity source.

At a time of increased interest rate and liquidity risks for some credit unions, the CLF's role is increasingly important. This flexibility will ensure that the CLF can contain or avert any liquidity crises before they escalate and provide financial stability.

I thank Senator CRAMER for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate. I hope all our colleagues will join us in supporting this bill to ensure that the CLF can appropriately and rapidly respond to economic events.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2548. A bill to designate the Camp Hutchins Wilderness and establish Special Management Areas in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2548

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Shawnee National Forest Conservation Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DESIGNATED NATURAL AREA.—The term "designated natural area" means an area determined to be of exceptional ecological, botanical, geologic, scenic, or archeological value by—

(A) the Secretary; and

(B)(i) the State of Illinois; or

(ii) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(2) DESIGNATED RESEARCH NATURAL AREA.—The term "designated research natural area" means an area that has been selected by the Secretary, and is managed by the Forest Service, for scientific research value.

(3) MAP.—The term "Map" means the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled "Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area and Special Management Area" and dated November 23, 2023.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(5) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—The term "Special Management Area" means a Special Management Area established by section 4(a).

SEC. 3. CAMP HUTCHINS WILDERNESS.

(a) ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), certain land in the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 750 acres and generally depicted on the Map as "Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area - Proposed", is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and shall be known as the "Camp Hutchins Wilderness".

(b) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Camp Hutchins Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) HIKING TRAIL.—Forest Road 211 shall be closed to public vehicular traffic and shall be maintained as a hiking trail, including the eastern extension of Forest Road 211 formerly known as the "Hutchins Creek Spur" up to the area known as "Hutchins Creek Corridor", as generally depicted on the Map.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Camp Hutchins Wilderness, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Camp Hutchins Wilderness after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(e) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of the Camp Hutchins Wilderness with—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

(2) EFFECT.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Secretary and on the Forest Service website.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to valid existing rights, the following Special Management Areas within the Shawnee National Forest in the State of Illinois are established:

(1) CAMP HUTCHINS SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 2,953 acres and generally depicted on the Map as “Camp Hutchins Special Management Area - Proposed”, which shall be known as the “Camp Hutchins Special Management Area”.

(2) RIPPLE HOLLOW SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 3,445 acres and generally depicted as “Ripple Hollow Special Management Area - Proposed” on the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled “Ripple Hollow Special Management Area” and dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as the “Ripple Hollow Special Management Area”.

(3) BURKE BRANCH SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA.—Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 6,310 acres and generally depicted as “Burke Branch Special Management Area - Proposed”, on the map prepared by the Environmental Law and Policy Center entitled “Burke Branch Special Management Area” and dated November 23, 2023, which shall be known as the “Burke Branch Special Management Area”.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Special Management Areas are—

(1) to conserve, protect, and enhance the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historic, educational, and scientific resources of the Special Management Areas for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations;

(2) to promote biodiversity and control invasive species; and

(3) to allow for the continuation of restoration efforts and scientific study of the designated natural areas and designated research natural areas within the Special Management Areas.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the Special Management Areas—

(1) in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the purposes for which the Special Management Areas are established; and

(2) in accordance with—

(A) this section; and

(B) other applicable laws.

(b) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive management plan for the long-term protection and management of the Special Management Areas.

(c) USES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall allow only uses of the Special Management Areas that are consistent with the purposes for which the Special Management Areas are established.

(2) PRESCRIBED FIRE.—The Secretary may use prescribed fire to sustain the ecological structure and composition of the Special Management Areas to sustain the biodiversity of the Special Management Areas.

(3) MANAGEMENT TOOLS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may use herbicides, insecticides, and mechanized equipment in the control of fire, insects, disease, and invasive species, including the use of chainsaws, drones, aircraft, pickup trucks, all-terrain vehicles, and rubber and tracked vehicles to carry out management of the Special Management Areas approved by the Secretary.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out management of the Special Management Areas, the Secretary shall use the best available technology and science.

(4) MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Except in cases in which motorized vehicles are needed for administrative purposes, emergency response, or access on established roads accessing trailheads, or are essential to provide off-road access for ecosystem management of habitat, the use of motor vehicles in the Special Management Areas shall be prohibited.

(5) ROADS.—The Secretary shall decommission and remove roads within the Special Management Areas, except roads needed for management or access to trailheads, as soon as practicable.

(6) TIMBER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Commercial timber harvesting, except as needed for fire, insect, and disease control, and for visitor and administrative safety, in the Special Management Areas shall be prohibited.

(B) ACTIVITIES PERMITTED.—Thinning of trees and other vegetation in the Special Management Areas shall be permitted for restoration of the designated natural areas and designated research natural areas and to further the management objectives described in this section.

(7) INHOLDINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Access to private inholdings in the Special Management Areas shall be preserved.

(B) ACQUISITIONS.—The Secretary shall acquire any private inholdings in the Special Management Areas by purchase or exchange as soon as feasible.

(8) HUNTING AND TRAPPING.—

(A) HUNTING.—Hunting shall be permitted in the Special Management Areas as permitted by the State of Illinois and in accordance with regulations of the State of Illinois and regulations of the Forest Service.

(B) TRAPPING.—Trapping shall not be permitted in the Special Management Areas.

(C) ACCESS BY MOTORIZED VEHICLES.—Access within the Special Management Areas by hunters in motorized vehicles shall be prohibited.

(9) VOLUNTEER RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.—

(A) VOLUNTEERS.—The Secretary shall allow organized groups of volunteers to participate in ecological restoration activities under the guidance of Forest Service ecologists and botanists within the Special Management Areas through cooperative agreements.

(B) ACCESS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES.—The Secretary shall allow access to the Special Management Areas for scientific research by qualified individuals and organizations, as determined by the Secretary.

(10) ONGOING MANAGEMENT DECISIONS.—The Supervisor of the Shawnee National Forest shall have the authority, without requiring the permission of the Secretary, to make management decisions concerning any designated natural area or designated research natural area within the Special Management Areas pursuant to the land and resource

management plan for the Shawnee National Forest.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land within the Special Management Areas, including any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States within the Special Management Areas after the date of enactment of this Act, is withdrawn from—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(e) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and legal description of each Special Management Area with—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) EFFECT.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the maps and legal descriptions.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The maps and legal descriptions filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Secretary and on the Forest Service website.

(f) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Annually, the Secretary shall make publicly available on the website of the Shawnee National Forest information describing the progress in achieving the management objectives described in this section.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. GALLEGOS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KIM, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 2556. A bill to repeal the changes made by the health subtitle of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2556

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Health Care and Lowering Costs Act”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF HEALTH SUBTITLE CHANGES.

Subtitle B of title VII of the Act titled “An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14” (Public Law 119-21) is repealed and any law or regulation referred to in such subtitle shall be applied as if such subtitle and the amendments made by such subtitle had not been enacted.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF ENHANCED TAX CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 36B(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “but does not exceed 400 percent”.

(b) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 36B(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(A) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—The applicable percentage for any taxable year shall be the percentage such that the applicable percentage for any taxpayer whose household income is within an income tier specified in the following table shall increase, on a sliding scale in a linear manner, from the initial premium percentage to the final premium percentage specified in such table for such income tier:

“In the case of household income (expressed as a percent of poverty line) within the following income tier;	The initial premium percentage is—	The final premium percentage is—
Up to 150 percent	0	0
150 percent up to 200 percent	0	2.0
200 percent up to 250 percent	2.0	4.0
250 percent up to 300 percent	4.0	6.0
300 percent up to 400 percent	6.0	8.5
400 percent and higher	8.5	8.5.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO AFFORDABILITY OF COVERAGE.—

(A) Paragraph (1) of section 36B(c) of such Code is amended by striking subparagraph (E).

(B) Subparagraph (C) of section 36B(c)(2) of such Code is amended by striking clause (iv).

(C) Paragraph (4) of section 36B(c) of such Code is amended by striking subparagraph (F).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 346—URGING ALL MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION TO SPEND A MINIMUM OF 5 PERCENT OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ON DEFENSE

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 346

Whereas the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has long served as a pillar of collective security and transatlantic cooperation, ensuring stability and shared defense among member states;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump played a leading role in securing increased defense spending commitments from NATO allies to ensure the Alliance remains capable of addressing 21st-century threats;

Whereas the Hague Summit Declaration encouraged allies to allocate at least 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) to defense spending, demonstrating a commitment to sharing the burden of collective defense;

Whereas the 5 percent GDP spending commitment will be split between spending 3.5 percent on military spending and 1.5 percent on non-traditional defense spending such as infrastructure and cyber security resilience;

Whereas this target, if implemented with discipline and transparency, has the potential to significantly enhance NATO’s military readiness, deterrence posture, and ability to respond to evolving threats including cyber warfare;

Whereas the imprecise language of the Hague Agreement leaves ambiguity about the requirement of all allies reaching the 5 percent of GDP goal;

Whereas the exclusion of certain member countries from the commitment to spend 5 percent of GDP on defense undermines fidelity to the Alliance;

Whereas the commitment to spending 5 percent of GDP on verifiable defense expenditures is important to the defense of all member nations;

Whereas the inclusion of domestic infrastructure in allies’ calculations toward their 1.5 percent commitment to non-traditional defense expenditures contributes minimally to the Alliance’s ability to address external threats; and

Whereas the commitment from economies of all sizes within NATO to meet the former goal of spending 2 percent GDP on defense shows that not meeting spending commitments is a choice of will and not of circumstance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates President Donald J. Trump and NATO leadership on the new commitment to defense investment, and commends the Alliance for its renewed focus on collective defense;

(2) lauds NATO members who spent more than 2 percent of their GDP on defense prior to the Hague Summit;

(3) strongly urges NATO leadership to compel members to adhere to the 5 percent GDP commitment to defense spending;

(4) calls on all NATO allies to ensure their non-traditional defense expenditures are demonstrably aligned with legitimate defense objectives; and

(5) reaffirms the importance of NATO and the commitment of the United States Senate to maintaining a strong, capable, and united Alliance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 347—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM AND THE FEDERAL OPEN MARKET COMMITTEE SHOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO LOWER INTEREST RATES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION, AND AFFORDABILITY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES

Mr. MORENO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 347

Whereas high interest rates increase borrowing costs for American families, small businesses, and domestic industries, limiting access to affordable credit for home owner-

ship, education, and entrepreneurial endeavors;

Whereas elevated interest rates contribute to higher costs for goods and services, placing financial strain on households and reducing consumer spending, which is a critical driver of economic growth;

Whereas lower interest rates can stimulate investment and economic activity, particularly in the housing, manufacturing, and technology sectors;

Whereas the Federal Reserve has a dual mandate to promote maximum employment and stable prices, and current economic conditions would benefit from a monetary policy adjustment to prioritize growth;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump has argued that the current Federal funds rate, targeted between 4.25 and 4.5 percent, is at least 3 percentage points too high, costing the United States approximately \$360,000,000,000 per point annually in refinancing the costs for the national debt;

Whereas President Trump has stated that inflation is low and companies are increasingly investing in the United States, demonstrating that high interest rates are unnecessary to control price pressures and such rates hinder economic expansion; and

Whereas the Senate respects the independence of the Federal Reserve but recognizes its critical role in fostering a stable and prosperous economy for all Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee should immediately take such actions as may be necessary to reduce interest rates, especially the Federal funds rate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 348—DECLARING AUGUST 14, 2025, AS “NATIONAL SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY DAY”

Mr. CASSIDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 348

Whereas, on August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) into law, establishing a foundational commitment by the United States to provide economic security for its senior citizens;

Whereas August 14, 2025, marks the 90th anniversary of the Social Security program, a program that has served as the cornerstone of retirement security for generations of individuals in the United States, providing vital retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to millions;

Whereas the Social Security program has paid scheduled benefits throughout its 90-year history, delivering on the promise earned by workers in the United States and their families through a lifetime of contributions;

Whereas the Social Security program remains the primary source of income for millions of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and surviving family members, and its continued strength is vital to the economic well-being of the United States;

Whereas the Social Security program faces significant long-term financial challenges that require thoughtful and responsible action to ensure its continued stability and effectiveness;

Whereas preserving and strengthening the Social Security program is a bipartisan responsibility that requires cooperation and leadership from policymakers; and

Whereas increased public awareness, education, and dialogue are essential to ensure