

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 Res. 14” (Public Law 119–21) is repealed and any law or regulation referred to in such subtitle shall be applied as if such subtitle and the amendments made by such subtitle had not been enacted.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

that the Social Security program remains strong and solvent for current and future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates August 14, 2025, as “National Save Social Security Day” in recognition of the 90th anniversary of the Social Security program and its enduring importance to the economic well-being of the United States;

(2) encourages all people of the United States to reflect on the value of the Social Security program, to learn about its history and future challenges, and to participate in civic activities that promote the protection and strengthening of the program;

(3) urges Federal, State, and local governments, educational institutions, advocacy groups, and the private sector to engage in outreach, educational initiatives, and community events on this day, fostering dialogue about the future of the Social Security program and the need for timely, bipartisan solutions; and

(4) calls upon Members of Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to develop and enact legislation that ensures the long-term solvency of the Social Security program and protects seniors, individuals with disabilities, and families in the United States for generations to come.

SENATE RESOLUTION 349—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 3 THROUGH AUGUST 9, 2025, AS “NATIONAL FARMERS MARKET WEEK”

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 349

Whereas farmers markets accounted for \$1,700,000,000 in income for farmers of the United States in 2020, demonstrating the crucial role of farmers markets in local economies;

Whereas, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture, the number of farmers markets in the United States rose from 1,755 in 1994 to 8,771 in 2019, an average growth of nearly 7 percent per year;

Whereas farmers markets serve as significant educational sites and as bridges between urban and rural communities, contributing to a better public understanding of farming and ranching;

Whereas the adoption of more sustainable farming practices is closely associated with farmer-to-consumer interactions facilitated by farmers markets;

Whereas farmers markets and direct marketing farmers help improve the health and wellness of low-income people in the United States who receive Federal nutrition benefits; and

Whereas National Farmers Market Week is a time to recognize the unique and indispensable role farmers markets play in supporting food access, bolstering local economies, promoting healthy communities, and fostering sustainable farming: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of August 3 through August 9, 2025, as “National Farmers Market Week”; and

(2) recognizes the vital role that farmers markets play in bringing communities together and in supporting the livelihoods of millions of people in the United States, from farmers and food producers to consumers.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3116. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3117. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3118. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3119. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3120. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3121. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3122. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3123. Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3124. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3125. Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3126. Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3127. Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3128. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3129. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3130. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3131. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3132. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3133. Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. CURTIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3134. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3135. Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3136. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3137. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3138. Mr. GALLEGO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3139. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2977 submitted by Ms. COLLINS and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3944, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3140. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3141. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3142. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3143. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S.