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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.

Lord God, through whom we find liberty and peace, lead us in Your righteousness and make the way straight before our lawmakers. As they grapple with complex issues and feel the need for Your guidance, lead them to the decision that will best glorify You. Looking to You to guide them, may they not be overwhelmed, remembering the promise in Psalm 84, that no weapon formed against them will be able to prosper.

May Your good blessings continue to be with us. And may we, in response to Your abiding love, ever seek to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your powerful 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 (Mr. MORENO). 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 Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, one of the most fundamental constitutional responsibilities afforded Congress is the power of the purse. It grants Congress the authority to raise and spend revenue, to operate the government, and examine spending decisions.

The Federal Government is primarily funded through 12 annual appropriations bills. The Federal fiscal year begins on October 1 of each year. If the appropriations bills are not signed into law by September 30, lawmakers and the President must agree on a temporary spending resolution that is known in this town as a continuing resolution, keeping the government open for business. If that fails, the unfunded parts of government shut down.

History has repeatedly shown that shutting down the government is bad policy and also bad politics. It costs the taxpayers money to shut down the government and even more to reopen it. A government shutdown reduces essential services for the American people, erodes the trust of the American people, and limits the ability of Congress to conduct oversight over Federal Government operations.

Government shutdowns don't make for great bargaining tools. How many times have we heard Members of both political parties—probably not at the same time—but say: If I don't get what

I want, I am not going to vote for a continuing resolution. We are going to shut down the government.

What happens after a few days or even, in one case, 3 weeks? Eventually, the heat gets so bad that Congress votes to reopen the government and the Members who crowed that they were going to shut down the government if they didn't get what they wanted—who were eventually pushing for certain policy changes that they wanted—usually, in the end, don't get what they want. That is why it is bad politics, as well as bad financial management.

Instead, Congress is in the same spot, but now is stuck with a last-minute omnibus bill or a long-term continuing resolution. Neither a last-minute omnibus or a long-term continuing resolution allows Congress to carefully analyze spending and make necessary tough decisions. In other words, that is not a good replacement for passing 12 appropriations bills separately. In short, shutdowns have always been a losing proposition for the American people.

On Thursday, I joined Senator LANKFORD and others in reintroducing a bill entitled the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act. This bill would permanently end government shutdowns by creating an automatic continuing resolution.

This would continue critical services and operations and hold Federal workers harmless while Congress negotiates a final spending agreement. To encourage Members and the President to reach an agreement on funding, the Lankford bill would prohibit Members of Congress, congressional staffs, and Office of Management and Budget officials from traveling outside of Washington, DC, during the automatic continuing resolution. In other words: Do your job. Stay here in town until you get it done and prevent a shutdown.

It would also prevent Congress from recessing or from considering legislation unrelated to appropriations bills

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



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with limited exceptions after 30 days of an automatic continuing resolution.

So Congress needs to stop governing from crisis to crisis, respect the appropriations process, and fulfill its constitutional responsibilities to keep the government funded. Moreover, we need to put an end to the recurring political side show of costly government shut-downs.

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. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, a new report came out last month detailing who benefits from the working-families tax relief that Republicans enacted in the One Big Beautiful Bill, and here is what they found: Americans in every county in America will see tax relief from this bill. Let me say that again. Americans in every county in America will see tax relief from this bill.

I said this was a new report, but it is hardly news for Republicans. We knew what we were doing when we crafted this bill. We knew that we were enacting tax relief that would benefit people in every corner of this country. We knew that it would benefit people of every income level and that the greatest proportional benefit would go to working Americans. That is what we did in 2017. In 2017, we cut taxes for all Americans, and the greatest proportional benefit went to working Americans. What we did this year with the One Big Beautiful Bill was make that tax relief permanent. Now hard-working American families can be confident that they won't see a tax hike next year or in the years to come, and they can spend, invest, and save more of their hard-earned money with greater confidence for the future.

This morning, I want to walk through how working families will benefit from our legislation.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered tax rates for every income level and adjusted tax brackets to provide additional relief, but those reforms were going to expire this year without action from Congress. What that would have meant is that a typical family earning \$80,000 a year would have seen their tax rate jump from 12 percent to 15 percent next year. Not only that, that family would have lost other benefits, like the increased standard deduction and the increased child tax credit.

The standard deduction, which is something that 90 percent of taxpayers in this country use to simplify and reduce their taxes, would have been cut nearly in half, and the child tax credit would have shrunk from \$2,000 per child

to \$1,000 per child. For people in my State, that would have meant paying an average of \$2,500 more in taxes next year—\$2,500. Republicans were determined not to let that happen, and with our bill in July, we locked in the lower tax rates permanently.

We also made permanent the increased child tax credit and actually increased it further to \$2,200 per child and then linked it to inflation so it won't ever lose its value, and then we made the higher standard deduction permanent as well.

We also added a \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, and then we eliminated taxes on tips—something that will benefit millions of Americans who earn part of their income from tips. That includes servers, busboys, and bartenders; Uber, Lyft, and taxi drivers; hairstylists, tour guides, and a whole host of other Americans. Working people who once dreaded big tax bills on their tips every April are now breathing a little easier. They are already making plans to save that money, put it toward their schooling, or use it for groceries and other needs of their families.

We also eliminated taxes on overtime pay. That means that folks like police officers, first responders, and nurses won't have to pay taxes on the money they earn when they spend time away from their families working extra shifts to keep us safe. It is also a boon to Americans who put in overtime working in manufacturing and the trades—hard-working Americans who spend the workday on their feet and take a shower after work, not before.

All of these reforms make for a Tax Code that works for working people. That gives them more breathing room in their budgets and helps them build a better future for their families.

I also want to say a word about what this bill does for Americans who work for themselves.

Family-run businesses—farmers and ranchers, like the people I represent in South Dakota—are the backbone of a lot of American communities. They are families' livelihoods, job creators, and part of Americans' way of life. This bill makes sure our Tax Code helps them grow. Small businesses, farms, and ranches will all benefit from the permanent lower tax rates in this bill.

Those that are passthrough businesses will also benefit from the 199A small business deduction, which is also now a permanent fixture of the Tax Code. These provisions free up cash that will allow family farms and ranches and small businesses to invest in their operations and their workers.

Then there are the investment incentives this bill makes permanent: bonus depreciation for new equipment, meaning a farmer can deduct the full cost of a new tractor or combine the year he or she starts using it; a factory owner can deduct the full cost of improving his or her assembly line; a construction company can invest in new vehicles and technology more easily.

Immediate expensing for research and development is also now permanent—a provision that has had a meaningful impact on getting innovative technologies off the ground in South Dakota and around the country.

We also raised the exemption threshold for the death tax, which means a lot more family businesses, farms, and ranches are protected from this fundamentally flawed tax and the costly estate planning that comes with it. It means Americans who have worked their entire lives building up their dream won't have to worry about that dream being sold off or dismantled to settle a tax bill when they pass it on to the next generation.

With the working families tax reform Republicans enacted this year, America's Tax Code is now permanently oriented toward supporting hard-working Americans, helping the people who work every day to build a better future for their children, ensuring that they keep more of their hard-earned money, and making America stronger and more prosperous.

Mr. President, 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. 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.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few moments ago, we got more news that the economy Donald Trump is sabotaging is in worse shape than we imagined. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the economy added about 900,000 fewer jobs than originally thought through the early part of this year. This report shows one thing: The job market was already struggling when Donald Trump took office, and he has made it much worse.

His tariffs are raising prices. His tariffs are making factories slow down. His "Big Ugly Bill" is kicking 16 million people off healthcare; unemployment is going up; health insurance premiums are going up; and people are less optimistic about the future as they struggle to make ends meet.

When Donald Trump came in, he said he would start the golden age—he was criticizing Joe Biden. But he is doing worse and worse and worse every month. Under Donald Trump—since Donald Trump has taken office, as these numbers show, there are fewer jobs, there are higher prices, and there is less opportunity for the American people.

The economy is clearly getting worse under Donald Trump's stewardship. His policies are leaving the American people holding the bag, and they don't like it.