

amendment SA 3748 proposed by Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. REED) 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; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____ . LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SUITABILITY AND FITNESS REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the term “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the term in section 115(c)(1) of title 18, United States Code.

(b) **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION.**—Each Federal agency hiring a law enforcement officer shall, before hiring such officer, ensure that the applicant is subject to a Moderate Risk Public Trust Background Investigation to determine if the officer meets the suitability and fitness requirements for employment.

(c) **INELIGIBILITY.**—If the background investigation described in subsection (b) finds any of the following, the applicant shall not be eligible to be employed as a law enforcement officer:

(1) Membership in or affiliation with white supremacist, anti-government, and other extremist organizations that advocate for violence or advocate acts of terrorism or activities designed to overthrow the United States Government by force.

(2) Participation or involvement in, or past conviction for, a conspiracy to overthrow the Government of the United States in violation of section 231(a)(3) of title 18, United States Code, or obstruction of Congress in violation of section 1512(c)(2) of that title.

(3) Participation or involvement in the planning of, or past conviction for, any act under section 1512(c)(2) or 2383 of title 18, United States Code.

(d) **RULE.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to infringe upon, or otherwise impact, the protections provided by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

SA 3898. Mr. SANDERS 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; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title V, add the following:

SEC. 550. ASSISTANCE FOR DEPLOYMENT-RELATED SUPPORT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES UNDERGOING DEPLOYMENT AND THEIR FAMILIES BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (k) and (l) as subsections (l) and (m), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the following new subsection (k):

“(k) **SUPPORT BEYOND PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall provide funds to States, Territories, and government entities to carry out programs, and other activities as the Secretary

considers appropriate, that provide deployment cycle information, services, and referrals to eligible individuals throughout the deployment cycle. Such programs may include the provision of access to outreach services, including the following:

“(A) Employment counseling.

“(B) Behavioral health counseling.

“(C) Suicide prevention.

“(D) Housing advocacy.

“(E) Financial counseling.

“(F) Referrals for the receipt of other related services.

“(2) **APPROPRIATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated, to carry out paragraph (1)—

“(i) for fiscal year 2026, \$25,000,000; and

“(ii) for fiscal year 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated for the preceding fiscal year, adjusted to reflect the percentage (if any) of the increase in the average of the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period compared to the Consumer Price Index for fiscal year 2025.

“(B) **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘Consumer Price Index’ means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 16, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my interns for their shadow days on the following dates: Flora Xia for October 1, 2025; Alexander Aguilar for October 7, 2025; Samuel Armour for October 9, 2025; Nidhi Nair for October 21; Maxwell Robben for the 23rd; Audrey Schlotter for the 28th; Malina Yuen for the 30th of October; Andrew Faris for November 4; Jeremy Zwick for November 6; Mrinmayee Kulkarni for November 19; and Inez Nieves for December 3, 2025.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17, and that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day.

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

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator DURBIN.

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

The Democratic whip.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, the world witnessed an unprovoked violation of NATO airspace by Russia. Nearly 20 Russian drones entered Polish airspace, some traveling up to 300 miles in the country. For nearly 6 hours, NATO aircraft sought out and destroyed these Russian intruders.

Then this weekend, fighter jets intercepted another Russian drone that entered NATO airspace—in this case, Romania.

The EU’s chief diplomat Kaja Kallas promptly said of the recent incident: “The violation of Romanian airspace by Russian drones is another unacceptable breach of an EU member’s state sovereignty. This continued reckless escalation threatens regional security.”

I couldn’t agree more. With such brazen testing of NATO defenses, one would expect our leader, the President of the United States, to make a similar condemnation and reaffirm the alliance’s formidable defensive capabilities.

But the response from President Trump has been silence or bizarre musings saying maybe it was just a mistake by Russia. After months of Russian President Putin ignoring Trump’s deadlines for negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, he is once again letting Putin embarrass him on a global stage.

Can anyone here imagine Ronald Reagan being played over and over again by the Russians like this? How about John McCain? How about the Republican Party before Trump, which has sat quietly month after month afraid to speak the truth about Vladimir Putin?

Is there anyone in this Chamber who would argue with a straight face that a Democratic President repeatedly kowtowing to Russian aggression wouldn’t be met with howls of criticism?

So let me say this once again to President Trump: I don't fault you for trying to negotiate an end to this horrific war in Ukraine, but it has been clear for some time to everyone that Mr. Putin is not serious about your overtures.

In fact, he has repeatedly responded with embarrassingly clear replies. What did he do when we told him we wanted peace in Ukraine? He increased bombing. He violated NATO airspace. He teamed up with other global despots in acts of sabotage and mayhem all across Europe.

I urge President Trump to finally see Putin for the person he is and what he is doing to America's reputation and the President's own personal legacy. And we in Congress should finally move this week to pass the Russian sanctions bill, which I understand has 85 cosponsors. It is long overdue. Let's do it.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are life experiences which you carry for the rest of your life because they are so meaningful and change the course of your life.

I will never forget what it was like to be the father of our new baby when she had a serious medical condition and I had no health insurance. I never felt more helpless than I did at that moment. It is a terrible feeling I wouldn't wish on anybody. That experience comes to mind when I think about healthcare. I thought about it when we passed the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and again when we expanded the ACA premier tax credit in 2021 and 2022, making insurance more affordable for tens of millions of Americans. We set a record.

There were more Americans covered by health insurance as a result of those actions than ever in our history. Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues are preparing to subject millions of Americans to the stress-filled sleepless nights as part of heading up a family when you have no health insurance.

At the end of this year, the ACA's enhanced premium tax credits will expire. If they are not renewed, insurance premiums will spike across the country for the people least likely to be able to pay, and millions and millions of Americans will lose their healthcare.

These tax credits subsidize the price of healthcare for lower and middle-income families, ensuring that premiums for marketplace health plans never exceed 8.5 percent of the families' income. This cap on premiums makes healthcare affordable for millions of Americans. Some only have to pay as little as \$10 a month for coverage; others pay almost nothing.

Since the creation of these enhanced tax credits, the number of Americans enrolled in ACA plans has almost doubled, from 11.4 million in 2020 to 24.3 million in 2024. These credits are especially important for people living in

small towns, as they often have few options and higher insurance premiums. The expiration of these tax credits as part of the so-called Big Beautiful Bill will devastate families of limited means and threaten the existence of hospitals all across the country, including in my State of Illinois. The people who run these hospitals in small towns, which are absolutely critical for healthcare, for the local economy, are bracing for the Medicaid cuts that are coming, again as part of the Republican Big Beautiful Bill.

If Republicans allow these tax credits to expire, insurance premiums are going to skyrocket by more than 75 percent for most marketplace plans. In Illinois, a family of four making \$126,000 can see their annual premiums increase by \$7,500. A couple making \$82,000 can see more than a \$17,000 increase. These price increases can be too much to bear for many families who are already dealing with some of the impacts of the tariff policies.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 4 million people will become uninsured because of the ACA credit expiration. That is 4 million people who won't know if they will be able to afford a hospital bill if their child has an injury; 4 million people who might have to forego a doctor's visit because they can't afford it. Millions of people might be forced to put off a dentist visit because they lost their healthcare.

The expiration of these health insurance subsidies will be devastating for families across America in red States and blue States alike, and it will deal yet another blow to the American public who were promised by this President that he will bring down their cost of living.

I had two of my constituents contact me about this issue, Kristin from Rochester, IL, just outside Springfield said:

As a previously very healthy person recently diagnosed with a long-term degenerative disease, health care is at the top of my mind.

Without health insurance, one of my multiple medications would cost \$7500. I will likely be on that or something similar for the rest of my life.

I'm a freelance writer—

She writes—

so I depend on the ACA marketplace for insurance. Without those subsidies, I would be unable to cover the cost of my care.

And Zachary from Highland, IL, in Madison County near St. Louis writes:

Please do everything you can to protect the Affordable Care Act. It has been a lifesaver for my family.

We have four children and starting our own business is not easy when factoring in healthcare costs.

It would ruin us if we lost the benefits from the [Affordable Care Act]. It would ruin us economically and physically if we lost these big beautiful benefits from the ACA.

Real people, real life, real problems, brought on by the passage of the big beautiful budget bill of Donald Trump.

When these credits for health insurance hit, we are going to hear about it

all over the United States, and it is just a matter of days before they are announced. Now it is time to do something meaningful.

Let us come together on a bipartisan basis and say that this was a serious mistake. Families of limited and modest means need a helping hand for health insurance. Let's give them the peace of mind to know that the most expensive medical bills will be covered.

I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KELLY G. KILCOYNE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

COURTNEY L. GLASS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DANIEL F. GWOSCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JENNIFER D. CEPEDA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

GARY L. HELTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ADAM D. WEAVER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

MERRILL M. MOE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

RAYMOND A. AKERIWE

KLAY A. ASPINWALL

SEUNG E. BAEK

ANDREW R. BARCLAY

BENJAMIN C. BEHRENDT

TIMOTHY E. BOWSER

BRANDON R. BOYLES

MICHAEL B. COATS

JACOB J. CORN

JAMES R. DAMUDE

CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS

DAVID L. DAVIS

JOHN M. DAVIS

STEVEN H. DELANEY, JR.

BYRON L. DENMAN

DAVID M. DODSON

HOMER S. EDWARDS

JOSEPH A. EFFIONG

TALON Z. ERICKSON

CHARLES ESTANOL