

be done. In the aftermath of the reconciliation bill, we are hearing similar stories from our constituents and that we need to fix especially the ACA premium support so that people do not lose health insurance, and we also need to fix some of the Medicaid cuts that caused the concerns that I expressed from these seven individuals.

My visit around Virginia in August sort of made me see this healthcare concern as sort of a spectrum. When you make cuts to Medicaid or to these premiums, five different things happen:

People lose health insurance.

Those who retain health insurance see their premiums go up often because the folks without insurance go to the emergency rooms. That is more expensive care. It has to be paid for, and that tends to assist in driving up the premium cost of those who retain insurance.

Third, as I have indicated has already happened in Virginia, providers close. And when providers close, there is a fourth effect, which is people lose their jobs.

Then the fifth effect is one that I think we should talk about as well. It is not just people losing health insurance and having their premiums go up and seeing their providers close and seeing healthcare professionals lose their jobs; there is a fifth effect.

I was a mayor, and I was a Governor. I did a lot of economic development work in Virginia. I know that one of the things that businesses really care about, if they are looking for places to locate or expand, is what is the local availability of healthcare? It is really difficult to be in a community and try to pitch an economic development project but have the question asked: "Tell us about your hospital. Tell us about your healthcare network" and to explain that "we had a hospital, but it closed. We have had healthcare clinics that closed." That makes it very, very difficult.

This fifth effect is an economic effect. The decline in healthcare clinics and hospitals, actually, is sort of like a theft of a community's future because it makes it very difficult to get people to come.

That is why I think the Democratic proposal is a solid one. And I do recognize that in the aftermath of the passage of the reconciliation bill, many Republican colleagues—both in this Chamber and the House—have said that it is important to come back and fix particularly the expiration of the ACA premium tax subsidies. I think that would be a very smart thing for us all to do.

Finally, there is a second reason I really like the Democratic proposal, and it is this: A deal should be a deal. The Democratic proposal has some components in it that would ensure that when Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate reach a deal that goes to the President's desk and he signs it, that the President then can't immediately take the money away unilaterally.

I think everybody around my Commonwealth—Democrat, Republican, Independent, or the vast majority who don't really care that much about politics—they get that a deal should be a deal. When you negotiate and you shake hands, a deal should be a deal.

This actually is related to healthcare as well. In last year's budget, we had a deal about spending on healthcare priorities. Early in this administration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., announced that he was clawing back billions of dollars of healthcare funding. To Virginia, it was \$400 million—\$400 million of healthcare funding that we had planned on using during the worst increase in measles, for example, in recent years. It got clawed back from Virginia, and 500 workers and contractors lost their jobs as we were trying to deal with measles and other health epidemics.

I have communities in Virginia that had had economic development projects announced, and they were counting on them for their future. Often, the announcements were attended with great fanfare by our Governor—Governor Youngkin, who is a Republican, who believed these economic deals were a good thing. They were reliant on funding from the Inflation Reduction Act or from the CHIPS manufacturing bill, but those funds, in many instances, have been clawed back.

A deal should be a deal. When we reach a deal, it should be honored so that communities do not plan for healthcare workers, do not plan for economic development projects and feel the rug pulled out from under them.

So those two features of the Democratic proposal: fixing some of the healthcare cuts in the reconciliation bill that, even by many Republicans' accounts, have gone too far; that have already led to closures of clinics in Virginia and great anxiety among individuals.

We can fix those, and we can establish a principle that should be one that we would all agree on that a deal should be a deal.

I hope as we grapple with the two proposals on the table, neither of which we were able to get 60 votes and be passed, we can take some of the wisdom in these Democratic proposals that would serve Democrats, Republicans, and Independents all over this country and make sure that we include them going forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to con-

sider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 433 through Calendar No. 437, Calendar No. 438, with the exception of Brig. Gen. Gary R. Charlton, II, Calendar Nos. 439 through 447, and Calendar No. 449 and Calendar No. 450, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk, with the exception of PN89; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 154:

To be general

Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Sara A. Stigler

Col. Robert B. Taylor

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Joshua D. Armstrong

Col. Ryan D. Ayers

Col. Gavin M. Batchelder

Col. Jesse R. Carlson

Col. Travis J. Crawford

Col. Ryan F. Dannemann

Col. Joseph P. Geaney

Col. David L. Halasi-Kun

Col. Chad E. Holesko

Col. Ameer C. Howard

Col. Jared P. Kennish, Jr.

Col. Carol J. Kohtz

Col. Matthew S. Komatsu

Col. Brock E. Lange

Col. Jeremy C. Phillips

Col. Derek B. Routt

Col. Denise K. Sweeney

Col. Natasha S. Taylor

Col. Eric A. Underhill

Col. Bart T. Van Roo

Col. Leah V. Voelker

Col. Sheldon B. Wilson

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Lynn M. Lee

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Daniel M. Fesler

Brig. Gen. Robert E. Hargens
 Brig. Gen. Troy D. Havener
 Brig. Gen. Patrick L. Lanaghan
 Brig. Gen. William M. Leahy
 Brig. Gen. Allison C. Miller
 Brig. Gen. Mark R. Morrell
 Brig. Gen. Joseph F. Morrissey, Jr.
 Brig. Gen. James R. Parry
 Brig. Gen. Carla R. Riner
 Brig. Gen. Stephanie S. Samenus

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. James D. Cleet
 Brig. Gen. Jason W. Knight
 Brig. Gen. Gregory A. Krane

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Blomquist

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Monie R. Ullis

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Humberto Pabon, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Roderick T. Grunwald

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga
 Lt. Gen. Michele H. Bredenkamp
 Maj. Gen. Winston P. Brooks
 Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Hilbert
 Maj. Gen. James M. Smith

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kenyon K. Bell
 Maj. Gen. Robert D. Davis
 Maj. Gen. Brandon D. Parker

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Joseph R. Clearfield
 Maj. Gen. William H. Swan

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the

grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general;

Brig. Gen. John M. Dreska

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Bradford J. Gering

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. George M. Wikoff

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Heidi K. Berg

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN120 AIR FORCE nominations (59) beginning IAN S. ANDERSON, and ending SOMVANG XAYARATH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN382 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning JARED L. BISHOP, and ending ANTHONY V. SANTINO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2025.

PN449 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning AMY C. BROWN, and ending SARAH M. WHEELER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN450 AIR FORCE nominations (18) beginning MARC G. CARNS, and ending DAVID L. WALKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN452 AIR FORCE nominations (18) DONELLA D. BEAULIEU, and ending SARAH M. WHITSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN454 AIR FORCE nominations (317) beginning ALEXANDRA E. ABLES, and ending ALEC J. ZIEMANN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN455 AIR FORCE nominations (54) beginning SEAN T. ADAMS, and ending CARLOS X. ZAMBRANO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN456 AIR FORCE nominations (147) beginning ANSEL V. AIKEN, and ending TAYLOR E. ZURLINDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN477 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning CHRISTOPHER S. MORGAN, and ending DAYLE P. PERCLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN500 AIR FORCE nomination of Harrison E. Payne, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE ARMY

PN392 ARMY nomination of Benjamin A. Bonner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 9, 2025.

PN435 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL R. BARTON, and ending KIRK V. THORSTEINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN457 ARMY nominations (198) beginning STEVEN J. ACKERSON, and ending 0003789078, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN458 ARMY nominations (152) beginning CHARLES M. ABEYAWARDENA, and ending 0003951181, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN459 ARMY nominations (114) beginning JAMES ACEVEDO, and ending SHADRIKA Y. WITHERSPOON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN460 ARMY nominations (14) beginning JAMES D. BROWNE, JR., and ending JOHN C. TOLIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 31, 2025.

PN478 ARMY nominations (2) beginning PETER G. JUETTEN, and ending ROBERT E. MURDOUGH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN480 ARMY nomination of Richard A. Benson, which nominations was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN481 ARMY nominations (2) beginning WILLIAM R. CARY, and ending KYLE S. JASCHEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN482 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ERIC E. ABRAHAMSEN, and ending JEFFREY W. WIESNER, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN483 ARMY nominations (40) beginning JONATHAN W. ANDERSON, and ending 0002254443, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN501 ARMY nominations (98) beginning NATASCHA R. ANDERSON, and ending NATHAN P. ZWINTSCHER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN502 ARMY nomination of Adam C. Eccleston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN503 ARMY nomination of Carsell Walker, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN504 ARMY nomination of Stephen A. Noorlag, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN505 ARMY nomination of Brian M. Gallavan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN506 ARMY nomination of Sharif I. Faruque, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN479-2 MARINE CORPS nomination of Keaton H. Harrell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN484 MARINE CORPS nominations (155) beginning MATTHEW S. ALLEN, and ending ADAM YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

IN THE NAVY

PN436 NAVY nomination of Bryan J. Laroche, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN437 NAVY nomination of Phuong T. Pham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 23, 2025.

PN479-1 NAVY nominations (2) beginning SARA R. DE GROOT, and ending BRIAN KORN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 2, 2025.

PN485 NAVY nominations (45) beginning JOEL ALMANZANUNEZ, and ending DAVID A. WAKEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN486 NAVY nominations (10) beginning BRANDON L. BARKER, and ending GRAHAM D. ZIEMBA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN487 NAVY nominations (26) beginning ERIC J. BLOMBERG, and ending THOMAS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN488 NAVY nominations (203) beginning VIVEK M. ABRAHAM, and ending ARTEMISA A. ZUAZO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN489 NAVY nominations (63) beginning RIAZ M. ALI, and ending WON H. YU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN490 NAVY nominations (159) beginning LEONARD E. ABADAM, and ending KELLYLYNN ZUNI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN491 NAVY nominations (7) beginning HANNAH J. ADDOM-TETTEH, and ending WILLIAM E. OMALLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN492 NAVY nominations (48) beginning BRANDY D. BENNETT, and ending CHEOL YI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN493 NAVY nominations (54) beginning CALEB D. AABERG, and ending DMITRIY YAKUBOV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN494 NAVY nominations (3) beginning WILLIAM J. DEAN, and ending BRENTON W. HEISSERER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN495 NAVY nominations (57) beginning JESSICA L. ABBEY, and ending WILLIAM Z. XU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN496 NAVY nominations (134) beginning CHRISTINA M. ACOSTA, and ending ANYA L. ZAPF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN497 NAVY nominations (67) beginning ABRAHAM D. AGUS, and ending DAVID ZHU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 3, 2025.

PN507 NAVY nominations (28) beginning ADAM E. BAYER, and ending ZACHARY B. ZUMWALT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN508 NAVY nominations (33) beginning DAMIAN R. ALLEN, and ending MICHAEL S. YEARY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN509 NAVY nominations (121) beginning TEDDY G. AJERO, JR., and ending KENNETH E. ZITNIK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN510 NAVY nominations (35) beginning AMY T. ALFARO, and ending JEREMY P. WADE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN511 NAVY nominations (53) beginning ALEXANDER ALBA, and ending SOBONDO J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN512 NAVY nominations (23) beginning ZACHARY P. BRANCH, and ending SHARLENA Y. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN513 NAVY nominations (65) beginning KARA L. BALLAS, and ending JUSTIN K. WOOLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN514 NAVY nominations (45) beginning ADAM M. ALLEMAN, and ending ROSANNE M. WITT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN515 NAVY nomination of Scott A. Metcalf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

PN516 NAVY nominations (2) beginning JOHAN BAIK, and ending BRETT K. CARTWRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 4, 2025.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN426 SPACE FORCE nominations (98) beginning MICHAEL D. ALBERT, and ending RICK H. YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN427 SPACE FORCE nominations (115) beginning ROSALINDA M. ALFARO, and ending WILLIE A. YOUNGBLOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN428 SPACE FORCE nominations (59) beginning BRIAN G. ALLEN, and ending DAVID C. ZESINGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN429 SPACE FORCE nominations (60) beginning DANIEL N. BANAKOS, and ending JULIUS A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

PN430 SPACE FORCE nominations (53) beginning JOHN M. AGUIRRE, and ending DEREK B. WORTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 21, 2025.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, I support Senator MERKLEY's resolution

calling on the President of the United States to recognize an independent and sovereign State of Palestine, alongside a secure State of Israel. This is a long-held position of the United States, of both Republican and Democratic administrations, which must not be abandoned.

The choice before us is clear: either we embrace the two-state solution or continue to support today's relentless military occupation. This horrible death and destruction in Gaza must stop. That is why the time for two states can be delayed no longer.

Calling for this does not create a state, but rather reinforces the commitment of the two-state solution.

I am deeply committed to a safe, secure, democratic Israel. But this outcome is only possible if there is also an independent, demilitarized, and sovereign Palestinian state.

While the Senate cannot diplomatically recognize an independent Palestine, my colleagues make a reasoned plea in this resolution for President Trump to listen to the American people, to listen to our allies, and to listen to our partners around the world. This step is critical for the peace and security of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

This resolution reinforces the fact that Israel's neighbors want peace. Saudi Arabia has led the entirety of the Arab League in reaffirming that it seeks full normalization and peace with Israel—if and when Israel is willing to recognize that Palestinians deserve what all people deserve: the right to self-determination, sovereignty, freedom, and dignity.

Saudi Arabia and France have also led a multinational initiative this year underlining that the entire Middle East is willing to build a regional security framework that assures the safety of the people of Israel, but Israel must take unequivocal steps toward a Palestinian state.

I urge my colleagues to join us on this timely resolution, which aligns with the objective of nearly 80 years of U.S. policy: two independent states and lasting peace in the Middle East.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5371. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 452. An act to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at