

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 275.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 275, Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, John Cornyn, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Deb Fischer, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Ashley B. Moody, Rick Scott of Florida, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EN BLOC NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 2, S. Res. 412.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 412) authorizing the en bloc consideration in executive session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 2, S. Res. 412, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, Chuck Grassley, Ashley B. Moody, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, John R. Curtis, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Jon Husted.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

STRENGTHENING CHILD EXPLOITATION ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1333 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1333) to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify provisions relating to kidnapping, sexual abuse, and illicit sexual conduct with respect to minors.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1333) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1333

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 "Strengthening Child Exploitation Enforcement Act".

SEC. 2. KIDNAPPING; SEXUAL ABUSE; ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT WITH RESPECT TO MINORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1201—

(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting "obtains by defrauding or deceiving any person," after "abducts,";

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting "obtained by defrauding or deceiving any person," after "abducted,"; and

(C) in subsection (g), by adding at the end the following:

"(2) DEFENSE.—For an offense described in this subsection involving a victim who has not attained the age of 16 years, it is not a defense that the victim consented to the conduct of the offender, unless the offender can establish by a preponderance of the evidence

that the offender reasonably believed that the victim had attained the age of 16 years.";

(2) in chapter 109A—

(A) in section 2241(c), by striking "crosses a State line" and inserting "travels in interstate or foreign commerce";

(B) in section 2242(3), by striking "to include doing so" and inserting "or";

(C) in section 2243, by adding at the end the following:

"(f) INTENTIONAL TOUCHING INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE AGE OF 16.—

"(1) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful, in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States or in a Federal prison, or in any prison, institution, or facility in which persons are held in custody by direction of or pursuant to a contract or agreement with the head of any Federal department or agency, to knowingly cause the intentional touching, not through the clothing, of the genitalia of any person by a person who has not attained the age of 16 years, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person, or attempt to do so, if to do so would violate subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section, section 2241, or section 2242 had such intentional touching been a sexual act.

"(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned as provided in the applicable provision of law described in that paragraph, or both."; and

(D) in section 2244—

(i) in subsection (a)—

(I) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as subparagraphs (A) through (F), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(II) by striking "Whoever" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Whoever";

(III) in paragraph (1), as so designated—

(aa) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking "if so to do" and inserting "if to do so";

(bb) in subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking "ten" and inserting "10";

(cc) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking "three" and inserting "3";

(dd) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking "two" and inserting "2";

(ee) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by striking "two" and inserting "2"; and

(ff) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) ATTEMPT.—Whoever attempts to commit an offense under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the same penalty as for a completed offense.";

(ii) in subsection (b)—

(I) by inserting "or causes" after "engages in";

(II) by inserting "or by" after "sexual contact with";

(III) by inserting "or attempts to do so," after "other person's permission"; and

(IV) by striking "two" and inserting "2"; and

(iii) in subsection (c), by striking "If the sexual contact that violates this section (other than subsection (a)(5)) is with an individual" and inserting "If the sexual contact or attempted sexual contact that a person engages in or causes in violation of this section (other than subsection (a)(1)(E)) is with or by an individual"; and

(3) in section 2423(g)(1)—

(A) by striking "a sexual act (as defined in section 2246) with" and inserting "any conduct involving"; and

(B) by striking "sexual act occurred" and inserting "conduct occurred".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment to section 2241(c) of title 18, United States Code, made by subsection (a) shall apply to conduct that occurred before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO ABUSIVE SEXUAL CONTACT.

(a) PENALTIES FOR CIVIL RIGHTS OFFENSES INVOLVING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT.—Section 250(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 2244(a)(5),” and inserting “section 2244(a)(1)(E), or an attempt to engage in or cause such contact as prohibited by section 2244(a)(2),”;

(2) in paragraph (4), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (a)(1) or (b) of section 2244, but excluding abusive sexual contact through the clothing,” and inserting “section 2244(a)(1)(A), an attempt to engage in or cause such contact as prohibited by section 2244(a)(2), or abusive sexual contact of the type prohibited by section 2244(b), but excluding abusive sexual contact through the clothing or an attempt to engage in or cause such contact”;

(3) in paragraph (5), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “section 2244(a)(2)” and inserting “section 2244(a)(1)(B) or an attempt to engage in or cause such contact as prohibited by section 2244(a)(2)”;

(4) in paragraph (6), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (a)(3), (a)(4), or (b) of section 2244” and inserting “subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 2244(a)(1), an attempt to engage in or cause such contact as prohibited by section 2244(a)(2), or abusive sexual contact of the type prohibited by section 2244(b)”.

(b) SENTENCING CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES.—Section 3559 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)(F)(i), by striking “sections 2244(a)(1) and (a)(2)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 2244(a)(1)”;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by striking “2244(a)(1)” and inserting “2244(a)(1)(A)”.

Passed the Senate September 29, 2025.

IMPROVING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2144 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2144) to improve the safety and security of Members of Congress, immediate family members of Members of Congress, and congressional staff.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the Klobuchar substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third

time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 3916), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The bill (S. 2144), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 418.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 418) expressing support for the designation of the week of September 20 through September 27, 2025, as “National Estuaries Week”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 418) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 19 (legislative day, September 16), 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2025, AS “NATIONAL CONCUSSION AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 420, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 420) supporting the designation of September 19, 2025, as “National Concussion Awareness Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered

made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 420) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:38 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND 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., SECTIONS 601 AND 903:

To be general

GEN. KENNETH S. WILSBACH

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

LT. GEN. JASON T. HINDS
MAJ. GEN. JASON R. ARMAGOST
MAJ. GEN. CLARK J. QUINN
MAJ. GEN. DAVID B. LYONS
MAJ. GEN. DANIEL H. TULLEY
MAJ. GEN. JENNIFER HAMMERSTEDT

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE 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. DENNIS O. BYTHEWOOD

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 brigadier general

COL. JAMIE A. PIEPER