

But in any case, here is a poll from Morning Consult today: 75 percent of Americans support extending the tax premium credits; 63 percent of Republicans support it. Forty-five percent of voters say they will blame Republicans in Congress for a government shutdown, and only 32 percent blame Democrats.

It is natural that people understand that Donald Trump and the Republicans want a shutdown and Democrats do not.

We need to deal with this healthcare crisis now, not later, but the Republican bill fails to do that. I urge my Republican colleagues instead to join with us and work in good faith to keep the government open, keep costs down.

This is a totally partisan bill. Not once were we approached about what our input should be. When I was majority leader, 13 different times, we passed CRs. Why? Because every single one of those 13 times we negotiated with Republicans to keep the government open. We still want to have those negotiations today.

Democrats remain ready to get to work to negotiate a bipartisan agreement—a truly bipartisan agreement—to keep the government open, but we need to fix our healthcare system now. We need to stop premiums from going up dramatically. We need to be on the side of the American people because they are on our side in terms of getting this healthcare crisis fixed—one created by the so-called Big Beautiful Bill, which they now want to change the name of because they know it is so unpopular. In fact, Republican leaders are saying “Don’t talk about healthcare” because they know that we are on their side and Republicans are not.

The issue can’t wait. It must be dealt with now, not November, when it will be too late. The Republican CR is silent on healthcare and the wrong option for the country. It is as simple as that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. We are down to the wire here. In just a moment, the Senate will vote on whether or not to keep the government open.

Right here—24 pages. Not partisan. Not complicated. Simple. Straightforward. Clean. Nonpartisan. Short term. Until November 21 so we can finish the appropriations process—something, I might add, that never happened when the Democrats were in the majority.

Last year, we never considered an appropriations bills on the floor even though 11 of them were reported out of the Appropriations Committee—not a single one on the floor.

We want to fund the government to give our appropriators, Democrat and Republican, a chance to work on bills that have been coming out of the Appropriations Committee with big bipartisan margins—a pretty novel concept, right?

Well, in just a moment, we are going to vote on whether to keep the government open, and all indications are the Democrats are going to reject the clean, nonpartisan funding extension here before us and choose to shut the government down.

Now, my friend the Democrat leader and a number of other Democrats have spoken at length on many occasions about the pain—the pain—that government shutdowns cause Americans. Since he mentioned it, I will show this poll. This is a poll right here, the New York Times.

By the way, this morning, the Democrat leader used one of my other charts. Thank you for doing that. It makes my point. I am guessing he—do you want to use this one? Maybe not.

But this one is the New York Times, and based on the questions on views on whether Democrats should or should not shut down the government if demands are not met, 65 percent, should not; 27 percent, should.

Now, granted—I mean, I don’t think the issue here is who gets the blame, who gets the political blame. That is not what this should be about. This issue, honestly, folks, is about the American people.

But a lot of Democrats, a lot of Republicans, and a lot of Independents want us to keep the government open, so why are the Democrats doing this?

As was mentioned, 13 times when they had the majority, we did short-term continuing resolutions. Republicans delivered and voted with Democrats to fund the government.

Well, I know why we are doing this. The Democrats’ far-left base said “Jump,” and the Democrat leader said “How high?” But the far left’s determination to oppose anything President Trump has ever said or done is not a good reason for subjecting the American people to the pain of a government shutdown.

So I would say to my Democrat colleagues who still care more about their constituents than the dictates of far-left interest groups: Think about what you are doing. Democrat leaders may be determined to take government funding hostage for their own partisan purposes. You don’t have to join them. We can pass a clean, nonpartisan bill and get back to the business of the American people.

#### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote on passage of H.R. 5371.

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

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote on passage of H.R. 5371.

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

#### VOTE ON H.R. 5371, UPON RECONSIDERATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Shall the bill pass, upon reconsideration?

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 535 Leg.]

#### YEAS—55

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeben	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	King	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	McCormick	
Fetterman	Moody	

#### NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Schumer
Booker	Lujan	Shaheen
Cantwell	Markey	Slotkin
Coons	Merkley	Smith
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Galleo	Ossoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Paul	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, and the nays are 45.

The 60-vote threshold having not been achieved, the bill, upon reconsideration, is not passed.

The bill (H.R. 5371) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, we for a second time failed to pass a continuing resolution to allow the Federal Government to continue to operate. It is because we are coming to the end of the fiscal year. Not all the appropriations bills have been approved, though most all of them have been approved by the Senate Committee on Appropriations. In fact, three have been passed by the Senate.

This makes no sense to me. This is not a shutdown that makes any sense at all. The American people, Kansans, deserve something different from the U.S. Senate.

Every city council or commission, every school board, every local government office in my State passes a budget and then lives within that budget every year. Every local unit of government can figure this out, and the U.S. Senate is failing one more time.

A shutdown means uncertainty. A shutdown means dysfunction. The issue to me is this continuing resolution that would fund the Federal Government until November 21—a short period of time—is designed to avoid that dysfunction, to avoid that uncertainty. All that is required is that we pass the continuing resolution, 60 votes in the U.S. Senate, to keep the government functioning so—and this is the reason it makes no sense to me—so that we can pass the remaining appropriations bills, all but one of which have been passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and most in a bipartisan manner. For whatever purpose and for whatever reason, that seems beyond our capability.

I understand there are those who wish to bring other issues to this bill. Could we do one thing at a time, and when that one thing is as important as this continuing resolution, to do it now? to do it yesterday? to do it tomorrow?

We can't pass a continuing resolution because there are those who want to bring other issues into the bill. Could those other issues not be considered at a later time?

It seems to me that appropriating, passing appropriations bills, keeping the Federal Government functioning, is one of the primary necessities and responsibilities of the Congress of the United States. This is simple and straightforward. Give us a few more weeks to process the remaining appropriations bills, and the government continues to function while we do so.

A continuing resolution, particularly long term, is a crazy thing because it says we are going to fund the Federal Government at the same level, in the same way that we did last year. And if it is multiple years of continuing resolutions, the same way we funded the government the year before that. Does anyone believe that the priorities of this country are identical to last year? Does anybody believe that they are identical to 2 years ago? Aren't there things that deserve a higher priority? Aren't there things that deserve no money? Aren't there things that deserve less money or maybe even the same?

A long-term continuing resolution is a crazy idea, but the short-term resolution that we are dealing with now is a necessary solution. It is necessary because we can pass the appropriations bills and avoid a long-term CR. And we just need the time to do it.

So pass a short-term continuing resolution, do it, take up the appropriations bills as this majority leader has promised to do—and this majority leader has demonstrated he is willing to do it—is a straightforward solution. Give us a little more time—a few more weeks—immediately begin the consideration of the appropriations bills that have been reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and at the end of that period of time, we won't need a continuing resolution. We will have done our task.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas. And at the risk of getting him into political trouble, I am a huge fan of his, but I want to address the question that he asked, which I think is a legitimate one, which is: What is the hurry on the Affordable Care Act premiums?

There is a really straightforward answer, which is that people are getting letters tomorrow from their insurance carriers. Around 24 million people are going to get letters anytime from now until mid-November, and they are going to pay. Now, 24 million Americans are going to be told that because of the last tax bill that was just enacted by Trump and the Republicans, people are going to be paying an average of 114 percent more per person per month.

It is not like we just went into a lab and cooked up an issue to try to hijack some unrelated moving legislative vehicle. The reason for this is that 24 million Americans are specifically on the ACA exchange, and they are absolutely going to get hosed. And because we are all in the same risk pool, it is not just people on the ACA exchange that are going to see massive increases in their healthcare premiums; almost every American is about to see a spike in their healthcare premiums, just like they have seen electricity rates going up at double the rate of inflation, just like they have seen the price of vegetables go up by 39 percent, just like they have seen shortages of lumber and labor.

We have an opportunity to do something because our Republican colleagues—at least some of them—understand the magnitude of this problem for their constituents. So the normal thing to do in a functioning legislative body, where the President of the United States does not believe that he is an elected Monarch, is to try to negotiate some accommodation. After all, these are all of our constituents. It is not like they are exclusively in urban areas or something. They are not exclusively Democrats. In fact, there are slightly more Republicans than Democrats on the ACA exchange.

So if this were a normal functioning time in American-style democracy, the President of the United States would convene what they call the four corners—majority and minority leaders of the Senate; Speaker and minority leader of the House—and we would try to figure out whether there was an accommodation to be made to save our collective constituents from all this pain.

When Democrats had the trifecta—when Democrats had the House and the Senate and the Presidency—we didn't have any shutdowns. It wasn't because there is more good will on the Republican side toward continuing resolutions than there is on the Democratic side toward continuing resolutions. The reason is because CHUCK SCHUMER

and NANCY PELOSI sat down with MITCH MCCONNELL and KEVIN MCCARTHY—or whomever it was—and the President, and they figured out a deal. Even to raise the debt ceiling, KEVIN MCCARTHY said: Not for free.

So this idea that the minority party, only this minority party, only in this time in the U.S. Senate history—we are to shut up and do whatever we are told. What is worse is they are asking the majority party to do the same thing.

This President believes that he is a Monarch. This President finds the legislative branch to be a nuisance. And you know what? The legislative branch is a nuisance. That is the architecture of the Constitution of the United States. We are supposed to be in a struggle with each other. We are supposed to argue and fight. And then we are supposed to come to an accommodation.

But we can't come to an accommodation until there is a meeting. So we are going to be here fighting for healthcare, and we are also going to be here fighting to reopen the government. If the clock strikes midnight and we are not able to avert this shutdown, then we are going to be here, ready to deal.

We understand we are not going to get everything we want. We understand we are in the minority. We understand we are out of power. But understand this: We are not powerless. We still represent, pessimistically, 47 percent of the—certainly, 47 percent of the Senate seats. But something like half the country wants us to represent their point of view. And the point of view that we are representing, by the way, is shared by most of the constituents who are represented by Republicans too.

And so there is still a pathway, but it has to be pursued. So the onus is on the President of the United States and the majority leader and the Speaker to find that pathway.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, we are just a few hours away from the start of a government shutdown that could have been prevented by Washington Republicans just talking to us, but Donald Trump and Washington Republicans chose to, once again, put politics ahead of the American people. They won't come and talk to us.

After slashing Medicaid and taking healthcare away from families who need it the most, Donald Trump and Washington Republicans are now shutting down the government because they refuse to come to the table, they refuse to have a conversation, and they refuse to work in a bipartisan way to stop a massive spike in healthcare costs for hard-working families—for all of you. And that is it. That is it. This is why Trump is about to shut down the entire Federal Government.

You know, my dad often said: If you don't have your health, you don't have

anything. And it is clear that Donald Trump and Washington Republicans want you to have nothing—nothing—because they are doing everything they can to take away healthcare from as many Americans as possible. And for every American, everyone out there: Your healthcare premiums are about to double—about to double—for everybody, across the board.

So while Republicans, those folks here in Washington, fight for billions, Democrats are here fighting for you—for your healthcare, for your ability to see a doctor, to see a doctor and get your prescriptions without breaking the bank.

In my State of Nevada, over 110,000 Nevadans get their healthcare coverage through the Affordable Care Act's marketplace. We know it as Nevada Health Link. Nearly 95,000 of those families are able to afford their premiums using Nevada Health Link thanks to what we call the enhanced premium tax credits.

So I want to be clear because there is a lot of misunderstanding here. It is not a handout. It isn't welfare. It is just a tax break that helps lower the costs for nearly 95,000 Nevadans so they can afford to buy an insurance policy, so they can go to the doctor when they are sick and have a copay and go to the pharmacy to get their medication for a copay, so they can just afford their insurance. And we are talking about hard-working families, small business owners, and workers who don't get healthcare through their jobs—so many of them.

And these enhanced tax credits, they are about to expire. They are about to expire this year. And if Congress fails to act, healthcare costs across the board will double for everyone—everyone. So when premium costs go up, many families won't be able to afford it any longer, meaning they will lose their care. And for the ones who can afford it, their deductible is going to be so high they are never going to meet it, and they are still going to be paying out of pocket in ways they can't afford.

You know, more than 38,000 people in my State alone are probably going to lose their coverage right away, all because Washington Republicans just refuse to extend this tax credit allowing them to purchase their own insurance.

Families, sadly, are going to be forced to make impossible choices. They will be forced to delay care. They will skip doctor visits. They will cut their medications in half. They will cut those pills or give themselves half a shot of insulin to make ends meet. These choices are real. They are real for these families, and sometimes they have tragic consequences.

Since the beginning of this year, Democrats have been trying to work in good faith with Washington Republicans to extend these ACA enhanced premium tax credits and protect Americans' healthcare coverage. We have even introduced bills to extend the tax credits. We have tried to pass them

right here on the floor. And at every turn, Washington Republicans have refused. They have refused to hear your voice, refused to listen to you.

My phone is ringing off the hook about people scared to death about losing their health insurance. And earlier today, when given an opportunity to keep the government open and extend the credits, every Republican voted no.

Instead of working with Democrats to keep healthcare affordable, Washington Republicans are holding the government and the American people's health hostage to score political points.

So I am going to be clear here. We will not be bullied by Donald Trump, and we will not be bullied by Washington Republicans into sacrificing your healthcare—the healthcare of American families, of our children, of our seniors, of our friends and neighbors—not now, not ever. Trump can't bully us into taking away your healthcare.

Nevadans sent me here to fight for them, not to cave and let Washington Republicans and Donald Trump take away your ability to go to the doctor and get your medication.

Everyone—everyone—should have access to affordable, quality care. Healthcare is not a bargaining chip. It is not a political weapon. It is a lifeline. And Washington Republicans have the power—they have the power—to prevent this shutdown today. Just come and talk with us.

So I urge them to do their jobs: Come to the table. Have a discussion. Have a negotiation. Extend the ACA premium tax credits. Put people over politics. The time is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, my thoughts tonight are with the millions of Americans who will bear the brunt of this shutdown: the families in the path of hurricanes who will go without the services of FEMA, the veterans who will lack many of the helping hands in the VA, the recipients of Social Security who will be unable to verify their cards or perhaps receive payments that they have been denied, and others—millions of other Americans—who unnecessarily will be hurt, perhaps people who depend on the social safety net that we have established and may be torn by this shutdown.

And I am thinking about the millions of Americans—about 24 million in total, 139,000 in Connecticut alone—who will be notified that they can buy health insurance as a result of open enrollment, but what they lack in information is whether or not that health insurance will be affordable because they have no way of knowing whether it will extend beyond the end of the year, those subsidies that are so essential to their affording healthcare.

And our Republican colleagues—we just heard the Senator from Kansas say there is no hurry. Well, Americans

can't get sick on Donald Trump's timetable. When people are told there is no hurry, if you get sick, for medical care, that sounds cruel because it is cruel. And it is stupid. People who go without health insurance may lack the healthcare that can save costs of preventing more serious illness, and those costs eventually are borne by all of us. So this misguided denial of the certainty people need that healthcare insurance subsidies will be extended beyond the end of the year really affects all of us. Premiums are rising already for all of us by 18 percent this year alone because the healthiest people are deciding they are not going to buy health insurance, and insurance companies are predicting they will have to increase their costs to cover the sicker people who will buy the health insurance because they need it.

But the simple fact is, nobody is invincible. All of us need healthcare. And the Affordable Care Act recognizes that healthcare in America, aspirationally, should be a human right. And our failure to provide it to those millions of Americans who will find healthcare insurance unaffordable is unacceptable, and that is why we are taking this stand and why America can't wait for Donald Trump to tell them that they are sick enough now to be given this subsidy, which they deserve.

I am here to urge my Republican colleagues to stop rolling over for Donald Trump. Their constituents, as well as ours, are affected by this delay in providing affordable health insurance. For months we have been calling attention to the need to act now, and this shutdown was avoidable. The path to stopping it was available. And shortening it, assuming it will occur, is still a possibility, if we come together, if Republicans are willing to negotiate, if they come back to town. House Republicans are out of town. They are out of touch with reality. The way forward is simply bipartisan negotiations, coming together, reaching a solution, as is the way shutdowns have been avoided in the past.

The fact is that Donald Trump's so-called Big Beautiful Bill—actually a big, blatant betrayal—along with inaction and avoidance by Republicans, is already wreaking havoc on America. In Connecticut, health insurance rates for 2026 have increased by nearly 18 percent, the largest increase in the last 6 years. Without the subsidies, consumers with ACA coverage will see premium increases in the range of 75 percent.

I have visited with hospitals, community health centers, physicians, and many more who have raised their deep concerns about the impending cuts in Medicaid.

The budget bill Republicans passed in July is also threatening Medicaid coverage for 158,000 Connecticut residents. Anyone lucky enough to keep their coverage will see reduced benefits as the State struggles to make up the difference in lost Federal revenue.

Americans and our healthcare system simply can't afford to be nickel-and-dimed like Republicans are forcing them to do. The ACA premium tax credits have protected millions of Americans from higher healthcare costs, they have reduced the number without healthcare insurance, and they have provided robust choices for consumers and provided stability for healthcare providers, particularly in rural areas, and there are rural areas affected in Connecticut.

In addition to the impending cuts in Medicaid, Republicans are refusing to extend these subsidies. It is cruel. It is unnecessary. It is dumb.

So I am here to advocate for the 139,000 Connecticut residents who depend on these credits and the 24 million Americans who are making decisions about healthcare insurance coverage right now at their kitchen tables, in their living rooms, in their homes.

It should not be a partisan issue. At the end of the day, it is a choice: Do we choose a highly successful solution that has reduced healthcare costs for the whole Nation or do we allow the clock to run out and raise healthcare costs for families in every State in this country?

That choice can still be made in the next 24 hours, in the next 2 days, to shorten and lessen the pain that will be felt by Americans.

I choose to stand with working families. I will fight, and we are unified in our fight. As a matter of conscience and conviction, we will not be bullied.

Donald Trump should know that we will stand strong for working families in America. They deserve healthcare. It is about saving healthcare and holding Donald Trump accountable to follow the law. When there is a budget, when it is passed by Congress and signed by the President, he cannot be allowed to simply ride roughshod over it and disregard it.

It is the rule of law and healthcare that are at stake here. I will fight for it.

I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. 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.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-88, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$705 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN  
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).  
Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-88

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.  
(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \* \$605 million.  
Other \$100 million.  
Total \$705 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Forty-eight (48) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)

Non-Major Defense Equipment:  
The following non-MDE items will also be included: M1084A2 HIMARS resupply vehicles; M1095 trailers; Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; intercom systems; radio and communication mounts; spares parts and services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AT-B-UOU).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-B-UNP, AT-B-UMJ, AT-B-UMK.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 30, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems

The Government of Australia has requested to buy forty-eight (48) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS). The following non-MDE items will also be included: M1084A2 HIMARS resupply vehicles; M1095 trailers; Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR)

pods; intercom systems; radio and communication mounts; spare parts and services; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$705 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States. Australia is one of the United States' most important allies in the Western Pacific. The strategic location of this political and economic power contributes significantly to ensuring peace and economic stability in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist this ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

The proposed sale will improve Australia's capability to meet current and future threats, and will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and other allied forces. Australia will use the capability to strengthen its homeland defense and provide greater security for its critical infrastructure. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin, located in Grand Prairie, TX; L3Harris Corporation, located in Melbourne, FL; Leonardo DRS, located in Arlington, VA; and Oshkosh Corporation, located in Stafford, VA. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-88

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:  
1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher with Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning Service capability mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV) truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM), including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) variants and the Army Tactical Missile System. Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with GPS-aided precision accuracy.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Australia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.