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No. 161

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 3, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025

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.

As the shutdown begins today, we turn our eyes to You, eternal God. You have been our help in ages past, our hope for the years to come. We borrow our heartbeats from You. Because of You, we live and move and breathe and have our being. Be merciful to us, O God, because of Your constant love, because of Your great mercy.

During this time of legislative stalemate, help our lawmakers to test all things by their own consciences, seeking to do right as You give them the ability to see it. In these best and worst of times, strengthen our weakness, replacing doubt with faith and fear with courage.

We pray in Your awesome 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. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2296, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A 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.

Pending:

Wicker-Reed amendment modified No. 3748, in the nature of a substitute.

Wicker (for Ernst) amendment No. 3427 (to amendment No. 3748), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on casualty assistance and long-term care programs.

Thune amendment No. 3863 (to amendment No. 3427), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3864 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3748), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3865 (to amendment No. 3864), relating to the enactment date.

Motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Thune amendment No. 3866, relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3867 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3866), relating to the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 3868 (to amendment No. 3867), relating to the enactment date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The great Senator from Iowa.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 2 days ago, I spoke about the potential shutdown of government. I am going to repeat what I said then, but the shutdown of government is now a fact. I said it costs money to shut the government down; it costs money to open the government up.

The government is supposed to be a service to the American people, protect the American people, and you can't do either if the government is not functioning.

You heard the Chaplain speaking about prayer and the government shutdown. Prayer is in order for almost anything, but if common sense would prevail here in the U.S. Senate, 100 Senators would take care of this issue with or without prayer. On the other hand, if people want to pray for the opening of government and the serving of people, that is perfectly appropriate, and, hopefully, it works.

But all 100 of us Senators ought to be ashamed that the government is in shutdown. It affects the United States. Each of our staffs will not be paid during this period of time, and I will bet each Senator will expect their staffs to be on duty since the Senate is going to be in session. We should think about the people we are hurting.

Particularly, Democrats who want to speak, seem to speak more for Federal workers now on furlough, not being paid, ought to think about their support for them that is voiced almost

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



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every day and the harm that will come because this is the Democrat shutting down the government.

Thirteen times during the Biden administration, they voted for a clean continuing resolution, and this is exactly what we are asking they vote for this time.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Mr. President, I come to the floor, once again, to speak about the agricultural economy and trade and tariffs in this particular instance today.

You have heard me talk about the high input costs that farmers are facing. I concluded my remarks 2 days ago by saying farmers need immediate relief. This is especially true if it is the Federal Government's action that has caused the economic hardships. I am going to speak about some of that Federal Government action.

It happens that fertilizer is one of the largest expenses in growing crops. Most fertilizers used in the United States are imported. The tariffs on fertilizers have sent shock waves throughout the supply chains. Most often, those waves come crashing down on the farmers who bear the brunt of the increased cost of fertilizers.

Tariffs not only cause farmers to pay more for their inputs, but they also have seen tariffs reduce markets for U.S. farm products.

Last week, when the Argentinians reduced export tariffs, they sold \$7 billion worth of soybeans in just a few days to China. It happens that China has not bought a single one of American soybeans this year, and that is why farmers are losing \$2 a bushel on soybeans.

Taking away tariffs on ag inputs and striking meaningful deals to open markets would send immediate signals to the ag economy, helping farmers' bottom lines.

Yesterday, former Senator David Perdue, now Ambassador to China, visited the U.S. Senate, and I had the opportunity to express my views about the situation with China not buying soybeans. He says he hears it; that it is the No. 1 issue when it comes to talking about trade negotiations with China.

He also mentioned something that I think I need to bring to our attention because it is something that China promised to do in 2019. It was something that Trump, in his first term, negotiated with China; that they had to buy a certain amount of agricultural products from the United States. During the period of time that Trump was President, they filled about two-thirds of that agreement. But the Biden administration came into power and didn't follow up on the enforcement of that 2019 Trump agreement with China to buy agricultural products.

So besides hoping that Trump makes a quick deal with China, settles our trade disputes so they will buy soybeans, I hope that maybe President Trump today can follow up on the shortcomings of the Biden administra-

tion not enforcing that 2019 agreement with China.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative 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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today is October 1, the first full day of Donald Trump's government shutdown. Donald Trump and Republicans have barreled us into a shutdown because they refuse to protect Americans' healthcare.

It is clear that the way out of this shutdown is to sit down and negotiate with Democrats, to address the looming healthcare crisis that faces tens of millions of American families. Democrats want to avert this crisis, but Republicans tried to bully us, and it is clear they can't. They don't have the votes. The way out of this is for Republicans to finally roll up their sleeves and get to work. Republicans need to get serious and start actually addressing the looming crisis and reopen the government.

Now, why has all of this happened? Why are we here on October 1? Because Republicans have tried to stick us with a partisan CR that fails to protect Americans' healthcare and does nothing—nothing—to fix the healthcare mess that they created. It has now failed twice to get enough votes in this Chamber. So Republicans need to negotiate with us, and Speaker Johnson has to get his people here. If anyone wanted evidence as to who wanted this shutdown, just look at the fact that Johnson does not even have the House in session.

When Democrats had the White House, the Senate, and the House, when Democrats had the majority in this Chamber, when I was majority leader, we never had one shutdown in 4 years—not one. Do you know why? Because we worked with our Republican colleagues to find a way to keep the government funded. We did this 13 times, as Leader Thune likes to remind everyone. That is a lot of bipartisan negotiation—but not this time, not so today. Republicans need to negotiate.

Today is October 1, and that means something else is happening today. Americans throughout the country are opening their mailboxes and finding letters in there telling them that their health insurance is about to go away, way, way up. The other day, we thought it was about \$400 a month that the average American family would pay more in insurance premiums, but it turns out it is even worse than that. The Kaiser report—the nonpartisan, well-respected Kaiser report—from yes-

terday, says it is an average of \$1,000 a month and, God forbid, even much more for so many Americans. Healthcare premiums, because of what the Republicans have done, are going up 114 percent a year, on average. The average premium is going to more than double.

What is the average American family supposed to do with that? What happens on Friday night when the family sits around the kitchen table and says, "How are we going to pay the bills?" when they see that their insurance could be \$1,000 more a month—health insurance, vital to the parents and to the children of the family. What are they going to do? The average American can't afford \$1,000 a month or even \$400 a month without cutting back on their healthcare or cutting back on something else that is vital.

You know, Americans are saying the No. 1 issue is cost. They now rate Donald Trump worse on costs than they rated Joe Biden, and he didn't have very good ratings. It is the tariffs. It is the change in electricity costs because of what they have done with the cheapest and cleanest source of energy putting electrons on the grid, which is solar. They got rid of it, in their fanatical hatred of clean energy. Now, they are putting money into coal. It is incredible—because of the costs of groceries, of meat.

But the No. 1 increase in cost now, on October 1, is healthcare costs. And the average American is going to say: What the heck happened here? And we Democrats are going to be there every day, every hour—Senate, House, groups that care about healthcare: hospital groups, healthcare groups, research groups—letting them know this didn't have to happen. It happened because our Republican colleagues wanted to give tax breaks to billionaires and cut their healthcare. It is incredible. It is incredible.

Three times we asked our Republican colleagues to extend the ACA tax credit. Three times they voted no. Well, it is not too late. They could change. When I met with the President, he seemed not to know the magnitude of the crisis. He said: Ooh, this is going to hurt me.

Well, it sure will. But it is going to hurt every American.

What is motivating Democrats—what is motivating me—is simply to take this burden off the shoulders of tens of millions of American families who struggle each week to pay the bills, and they don't need this huge increase in something as vital as health insurance.

And the Republicans sort of know this. So what do they do? They make up lies, absolute lies. They say, oh, what they are fighting to do is prevent—they say—illegal immigrants from getting Federal healthcare dollars.

That is a damn lie. Not one dollar of Medicare, Medicaid, or ACA is allowed to go to undocumented immigrants—not a dollar.

So why do they keep saying this? This seems to be their theme. Because they are afraid to talk about the real issues. Typical Republican response: Have a diversion; try to scare people emotionally.

But I will tell you, to the average American family, that \$1,000-a-month increase or that \$400-a-month increase on their healthcare bills means a lot more than political crap put in the air—lies—by our Republican colleagues.

So I was very glad this morning that some of the commentators on TV said that. When they say that undocumented immigrants are going to get this money, it is a lie, plain and simple. It is a lie so lazy and so outlandish that it is easy to rebut. But again, let me be clear: Undocumented people cannot and will not receive premium tax credit by law. The Federal Government does not fund Federal health insurance for undocumented immigrants in Medicaid or Medicare—period, full stop.

So they don't care. Why? Because they know the American people are on our side, and they know they are going to get angrier and angrier starting today, when they see these healthcare bills.

Listen to this poll. The Kaiser Family Foundation poll found a whopping 75 percent of Americans support extending the ACA premium tax credit, including 63 percent of Republicans. When our Republican Senate and House colleagues go around their communities—of course, the House isn't even here this week, as I mentioned—they are going to hear it in the barbershops and in the restaurants and at the diners and at the Little Leagues and at the veterans halls, because it is so shocking, and people are going to be talking about it. They will see.

And we Democrats are going to be there relentlessly, letting people know why it happened: because our Republican colleagues did not want to help us out of this crisis. Instead, they wanted to give the dollars to billionaires.

President Trump calls what the Democrats want radical.

President Trump, it is not radical to say Americans deserve lower healthcare premiums. It is not radical to say we want to prevent the average American family from getting these huge increases—those on ACA—\$1,000 a month.

When Democrats say we want to work with Republicans to lower premiums, to strengthen healthcare, all we are doing is reflecting what the American people already want—nothing more, nothing less. They want us to sit down and negotiate something real that takes this huge, huge burden off their shoulders.

And Donald Trump, instead of acting like an adult—he is the most immature President we have ever had—instead of doing something to stop the healthcare crisis, is threatening to hurt countless hard-working Americans.

Let me repeat the quote Donald Trump said yesterday:

We can do things during the shutdown that are irreversible, that are bad for them and irreversible. Like cutting vast numbers of people out, cutting things that they like, cutting programs that they like.

Donald Trump says it loud and clear; that is one thing about him. He is using the American people as pawns, threatening pain on the country as blackmail.

Well, that is not going to work. For the American people, it is so easy to see through those tactics. They know this is the Trump shutdown. They know Republicans control the Presidency, the Senate, and the House and what is done during a shutdown will fall squarely on Republicans' backs. Donald Trump even says it. He says he is going to close down all these things people want.

It is going to fall right on his back. The American people will know who is doing it, and he is going to have to recoil from it—just as they have done so many cuts already, even before October 1. And they had to back off on many of them, some because of the courts but some because of public outcry, such as the huge cutbacks they made in the VA.

Well, Democrats' position hasn't changed. We are willing, ready, and able to negotiate. We are ready to reopen the government today. We have made our position clear about how to move forward. Surely, we can come together and agree we need to fix healthcare, and that needs to happen now, as people are getting these incredible increases. Within a few weeks, they are going to have to say what new healthcare—if they will even keep their healthcare or have to cut it back or do something else that hurts them because they don't have the money.

If Republicans work with us and fix America's healthcare crisis, the shutdown could go away very quickly. That is what Democrats want—to end this now, fix healthcare now. It is the right thing to do for the American people.

We urge our Republican colleagues and we urge President Trump to take "yes" for an answer.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, here we are. Democrats have bowed to the far-left, and they have shut down the Federal Government. As of this morning, critical Federal employees, including members of the military, Border Patrol agents, and air traffic controllers, are working without pay, and a number of government services are unavailable or at risk.

Democrats are well aware of the damage of a government shutdown. We have heard it from them time and time again. But apparently none of that matters to Democrats today. All that seems to matter is that their far-left base sees them "fighting" against President Trump, and the American people just have to suffer the consequences.

We can end this today. There is a clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution at the desk that has no partisan policy riders, no new Republican policies. It just keeps the government running until November 21. The House passed it. The President is ready to sign it into law. The only thing standing in the way is Senate Democrats, who are demanding \$1.5 trillion in partisan spending to keep the government open for 7 weeks. That is right. They are demanding more than the defense budget in their resolution to keep the government open for 4 weeks. That is not how this works.

We were in the situation 13 times when Democrats had the majority under President Biden, and 13 times, Republicans provided more than enough votes to keep the government open, and that is what needs to happen here.

We are one—just one—Senate rollcall vote away from ending this shutdown. We need a handful of Democrats to join Republicans to reopen the government. Once we do that, then we can talk about the issues that Democrats are raising. We are not going to engage in bipartisan discussions while Democrats are holding the Federal Government hostage to their partisan demands.

This Democrat shutdown is actually delaying progress on the issues that Democrats claim to be interested in. It is also delaying important work on appropriations bills.

Now, I have said throughout this year that my goal is to do appropriations through regular order—regular order—which allows Members of both parties to give voice to their priorities and to help shape appropriations bills.

We have made good progress already this year. Thanks to the work of Chair COLLINS and the Appropriations Committee, we passed three bipartisan bills before the August recess for the first time since 2018, and there are a number of additional bills ready for floor consideration. But that work is now delayed because we have to deal with the Democrats' shutdown mess.

How long this shutdown lasts depends entirely on Democrats. Republicans are united around a clean, nonpartisan funding extension. A few Democrats joined us last night and voted to keep the government open. They will have another opportunity to vote today, and I hope more of our Democrat colleagues will agree to end this shutdown.

Real people are suffering right now because of Democrats' temper tantrum, and it needs to stop.

Mr. President, I want to close with this: In 2019, in the midst of another shutdown, the Democrat leader urged reopening the government before negotiating on the one point of disagreement. He said then:

Why must we hold millions of Americans who depend on the services of these Agencies that are closed—hundreds of thousands of workers who get paid by these Agencies—why must we hold them hostage? Why must

a temper tantrum determine how we vote and what happens in this government? Everyone can shut down the government on anything—any leader, any President. It is not the way to do things.

I hope that the Democrat leader will heed his own words. Democrats need to reopen the government, and we need to get back to work for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The majority whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, Senate Democrats have now dragged us into the Schumer shutdown. When I say “us,” I mean all of us as Americans. It didn’t have to happen, and it certainly doesn’t need to continue. Americans are overwhelmingly against the shutdown of our government.

New polling from the New York Times and Siena just came out, and the polling proves it. Here is the key finding: Two out of three Americans believe that Democrats should not shut down the government, even if they don’t get their trillion-dollar ransom fee paid, which of course they won’t. Only 47 percent of Democrats support the shutdown. That is not even a majority of Democrats.

Senate Democrats are on the wrong side of Republicans, they are on the wrong side of Independents, and they are on the wrong side of their own party.

There is only one good option to reopen the government, and that option is a bipartisan, clean continuing resolution that we will vote on this morning.

The House already passed it with bipartisan support. President Trump is ready to sign it. Senate Republicans voted yesterday in an attempt to pass it. It failed yesterday, and we are going to offer it again today.

All it takes to reopen the government is cooperation from just five more Senate Democrats. We picked up three Democrats last night, so there are clearly cracks on their side of the aisle and movement toward our side. That will continue.

We are ready to vote for it again and again and again to make sure we can reopen the government for the American people. And there is bipartisan—broad bipartisan support to open the government. That is what the New York Times revealed, and that is what the vote revealed last evening. If five more Democrats join us today, the shutdown is over because, remember, it takes 60 votes in the Senate to get something like this passed and accomplished.

And all we are asking is to reopen the government for the next 7 weeks. Democrats supported these same funding levels before; now they claim the levels aren’t good enough. Democrats are now demanding \$1.5 trillion in new spending—new spending—for just reopening the government for 4 short weeks. That is \$48 billion of new spending each and every day of the 4 weeks in the Democrats’ proposal.

This is a direct attack on hard-working American taxpayers who voted against wasteful Washington spending in the elections in November.

Think back to previous continuing resolutions just like this one. I can think back to 13 of them during the time Joe Biden was in office at the White House. Thirteen of these passed. The minimum number of votes was 65. We voted to keep the government open, bipartisan. When Joe Biden and Barack Obama were President, Democrats said shutdowns were dangerous, destructive, and desperate. Those are the words of the Democrats: “dangerous,” “destructive,” “desperate.”

Listen to those words. Listen to what CHUCK SCHUMER said. He said:

Passing a clean CR . . . [would] avert a harmful and unnecessary government shutdown.

He also said:

If the government shuts down, it will be average Americans who suffer [the] most.

But yesterday he stood here in the well and then voted to shut down the government. Senator PATTY MURRAY of Washington is the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee. She has said that “a shutdown solves nothing.” She went on to say, and it “hurts everyone.”

Yesterday, she voted to shut down the government.

Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts has said that a shutdown “is the last resort for those who can’t otherwise win their fights through elections [and] can’t win their fights in Congress.” Well, yesterday, she voted to shut down the government.

Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut said:

There is a time and place to debate health care . . . but not when the funding of the federal government, and all the lives that are impacted by it, hang in the balance.

Well, yesterday he voted to shut down the government.

Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota is a Member of the Senate Democrat leadership. She said:

Shutdowns are not good for the economy.

Yesterday, she voted to shut down the government.

Senator BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii said: I’ve seen the same thing over and over again.

He said:

Shutdowns don’t work. . . . No one wins, but Americans have a lot to lose.

Yesterday, he voted to shut down the government.

Those were Senate Democrats’ words when there was a Democrat in the

White House. Yet last night, when it mattered, Democrats ignored their own warnings. Either their memories are short or their principles are situational. The costs they described are now a reality.

Border Patrol agents are showing up to work; they are not getting paid. The Border Patrol union warns that shutdowns threaten their “capacity to maintain the most secure border in our Nation’s history.”

Veterans’ healthcare is going to be impacted. Low-income families will lose vital benefits to help buy groceries.

Republicans are committed to reopening the government with a clean continuing resolution. That will allow us to finish the appropriations process the right way.

When he was majority leader, Senator SCHUMER broke that process, the appropriations process. Last year, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed—the committee, not CHUCK SCHUMER, but that committee passed 11 of 12 appropriations bills, many of them unanimous, always bipartisan, and what happened? Senator SCHUMER let each and every one of them rot and die in his Senate desk drawer. He shut down the appropriations process, and now he wants to shut down the government.

Republicans have restored the appropriations process. For the first time in 4 years, the Senate passed appropriations bills in August, passed three of them. Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine deserves special praise and thanks for this achievement.

Passing a clean CR will allow the Senate to finish our bipartisan work. The American people want their government open. They want it reopened. They want it to remain open. They want it working. So today Democrats are facing a clear choice; they can govern in the best interest of the American people or they can continue to grandstand for their retweets and their likes from their liberal base.

Republicans are united in our commitment to reopen the government. How long it takes, how costly it is, that is entirely up to the Senate Democrats.

A bipartisan offer, a bipartisan bill that already passed the House is right here in the Senate for a vote today. The President is ready to sign it to reopen the government. It is time to pass the bill today and end this Schumer shutdown.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to Calendar No. 167, S. 2882, Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, well, it is not even 1 day after Republicans

chose to shut down the government instead of making any sort of progress on stopping healthcare premiums from skyrocketing, and it is already painfully clear that Republican leadership is not taking any of this seriously.

Republican leadership doesn't care if millions of Americans lose their health insurance. Republican leadership does not care if your healthcare costs go through the roof. And despite a lot of showboating yesterday, Republican leadership obviously doesn't care how long this shutdown goes on.

Just consider, if Republican leadership and President Trump actually cared about reopening the government, Trump would not be tweeting AI deepfakes and mariachi music or bragging about how he can't wait to use a shutdown as an excuse to inflict more pain on the American people.

If they actually cared about reopening the government, Russ Vought wouldn't be saying he will fire everyone he can no matter if firing them is necessary or not and no matter how harmful it is or not.

If they actually cared about reopening the government, Republican leaders would not be pressing ahead with the same failed bill as yesterday and refusing to finally work with Democrats to finalize a solution.

If Republican leadership actually cared about reopening the government, House Republicans would actually be here. Let me say that again: House Republicans are not even here. Are we supposed to believe they are taking this seriously? I guess not.

And if Republican leadership actually cared about reopening the government, they would be talking with us about how the actual issues we want to address, how to stop skyrocketing health prices, hospital closures, and millions of patients from losing their health insurance. Instead, they are screaming "illegal immigration" and telling bold-faced lies about Democrats' proposal to try and talk about anything but healthcare. That really gives away the game Republican leaders are playing with the American people, doesn't it?

Democrats want Republicans to sit down at the table for a serious negotiation about really serious issues. But Republican leadership is off playing make-believe in la-la land. How are we supposed to negotiate with President Trump when he is busy frying his mind in an AI fantasy world of mariachi bands and science fiction medbeds and who knows what next? And how are we supposed to negotiate with Republican leaders when they are refusing to work on a bipartisan path out and just making lies up about our Democratic proposals?

For everyone who has only heard the Republican nonsense, let me make our agenda clear. Here is what Democrats actually want to do: We want to stop your healthcare premiums from doubling next year. We want to stop millions of people from getting priced out of their insurance and getting sick or going without care.

We want to stop hospitals from closing. I wonder why Republicans have such a hard time being honest about that? Well, maybe because they caused this healthcare crisis in the first place. And let's be crystal clear, it is not honest for Republicans to try and just say: Oh, well, we can just talk about healthcare later. We pinkie promise.

Rate hikes are being finalized right now. Notices for massive price increases will land in our families' mailboxes this month. Open enrollment starts in a matter of a few weeks. That means families are going to start seeing their premiums double. People are going to get priced out of coverage; that is, unless we act now.

There is no waiting; we have been waiting. There is no later; that is too late. Are Republicans saying they will not talk about solutions until the damage is done? Are they saying they want to lock in the high healthcare rates first?

You know, the best time to put out a fire is before it burns down the house. Surely, Republicans don't need me to tell them that. But if Republicans insist on asking why we can't address healthcare later, I have got a few questions for them.

First off, why the heck couldn't we talk about healthcare sooner, huh? Where in the world have you been? You moved Heaven and Earth to pass new tax breaks for billionaires by cutting over \$1 trillion from Americans' healthcare. Why won't you move a muscle to save healthcare for our working families?

I mean, my goodness, why is it not until there is a shutdown that Republican leaders will even say we can at least talk about healthcare? Oh, but not yet.

If a shutdown is the first time Republican leaders will even acknowledge in the slightest whisper the looming healthcare crisis, why should we trust for one second you will keep your word later?

Republicans have been choosing to ignore this healthcare crisis for months, and now they face another choice: How much longer are they going to insist on this partisan path? How much longer are they going to stick their heads in the sand? Because I will warn them: The American people cannot wait.

One family in my State of Washington is about to see their premiums jump from \$283 a month to as high as \$1,800 a month if Republicans insist on inaction, and I know they are not the only ones.

To my Republican colleagues who don't think this is a crisis, to anyone who thinks healthcare can wait: Go out and talk to people, talk to insurance companies in your State or doctors or hospitals or patients, and then come to the table and talk with us. We are here. We are ready to work on real solutions to address this healthcare crisis and reopen the government. I have been at the table the whole time. I am here. I

am ready. I am willing to work out a real solution to get this done.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 167, S. 2882, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Mazie Hirono, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Ben Ray Lujan, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2882, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 536 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—53

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 53.