

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
Gallego	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	Hoeben	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.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order for the two leaders to enter motions to reconsider without being on the prevailing side with respect to the cloture votes on the motions to proceed to S. 2882 and H.R. 5371; further, that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Cao nomination in S. Res. 412 be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The minority leader.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2882.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

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

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 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 bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 537 Leg.]

#### YEAS—55

Banks	Collins	Daines
Barrasso	Cornyn	Ernst
Blackburn	Cortez Masto	Fetterman
Boozman	Cotton	Fischer
Britt	Cramer	Graham
Budd	Crapo	Grassley
Capito	Cruz	Hagerty
Cassidy	Curtis	Hawley

Hoeven	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Husted	McCormick	Scott (SC)
Hyde-Smith	Moody	Sheehy
Johnson	Moran	Sullivan
Justice	Moreno	Thune
Kennedy	Mullin	Tillis
King	Murkowski	Tuberville
Lankford	Ricketts	Wicker
Lee	Risch	Young
Lummis	Rounds	
Marshall	Schmitt	

#### 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
Gallego	Ossoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Paul	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 45. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if any nominations are confirmed during today's session of the Senate, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

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. 275, Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Bill Cassidy, Jon 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.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under

Secretary of the Navy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 538 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
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	Murkowski	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE HELENE

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, on Saturday, I was in Western North Carolina for the day because that marked the 1-year anniversary of the landfall of Helene in a place that a hurricane has never really been before, about 200 miles inland in the Smoky Mountain Range.

In North Carolina alone, it had an impact landwise equivalent to the