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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 3 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who made the light to shine in darkness, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the presence of Your Holy Spirit. Lord, stay close to our lawmakers as they seek to end this government shutdown. Remind them to trust always in the multitude of Your mercy. Deliver them from the mire of division and despair as You lead them to Your desired destination. Refusing to lean solely on their own wisdom, may our Senators trust You, O God, to choreograph our destinies.

Make haste, O God, to deliver.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MULLIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EN BLOC NOMINATIONS—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the nominees en bloc provided for under the provisions of S. Res. 412.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to note that today marks 2 years since the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack on Israel. By day's end on that October 7, hundreds of innocent Israelis were dead, and more than 200 hostages had been taken. Some of those hostages are still in captivity.

My prayers today are with the remaining hostages, the survivors of that day, and all those still grieving the loss of their loved ones—and for a just and lasting peace in the region.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, it has been 1 week since Democrats shut down the government, 1 week since Democrats put their far-left base before the American people.

Over the past week, the Senate has taken votes on two different continuing resolutions. One, offered by Republicans, is a clean funding extension—something we do routinely around here. It adds no Republican policies. It has no partisan policy riders. It just extends current funding levels through November 21 so we can make more progress on full-year appropriations.

The Democrats' proposal, on the other hand, shows their lack of seriousness. Their resolution would fund the government until October 31 in exchange for \$1.5 trillion in new, partisan spending. Yes, you heard that right—\$1.5 trillion in new, partisan spending to fund the government through the end of the month—just the end of the month. Four weeks for \$1.5 trillion.

Then there is the fact that their plan makes noncitizens eligible for Federal

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



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healthcare programs, strips away commonsense work requirements for able-bodied adults to be eligible for Medicaid, and repeals the transformative \$50 billion rural health fund that Republicans enacted in July to support and bolster rural hospitals.

Why Democrats think that threatening healthcare in rural America is a winning proposition is beyond me, but apparently they really do think so because we are still in this shutdown 1 week later, and Democrats are digging in their heels on their partisan demands.

Needless to say, Democrats' partisan \$1.5 trillion bill has zero chance of becoming law. There is only one viable path out of the mess the Democrats have created. We need to pass the clean, nonpartisan CR that has already passed the House of Representatives and that President Trump is ready to sign today—right now. It is only a handful of votes away from passing here in the U.S. Senate.

We are not asking Democrats to support any Republican policies; we are just asking them to reopen the government. It is that simple. If just a handful of Senate Democrats would join Republicans and the three Democrat Senators who already support the bill, we could end this shutdown in a matter of hours and get back to doing the work the American people sent us here to do.

Democrats may be earning some praise from the far-left base, but I doubt that hard-working Americans have many kind words.

Right now, Federal workers, including our troops, Border Patrol, and air traffic controllers, are working without pay. The National Flood Insurance Program has lapsed, putting households at risk during hurricane season. Telehealth and hospital at-home programs have expired, taking away services that Americans depend upon, especially in rural areas. Americans seeking services or benefits from the Federal Government are facing delays.

The longer Democrats refuse to support a clean funding extension, the worse things will get. Some Federal workers will soon be missing a paycheck. WIC is almost out of money and may soon be unable to deliver resources to American families. Federally funded programs will continue to run through their reserve funds and be forced to curtail or cancel their activities.

Before I close, I also want to point out that Senate Democrats, at the same time, are blocking progress on bipartisan, full-year legislation with their shutdown strategy.

We have a number of bipartisan bills that are waiting for consideration on the Senate floor right now—bipartisan bills that contain priorities from Members of both sides of the aisle and from every corner of the country, bills that we would be considering this week if we weren't stuck in this shutdown.

The Democrats' shutdown is helping no one, and I hope, when we vote next

to reopen the government, my Democrat colleagues will join us to support our clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution, something that they have done 13 times as recently as when they were in the majority here in the Senate and President Biden was in the White House.

We have had a few Democrats join us already. We just need a handful more, and we can reopen the government and get back to working for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, unfortunately, it is a sad day. Today marks 2 years since Hamas's horrific, brutal, terrorist attack on Israel—a day of inextinguishable grief, the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. No matter how much time passes, I will always remember October 7 as if it were yesterday.

On October 7, I was in Beijing, leading a bipartisan delegation in China, meeting with President Xi about opening up Chinese markets to U.S. companies, when I first learned of the attack. I will never forget the story. The Israeli Ambassador to China came and told me what happened in Israel and talked about what happened at the Kibbutz Be'eri, where Hamas gathered children, grandparents, mothers, and babies into one community center and gunned them all down.

It reminded me of the story of my grandmother in Chortkiv, in western Ukraine, in 1941, when the Nazis came to her home and asked her to gather her greater family on the porch. About 35 people gathered, from ages 80 to 3 months.

The Nazis said: You are coming with us.

She said: We are not moving.

They gunned them all down—machine-gunned them all down. So the story of Be'eri was eerily reminiscent.

After hearing of the attack, I cut my trip to China short, as important as it was, and got on a plane to Israel as soon as I could. I told the Israeli people, during these troubled times, that the American people were with them.

What I saw in Israel, in the aftermath of the attack, shook me to my core. I met with families whose loved ones were killed, injured, and a woman telling us she was waving good-bye to her son, 12 years old, who was kidnapped and on a motorcycle with a Hamas thug. I will never forget those meetings. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The world must never—never—forget the horrors that Hamas inflicted on them that day. The brutality and viciousness of Hamas's attacks—indiscriminate violence against innocent infants, young people at a concert, women, the elderly; sexual violence—taking hundreds of hostages, will remain ever present in my mind and in the minds of the conscience of the world.

Today, we remember the victims of the October 7 attacks—may their memories be a blessing—and we reaffirm our commitment to finally bring home all the hostages still held so cruelly by Hamas, vicious organization that it is.

Two years later, 48 hostages remain in Hamas's captivity, including the remains of two New Yorkers, Omer Neutra and Itay Chen. Every day that these hostages remain in captivity, every day their families are denied full closure and burial of their loved ones is a day too long. We remain committed to bringing the hostages home as soon as possible.

At this crucial moment in negotiations, the Trump administration and all those at the table and the international community must do everything—everything—to finally secure a cease-fire and hostage agreement to end the war in Gaza and to bring the hostages held by Hamas home, and to surge desperately needed humanitarian relief to innocent Palestinians facing heartbreaking levels of hunger and devastation in Gaza, and, finally, to build an enduring and lasting peace.

It is imperative that all parties involved do everything possible to secure this desperately needed agreement.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on a different subject, the shutdown, yesterday, for the fifth time—the fifth time—the Republican CR failed to secure enough votes to pass in this Chamber.

After five failed votes, Republicans should understand they cannot go forward unless we come to a bipartisan agreement to address the healthcare crisis facing America.

The shutdown has now lasted almost a week—the Trump-caused shutdown—and Republicans are still in the no-negotiation, “our way or the highway” mode.

President Trump, meanwhile, is not taking this shutdown seriously. Listen to this: Instead of fixing healthcare, instead of reopening the government, Donald Trump seems more interested in sending money to other countries instead of focusing on the problems here at home. His administration is in negotiation right now to send a \$20 billion bailout to Argentina—right in the middle of a government shutdown. You have got to be kidding.

Does the administration really want us to believe there is not enough money for air traffic controllers, not enough money to fix the ACA healthcare premiums, but there somehow is \$20 billion available to bail out