

I yield the floor.

# RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3012

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3012) to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of excepted Federal employees for periods of work performed during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this morning, we will offer my Democrat colleagues yet another opportunity to vote to reopen the government—to vote to reopen the government with a clean, nonpartisan CR.

That is right. We are not asking Democrats to swallow any new Republican policies. We are not asking them to swallow any partisan policy riders. We are simply asking them to extend current funding levels for a few weeks, while we work on full-year appropriations.

And you don't have to take my word for it. Everyone from the President of the Teamsters Union to mainstream media outlets has confirmed that the CR Republicans have put forward is a clean CR. But Senate Democrats chose to shut down the government anyway.

Now, Democrats' ostensible reason for their 16-day shutdown is because

they want Republicans to agree to bail out the healthcare mess that Democrats created—first with Obamacare and then passing and sunseting enhanced Obamacare tax credits that were put in place for the COVID emergency, which I think, as we all know, is long behind us.

Despite the fact that we are only in this position because of Democrats' poor policy choices, Republicans are ready for that discussion. I am ready. My colleagues are ready. The Speaker and the President are ready—but only once we have reopened the government.

We are not conducting negotiations in a hostage situation, and we are not going to pay a \$1.5 trillion ransom to get Democrats to reopen government operations.

That is right—\$1.5 trillion. That is what Democrats are demanding. Between their Obamacare bailout and the other partisan policies that they have included, they want a \$1.5 trillion ransom to reopen the government for a handful of weeks.

Now, to put that number in perspective, that is equivalent to almost one quarter of the entire 2024 Federal budget—again, just to reopen the Federal Government for a handful of weeks.

Now, think about that. Their proposal: \$1.5 trillion of new spending, free healthcare benefits for noncitizens to open the government until October 31. That is what their proposal is.

So, literally, the American taxpayer is supposed to pay \$1.5 trillion so that the Democrats can open the government until Halloween, 2 weeks from now—\$1.5 trillion for 2 weeks. That is what we are talking about here.

Now, just imagine this for a minute, what might happen if we pay that ransom and agree to the Democrats' \$1.5 trillion demand. Well, what is going to happen the next time we need a continuing resolution? How much are Democrats going to demand then? Will we have to add another \$1.5 trillion every time we want to fund the government?

And they want to do it for 2 weeks—\$1.5 trillion for 2 weeks. I mean, where does this end?

When taxpayers and our economy have been totally destroyed by Democrats' profligate spending, is that where it ends?

No. While I am more than happy to discuss ways to alleviate Democrats' healthcare mess, we are not paying \$1.5 trillion or a \$1.5 trillion ransom to reopen the Federal Government.

As frustrated as I am with their continued refusal to reopen the government, I do have to say that I have some sympathy for Senate Democrats. While they may claim healthcare is the driver of what they are doing, we all know that the primary reason we are in this mess is because Democrats' far-left base demanded a showdown with President Trump.

Just 7 months ago, the Democrat leader voted with Republicans to keep the government open because he said,

while he didn't like the CR, a government shutdown would be much worse—"far worse." But he caught a whole lot of flak for that decision from the far left, and so now, he is leading the shutdown charge.

He is not the only Democrat who voted to fund the government in March who is now a member of the shutdown brigade. But no matter how much pressure their far-left base is exerting, we still need some Democrats to do the right thing.

It would take just a handful of Democrats to reopen the government—just a handful of Democrats to enable us to resume paying air traffic controllers, law enforcement officers, and all of the other Federal workers; just a handful of Democrats to get the Federal Government working again for the American people.

Later today, Democrats are going to have another opportunity to make the right decision—two opportunities, in fact. They are going to have a chance to vote on the clean, nonpartisan CR which, as I said in the past, sits right there at the desk, which has passed the House of Representatives. We can pick this up, with five more Democrat votes, pass it today and send it to the President. The President signs it into law, and the government reopens.

So they are going to have a chance to vote on that yet again, and they are going to have a chance to vote to advance full-year Defense appropriations legislation, so that if we can't reopen the entire government, we can at least make some progress toward securing paychecks for our troops and for defending our country.

Just last week, the Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act, which is essential legislation, something that we do every year to authorize defense spending and to authorize a pay raise for our troops. So this is the Democrats' chance to make good on that promise by funding the raise. The authorization bill authorized it. The Defense appropriations bill that we will vote on here later today will actually fund that raise so our troops can get paid.

Now, again, I realize that Democrats' far-left base is rallying in DC this weekend, which puts extra pressure on Democrats, but I hope that they will do the right thing anyway and vote to reopen the government. All we need is five. The bill is right there. It goes to the President, he signs it into law, and the government reopens.

The American people are depending on some—I am hoping—Democrats who are willing to put the interests of the American people ahead of the interests of their far-left base.

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, another week has passed, and the Trump shutdown drags on because Republicans refuse to work with or even negotiate with Democrats in a serious way to fix the healthcare crisis in America.

Let's be clear. Republicans are demanding something that hasn't happened in previous negotiations. They are saying: Our way or the highway. No negotiation. No Democratic input.

This is a highly partisan bill, and they want us to pass this partisan CR that has zero bipartisan input, zero conversation, and, frankly, zero relief for so many Americans who are afflicted by the healthcare crisis, which grows deeper and deeper, that crisis, each day.

For the last month, the Republican leader's favorite number has been 13. He keeps citing 13 CRs that we passed when I was majority leader. Of course we did. What he fails to mention—I am not sure if he forgets or he is deliberately trying to ignore it—is that those 13 CRs were the product of bipartisan negotiation, of serious conversation. We had to make changes in those bills when our Republican colleagues suggested it. They were in the minority, but they had a right to be heard—a right that has been completely shut out for Democrats under this new Republican majority. It is a new way of doing things, and it has led to the Trump shutdown, aided and abetted by Senate Republicans.

Leader THUNE talks about hostages. Yeah. The truth is that the hostages are the American people that the Republican majority and Trump are holding hostage because they won't help them with healthcare.

Americans are demanding that we do something, that we address this healthcare crisis. In terms of extending the ACA tax credits, 90 percent of Americans want them extended, 58 percent of Trump voters want them extended, and that is who is being held hostage by the Republican majority. Those are the unfortunate hostages—the American people and the crisis they face with healthcare.

The ACA crisis is looming over everyone's head. Yet Republicans seem ready to let people's premiums spike by tens of thousands. That is who the hostages are—the American people who need healthcare relief, who are demanding healthcare relief.

I will remind my Republican colleagues that open enrollment is in 2 weeks. That means that in 2 weeks, tens of millions of Americans are going to have to make life-changing decisions. Imagine getting a notice that your insurance is going to go up \$15,000 each year, as so many of my constituents and people across America are getting, and having to make the awful,

awful decision whether to have healthcare or not and then think: What if my kid gets sick, and I won't have healthcare? Well, what do I do? I can't afford \$5- or \$10,000 more a year.

That is the position Republicans are putting the American people in. That is the position Donald Trump is putting the American people in. And I don't know if Republicans don't comprehend it. I think they do.

Even when we went to the Oval Office, it seemed, when Leader JEFFRIES and I told President Trump about it, he was just beginning to understand the depth of the crisis.

But they either don't understand it or they are brutally callous—so interested in tax cuts for the very wealthy that they are willing to just savage healthcare for the American people.

Then a few Republicans, if they want to act on healthcare at all—many of them don't want to do anything, particularly in the House, where they seem to hold Speaker JOHNSON in a frightened situation. He is so afraid to do anything about healthcare because his rightwing will attack him. But for those who want to act on healthcare, they think we can wait until the very, very last minute, but the reality is, it will be far too late for the American people, and many of them will be stuck paying outrageous amounts of money.

The vast majority of Americans who have healthcare, who have ACA healthcare and other healthcare, are going to have to make their decisions by November 1, not January 1. Yet, despite this crisis, despite the enormity of the increase in costs that Americans will have to pay for their healthcare, Republicans continue to dig in. They continue to say: We don't want to help on healthcare. We don't want to negotiate with Democrats on healthcare.

They say there is nothing to negotiate.

That has to change soon. It has to for the sake of the American people. Democrats want to reopen the government as soon as possible so people can get back to work, so government services are not interrupted, but we need to fix the ACA premiums right now.

If Republicans fail to act now to lower premiums, the American people will, correctly—wish it didn't have to happen, wish we could solve this—the American people will have to hold the Republicans responsible when they face financial ruin.

#### NO KINGS RALLIES

Mr. President, now on the No Kings rallies, in a few days, millions of Americans in cities and towns, villages, rural areas across the country will exercise one of the most fundamental rights under the Constitution, one of the greatest things about America: exercising the right to peacefully protest, exercising the right to free speech.

This weekend's No Kings rallies will be an affirmation about what America is all about. We are a democracy in America. We have no Kings despite the fact that Trump has even said he wants

to become one and is acting in ways that are a threat to our democracy. In America, we do not have dictators, and we cannot allow Presidents to transform the Presidency into some form of dictatorship.

Now more than ever, for that reason, it is vital Americans from one end of the country to the other stand up for our basic freedoms because Donald Trump is eroding our democracy day by day by day.

So this weekend, I encourage Americans everywhere—Americans who love this country, who care about a democracy—I don't care if you are a Democrat or a Republican or Independent, a liberal or a moderate or a conservative—the vast majority of Americans want to preserve this democracy, and the No Kings rally says that in a very strong way, where millions of Americans—millions—will come together to say just that—that we don't want Kings in America.

I will join the marchers to celebrate what makes this country so great.

I say to my fellow citizens: Do not let Donald Trump or Republicans intimidate you into silence. That is what they want to do. They are afraid of the truth.

Republicans are going apoplectic because Americans are exercising their right to free speech even though some of them—too many of them—know that Donald Trump is threatening our democracy, and the American people are seeing just that.

That is the theme—the very appropriate theme—of this weekend's rallies: No Kings. No Kings.

So I urge Americans: Speak out. Use your voice. Exercise your rights to free speech.

And, of course, there should be no violence from either side.

I say to Americans: Show the world how much we love this country, how much we love our values, how much we love our democracy and want to preserve it, and don't be afraid. Trump and the Republicans want you to be afraid. They don't like free speech when it is free speech they don't want to hear. But we are not going to let them intimidate us.

For weeks, Republicans have tried to vilify these rallies. They call them the most ridiculous of terms—“Hate America” rallies. These are love-America rallies. They call them “terrorist” rallies. That is just despicable. They are trying to scare people away from their basic right to free speech, but we will not be intimidated. These are not hate rallies, as some of the right wingers try to say; these are save-America rallies, love-America rallies, care-about-America rallies.

Not only is this a right to protest—which we all treasure or have treasured until recently, with this new administration seeming to not want rights to protest or even free speech when they don't agree with it—this is the right thing to do, a necessity when Donald Trump weaponizes the Justice Department to become his attack dog and go

after his political enemies; when he attacks the courts; when he intimidates the free press and tries to tell networks they are going to lose their licenses if they say things he doesn't agree with; when people are arrested and put in jail—American citizens—with no real cause and not even identification of who is making the arrest.

I am so proud of Americans who will stand up peacefully. There is nothing—nothing—more American than exercising the right to free speech, especially the right to dissent, especially when our democracy is at risk because of what Trump and his Republican cronies are trying to do.

Remember the last No Kings rally. We saw millions of people—all backgrounds, all corners of the country—gathering peacefully. We saw American flags as far as the eye can see, and that is natural. The American flag stands for free speech. The American flag stands for the right to peacefully protest even if Trump and his cronies don't even understand that or don't want to understand that.

At these rallies, we saw people who love this country; we saw people who want to stand up for American values; we saw people who want to preserve our precious democracy. That, sadly, is what many Republicans want to silence. We will not be silenced.

Donald Trump and many Republicans in Congress are using intimidation, lies, and bully tactics to prevent people from standing up, speaking out, exercising our precious constitutional rights. But I say again to every American out there who wants to participate in these weekend rallies: Do not let Donald Trump or Republicans intimidate you into silence. That is what they want.

That is how dictators evolve—when good people of all different beliefs and backgrounds stay silent. No Kings day says: We will not stay silent.

I say to the American people: Do not be afraid to exercise your right to free speech. Be proud that you are doing it. Do not be afraid to peacefully protest against Donald Trump's eroding of our democracy, and do not be afraid to show how much you love this beautiful democracy—as the Founding Fathers called it, "God's noble experiment." We have to keep this precious democracy.

#### YOUNG REPUBLICANS

Mr. President, now on the Young Republicans—another sad chapter in how the Republican Party has devolved over the last few years. It has been 2 days since POLITICO published a horrifying story revealing thousands—thousands—of private messages containing racist, sexist, and violent comments from prominent members of the Young Republicans organization. Yet President Trump and the Republican leadership have remained silent. There is nothing but radio silence from Republican leaders who seem to claim they worry about combating politically violent rhetoric.

The silence from Republican leaders in the face of Hitler jokes and gas chamber jokes is deafening. Where are they? When they don't like somebody who says something on the left, they are the first to criticize. Well, this is one of the nastiest, most vicious things that we have ever seen written—by Young Republicans, no less—and the Republican leadership, including President Trump, is silent.

As I said, Republicans never miss a chance to preach about violent rhetoric when it comes from the other side, and, of course, that should be condemned, but now that it is coming from their own ranks, they are silent.

Some Republicans seem to even excuse this vile behavior. This is amazing. The Vice President of the United States, no less, JD Vance, dismissed the messages as just a college group chat. Can you imagine if it was a group of people on the left saying some things, if he would say the same thing? A college group chat? Does JD Vance really think glorifying Hitler and gas chambers is just a silly joke? Imagine—imagine—if it came from the other side. We all know that Vance would be losing his mind right now. He would be all over FOX News decrying it. But now, since it is coming from his own ranks, he is just excusing. Despicable. Disgraceful. Shameful.

No matter if you are a Republican or Democrat or in the middle, we all must condemn this nasty behavior and make it clear that this type of vicious rhetoric is unacceptable in America.

#### GATEWAY

Mr. President, on Gateway, yesterday, President Trump and his administration "terminated" funding for Gateway. Gateway is the most important infrastructure project in America, period. It will keep our economy moving, our region connected, tens of thousands of union workers on the job. Donald Trump is trying to kill it again in pure spite and with sheer stupidity. It is petty revenge politics.

Who gets hurt? It is going to screw over hundreds of thousands of New York and New Jersey commuters, choke off our economy, and kill good-paying jobs.

It affects New Jersey. More people use it to commute from New Jersey than from New York. What Trump has done on Gateway is vindictive, reckless, and foolish. And if Donald Trump thinks he can use New Yorkers, use New Jerseyans, commuters, small businesses, union construction workers, and the first responders as political pawns, it will backfire on him spectacularly.

We will fight the President on this in every way to preserve this crucial, vital infrastructure project—crucial and vital to New York, New Jersey, the northeast economy, and the whole American economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the following cloture motions: Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371; Executive Calendar No. 460.

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

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today is day 16 of the Schumer shutdown. Democrats have an opportunity to end the charade today. We will be voting in the next few moments.

I expect they won't. Why? Well, for starters, the minority leader believes "every day gets better for us." I am not sure who the "us" is, but that is what he believes. He must be talking about Democrat leadership, Democrat politicians. He can't be talking about people all across the country—not the people who work every day to keep our country safe, not the Federal workers who aren't getting paid. Oh, no, he can't be talking about them when he refers to "every day gets better for us."

What Senator SCHUMER and Democrats in this body are really saying is this: Every day of this Schumer shutdown strengthens their alliances with the far-left activist groups. These radicals hold the reins on today's Democratic Party. They are driving the stage coach. SCHUMER is not leading this. JEFFRIES isn't leading this. The people that are driving the stage coach are the leftwing activists, and they are driving it over the cliff.

Let me give you another reason why I suspect Democrats will, once again, refuse to reopen the government. It is because the far-left activist groups are pressuring the Democrats to keep the government closed until after their radical anti-America rally, which is going to be held this weekend.

The rally, which some have labeled the "I Hate America" rally, is going to take place Saturday, and there will be rallies in DC and across the country. We just heard from the minority leader on the floor, inviting people to attend these rallies, to participate in what I have referred to and others have as the "I Hate America" rally. He is a cheerleader for these far-left activist groups and their causes. All these rallies are going to be led by the far-left activists and all will be calling on the Democrats to keep the government closed.

The Democrats in this body are beholden to every single one of these far-left activist groups, groups like #ResistTrump and American Atheists.

Here is a headline from POLITICO:

CHUCK SCHUMER's critics are satisfied—for now.

The article goes on to quote the head of the far-left activist group called Indivisible. This group is organizing Saturday's radical rally. The leader of the far-left group says of the minority leader:

He hasn't surrendered yet. I call that progress, and we're cheering him on now.

Well, 7 months ago, that same person had a very different message for the minority leader. That same person said:

Senator SCHUMER should step aside as leader. Every Democrat in the Senate should call for him to do so.

So what changed? Well, Senator SCHUMER started toeing the line of the far-left group. He shut down the government in spite of the fact that 13 times, when Joe Biden was President, he voted for a clean resolution to keep the government open.

What changed? Well, the minority leader is now the puppet of the radical, extremely dangerous, scary wing of his party. He huddled with the far-left activist group for months before this shutdown. For months, they orchestrated, organized this shutdown in Senator SCHUMER's office. They organized a war room for the shutdown. They are calling the tune. Senator SCHUMER even gloated to Punchbowl News:

We thought about this long in advance.

This isn't something that just happened. They had been planning this. This is premeditated. This is a political game for Senator SCHUMER and the Democrats, and it is a dangerous game for every other American.

People aren't receiving paychecks because Senate Democrats want to prove their allegiance to the far left. Democrats want a standing ovation this Saturday when they address the radical wing of their party; the wing that is holding the reins and holding them tightly; the wing that is extreme, dangerous, and scary; the wing that is pro-crime and anti-America. That is what we are facing.

Senate Democrats want to be cheered on for holding hostage the paychecks of the TSA agents and air traffic controllers.

Meanwhile, Americans are sick and tired of Democrats' dangerous political game. They just want to get back to work. Today, Democrats are going to have an opportunity to prove they aren't beholden to the far left of the party. We are going to have a vote. We are going to vote on a bipartisan appropriations bill to fund the Department of Defense, to fund the warfighters, the troops, the people who keep our Nation and our allies safe. This bill has already come through a bipartisan Appropriations Committee. The vote was 26 to 3. Twenty-six voted for it, only 3 voted against it. We are bringing that same bill to the floor today, and we are going to see if the Democrats are going to work with us on a bipartisan appropriations bill. They claim they want regular order. They claim they want things to work together. And it is a bill that they have said themselves is necessary.

Remember, Senator SCHUMER, last year, didn't bring a single appropriations bill to this floor of the Senate, in spite of the fact the 12 bipartisan bills passed out of the committee. He refused to bring any of them to this floor to fund the government when he was majority leader.

I wonder whom he is going to side with today. Senate Republicans this year already approved three appropriations bills to fund the government. This would be the fourth. Democrats are holding the government hostage. They are holding the American people hostage. Republicans are committed to reopening the government.

We are going to vote against that today. We are holding votes on our bipartisan, clean continuing resolution, one that Democrats have voted on 13 times in favor of when Joe Biden was in the White House.

I believe that Democrats have an opportunity, as well as an obligation, to end the Schumer shutdown. We should end it today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

MARIA CORINA MACHADO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week we learned that Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado had won this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

This is a photograph of her. She did so for her steadfast and courageous fight for democracy in the once-proud Nation of Venezuela that, unfortunately, now under a man named Maduro, has descended into chaos and dictatorship.

I had the chance to visit Venezuela in 2018, just before the country's strongman Nicolas Maduro staged a sham election. The years that followed were a predictable disaster, bringing further suffering on the Venezuelan people.

In late 2023, under severe repression, the Venezuelan opposition organized a primary election that selected Ms. Machado as its candidate for the July 2024 Presidential election. Using a tired old playbook, the Maduro regime refused to allow her on the final ballot. Undeterred, her colleague Edmundo Gonzalez was able to run in her stead. Not surprisingly, given the country's near-failed state status, he won over Maduro with two-thirds of the vote in a process meticulously documented by domestic election observers.

What did the Maduro regime do? It, shamefully, refused to swear him, as his successor, into office and forced him to flee the country. But Maria Corina Machado refused to leave. She stayed while the regime arrested key opposition supporters and threatened her as well.

While she remains in hiding for her own safety, she has continued to fight for those election results to be respected and a return to democracy in Venezuela. That steadfast courage in the face of such cruelty is incredible and certainly worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN and I were on the telephone yesterday with this brave young lady. She was determined as ever to see a better future for the people of Venezuela. She has my continued admiration and support in that effort.

MIDDLE EAST

Mr. President, I want to say a few words about events in the Middle East and Ukraine. Over the long weekend, the world saw what is, hopefully, the beginning of the end of the war in Gaza.

I want to congratulate President Trump for the historic agreement that made this possible. There are still critical elements to be negotiated and settled. But the first phase, which included the release of Israeli hostages and a cease-fire, is a good-faith start to a more inclusive agreement. It won't be easy. The remaining steps will be difficult and require sustained attention from President Trump and our allies that helped make the beginning of this agreement a reality.

As New York Times columnist Tom Friedman wisely wrote this week, "You don't have a second to rest. As someone who wants you to succeed, I have to remind you: As hard as the first state was, you have not . . . seen hard yet."

I agree. There has been so much pain and suffering sparked 2 years ago from Hamas's brutal October 7 attack and the ensuing war, and it will take a long time, if ever, to heal. But this is the best chance in a long time toward a more hopeful future where both people, Palestinians and Israelis, can live in peace.

Similarly, I hope President Trump will now focus momentum from these events and equal attention on seeking an end to the war in Ukraine. I have said before, I don't begrudge President Trump for trying to engage Russian President Putin to negotiate an end to this terrible conflict. But it should be clear to everyone, and I hope it is clear to President Trump, that Putin isn't interested nor serious. In fact, Putin has only increased his deadly attacks on Ukraine since such good-faith outreach by the United States.

Similarly, it is long overdue that the Senate pass bipartisan Russian sanctions, a bill that now has 80 bipartisan sponsors, a bill I am happy to support.

Putin only responds to force—military and economic—and it is time for the President and Congress to stand behind the people of Ukraine and to increase his pressure on President Putin.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, I would like to respond to the comments made by my colleague and friend Senator BARRASSO from Wyoming on the floor this morning.

Why is this government shut down? Why? What is the reason for it? The President's party is in control in the White House, in the House, and in the Senate and yet we stopped and the government shut down. Why? Because there is a fundamental issue we are trying to resolve for the good of the American people.

Well, let me give you an illustration.

What if I told you, if you live in Illinois, that, on October 27, your health insurance company is going to send

you a notice at your home; that it is going to announce what is going to happen to your health insurance premiums on your insurance, on January 1 of this coming year; and that it is also going to tell you, for many people, that there is going to be a dramatic increase—dramatic—of 114 percent; that your premium is going to more than double?

Some people will say: That is all right. I have got plenty of money in the bank. I am not worried about it a bit.

But most people will say: Doubled? It is already too high. What am I going to do? How am I going to afford this? What is it going to do to my family's budget if I have to pay twice as much on January 1 for my health insurance? How did this happen? Who did this?

It is called the "Big, Beautiful Budget Bill" of President Trump. That is what did it.

There is a tax credit that is available for millions of American families to help them pay for their health insurance premiums. The Republicans eliminate it, and when they eliminate it, people are on their own to come up with money to pay for their health insurance.

Is it important? I think it is critical.

It is one of the most basic questions you are going to ask when you ask: How is your family doing? Are you doing OK when it comes to health insurance? If you have an unexpected, large medical bill, do you have insurance to cover it?

Well, for thousands—maybe millions—of Americans, the new health insurance plan is going to be too expensive for them to pay the premiums.

So what do you do?

Well, you look for a plan that has a lot of money in out-of-pocket expenditures for the people who are covered. It is the skinny policy, only in catastrophes and calamities. That, unfortunately, is all you have.

In the meantime, you are in a situation where your family, tomorrow, may face a medical bill which will break the bank. That is what it comes down to.

That is what this shutdown is about. We believe the Republicans should help us in helping the families across America.

As I said, October 27 is the day of reckoning in Illinois for people who are policyholders there. It is going to happen across the United States. It is a policy they created on the Republican side, and we should work with them to change it—the sooner, the better.

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 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 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, Eric Schmitt, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ted Budd, John R. Curtis, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Bernie Moreno, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, James Lankford, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, 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 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 573 Leg.]

##### YEAS—51

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

##### NAYS—45

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

##### NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	Tillis
Duckworth	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45.

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

The motion was rejected.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

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

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 460, Harold D. Mooty III, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Jon Husted, Eric Schmitt, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ted Budd, John R. Curtis, John Boozman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Harold D. Mooty III, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, 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.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 34, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 574 Leg.]

##### YEAS—62

Banks	Hagerty	Moreno
Barrasso	Hassan	Mullin
Blackburn	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Husted	Reed
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Collins	Justice	Rounds
Coons	Kaine	Schiff
Cornyn	Kelly	Schmitt
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cruz	Lankford	Sheehy
Curtis	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Durbin	Marshall	Welch
Ernst	McConnell	Whitehouse
Fischer	McCormick	Wicker
Graham	Moody	Young
Grassley	Moran	