

canceled awards were going to upgrade the power grid. These upgrades would have made our grid more reliable in the face of rising energy demand. Now, that work is in jeopardy. Other canceled awards in Illinois are for methane detection and leak prevention along natural gas pipelines.

When the government refuses to upgrade the grid and protect our pipelines, it does not mean utilities don't need these enhancements anymore. Instead, utility companies will pass along these costs to consumers. You will soon be forced to pay more for your electricity and heat because the Trump administration wants to punish Americans for the candidate they voted for last November.

The administration also has aggressively targeted billions of dollars of previously approved transportation funding. Wreaking havoc in Chicago neighborhoods with cruel immigration raids and sending the military in to patrol the city's streets is not enough for this President. Two weeks ago, the President further escalated his feud with Mayor Johnson and Governor Pritzker—whom he has called to be jailed—by withholding \$2.1 billion in funding for Chicago infrastructure projects.

The Red Line project has been decades in the making, would finally extend mass transit to the far South Side of Chicago, and would generate tens of thousands of good-paying jobs. But Donald Trump is fine with ripping this away as long as he scores a few political points.

For decades, State and local governments have been able to compete for grant awards for projects—no matter where they live or who they vote for. The Trump administration is taking that tradition and tearing it at the seams. Even some of my Republican colleagues have publicly stated how wrong this is, and I applaud them for bravely coming forward to say so.

I urge the President to stop targeting resources that help everyday Americans and negotiate a reopening of government. Every day that goes by, Americans face increased healthcare costs while the President remains hyperfixated on inflicting as much pain as possible on his political opponents and the communities they represent.

We owe it to the American people to fund the government in a manner that protects their health coverage and ensures government funding and the resources that so many rely on are there in their time of need.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, unfortunately, I was not present to once again vote on the Republican continuing resolution proposal, rollcall vote no. 576. Had I been present, I would have voted no. We are now 3 weeks into this shutdown. It is time for Republicans to come to the table and negotiate in good faith to reopen the government

and ensure millions of Americans can continue to access truly affordable healthcare. The Republican spending proposal misses the mark. Let's work together to fix it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE MONTANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AVIATION CREWS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing the Montana Army National Guard, MTARNG, aviation crews as Montanans of the Month for their extraordinary courage and dedication during a series of lifesaving rescue missions across our State.

In the rugged backcountry of Montana, where steep cliffs, high altitudes, and unpredictable weather can turn a simple hike into a life-threatening situation, these guardsmen stand ready, day or night, to answer the call. Their professionalism and heroism exemplify the very best of our citizen soldiers.

On August 9, 2025, the Helena-based aviation team responded to a rescue near Zortman after a person fell over a cliff and suffered serious injuries. With limited visibility from wildfire smoke and nightfall plus the added challenge of a sheer rockface and heavy timber, the crew conducted a highly technical nighttime rescue. Thanks to their precision and teamwork, the injured individual was safely hoisted and flown to Billings for medical care.

Recognized Crew: CPT Otis Smith (Pilot-in-Command), CW3 Tom Kinyon (Co-Pilot), SGT Ian Montgomery (Crew Chief), SSG Anthony Wright (Crew Chief), and SGT Randy Scales (Flight Paramedic).

Only a week later, on August 17, 2025, another MTARNG aircrew from Billings sprang into action when three hypothermic hikers became stranded in the Beartooth Mountains. With ground rescue teams unable to reach the group safely, the MTARNG crew braved freezing temperatures and rough terrain to extract the hikers and deliver them to Columbus for emergency treatment.

Recognized Crew: CW3 Zach Lundgren (Pilot-in-Command), CW2 Cameron Olson (Co-Pilot), SGT Justin Asher (Crew Chief), SPC Patrick Northrup (Flight Paramedic), and Rob Gersbach from the Billings Fire Department (Flight Paramedic).

Their month of service didn't end there. Between August 24-26, 2025, MTARNG crews from both Billings and Helena joined a multi-agency search for a missing 71-year-old hiker in the Beartooth Mountains. After the hiker was located by an Air Force helicopter from Malmstrom Air Force Base, the MTARNG team from Helena performed a high-altitude hoist rescue, successfully recovering both the hiker and the Air Force flight doctor who had stayed with him overnight in the mountains. Their teamwork and coordination with the Air Force and local responders en-

sured a safe end to a dangerous mission.

Recognized Crew: CW3 Brett Normandeau (Pilot-in-Command), CW3 Pat Rickar (Co-Pilot), SPC Sydney Stephenson (Crew Chief), and SPC Zach Blank (Crew Chief).

Each of these operations demanded split-second decision-making, advanced flight skill, and immense courage. Even through flying in wildfire smoke, over jagged terrain, or in the dead of night, these crews embody the Montana spirit of bravery, selflessness, and a steadfast commitment to saving lives.

To the men and women of the Montana Army National Guard aviation teams: Thank you for your service to our State and your unwavering dedication to the people of Montana. Your courage in the face of danger makes us proud to call you fellow Montanans.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 82, a resolution on providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act", and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Angus S. King, Jr., Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Ron Wyden, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Brian Schatz, Richard J. Durbin, Adam B. Schiff, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Amy Klobuchar, Martin Heinrich, Patty Murray, Ben Ray Lujan, Ruben Gallego, Mazie Hirono, Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 82. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to "Policy on Adhering to the Text of the Administrative Procedure Act".

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

(Legislative Day October 21, 2025)

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 3030. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 3031. A bill making continuing appropriations for essential Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. 3032. A bill to extend the authority for the protections of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1318. A bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-89).

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 778. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2392. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2025, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Joel Rayburn, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

*Nomination was reported without recommendation. The nominee has agreed to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

*Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

By Mr. MORAN for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 3027. A bill to amend Public Law 86-272 to expand the prohibition of State taxation relating to certain solicitation of orders; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3028. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 3029. A bill to provide for Department of Energy and National Aeronautics and Space Administration research and development coordination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LEE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3030. A bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3031. A bill making continuing appropriations for essential Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3032. A bill to extend the authority for the protections of certain facilities and assets from unmanned aircraft; placed on the calendar.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3033. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish partnerships between medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and medical facilities in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. BENNET):
S. Res. 462. A resolution recognizing Nobel Prize winner Maria Corina Machado and reaffirming support for democracy in Venezuela; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 137

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit the Federal Government from entering into contracts with an entity that discriminates against firearm or ammunition industries, and for other purposes.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to require full funding of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

S. 943

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 943, a bill to establish a manufactured housing community improvement grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 977

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 977, a bill to prohibit taxpayer-funded gender transition procedures, and for other purposes.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

S. 1500

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage from imposing cost-sharing requirements with respect to diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator