



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025

No. 178

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 1 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Eternal God, our King, when our children and grandchildren want to know what we were doing in the 119th Congress during the famous shutdown, may we not have to give these answers: I helped set a new record for keeping the government closed. I failed to appeal to the better angels of my nature. I forgot Matthew 7:12, which states:

Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you.

This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.

Lord, remind our lawmakers that no gold medals are given for breaking shutdown records, but a crown of righteousness is given to those who take care of the lost, last, and least.

We pray in Your loving 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. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NOMINATION OF REBECCA L. TAIBLESON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to thank Chaplain Black for his reminding all of us about the government shutdown and how irregular it is and how we aren't helping people that government would normally be helping.

Today, we will vote on Ms. Rebecca Taibleson, the nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, so I want to take a few minutes to express my support for her nomination.

Ms. Taibleson is highly qualified. She will be serving on the Seventh Circuit. Her resume speaks for itself. She attended top schools and demonstrated academic excellence. She clerked for two Supreme Court Justices—Justice Scalia and now-Justice Kavanaugh when he was on the DC Circuit.

She has extensive experience in both private practice and public service. She has been a Federal prosecutor for nearly a decade and currently serves as appellate chief for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. As a prosecutor, she protected her community from violent criminals and the scourge of narcotics. She is also a member of the Attorney General's Review Committee on Capital Cases.

During the first Trump administration, she worked on detail in the Solicitor General's Office. She drafted numerous briefs and presented oral argument to the U.S. Supreme Court. Her former colleagues in the Justice Department wrote to the Judiciary Committee, commending Ms. Taibleson for tackling some of the most difficult legal questions facing the country and doing so with very thoughtful leadership.

Most importantly, Ms. Taibleson has consistently demonstrated her steadfast commitment to upholding the rule of law, even at personal cost. Two moments in her career particularly illustrate her willingness to take positions even at personal cost.

In 2018, she spoke publicly in defense of Justice Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court. She chose to stand up and to speak the truth even though she knew that she would become embroiled in that public spectacle that the Kavanaugh nomination brought to the country. Ms. Taibleson's voice during that testimony was courageous and very instrumental in Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation.

The same dedication to the rule of law was evident during her time in the Solicitor General's Office. She raised her hand to handle complex and important cases on behalf of the United States without regard to political pressure or personal benefit. Standing up for the rule of law without fear or favor is exactly what we should want to see in our Federal judges. I see those attributes in Ms. Taibleson.

Ms. Taibleson will make an outstanding judge, and I know she will

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



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serve the people of Wisconsin and the Seventh Circuit with distinction. President Trump made an excellent selection for this seat, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

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 executive clerk reads as follows:

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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, “There is a time and a place to debate healthcare, just like there is a time and place to debate energy policy and immigration and education—but not”—not—“when the funding of the federal government, and all the lives that are impacted by it, hang in the balance.”

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

Those are not my words; those are the words of the junior Democrat Senator from Connecticut back in 2013.

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

These words were once emblematic of the Democrat position here in the Senate. Democrats once passionately opposed shutdowns—or so they said—in large part because of the impact they would have on American citizens and American workers.

Now? Well, now, government workers and every other American affected by this shutdown have become nothing more than pawns in the Democrats’ political games.

On Friday, Federal workers missed their entire paychecks. The next paycheck for our troops—for our troops, Mr. President—is in jeopardy. And more than 40 million Americans could lose access to food stamps if the shutdown continues—40 million. Yet none of it seems to matter to Senate Democrats. The party that once decried the impact of shutdowns on Americans in need is now apparently content to see 40 million Americans go without food.

The senior Democrat Senator from Vermont was on TV the other day, and

one of the hosts suggested that Members of Congress should refuse to take their paychecks during a shutdown. And what did the senior Democrat Senator from Vermont say? He said some Members of Congress couldn’t afford to go without pay. That is right. Some Members of Congress couldn’t afford to go without pay. Does he think that other Americans can?

The junior Democrat Senator from Arizona told NBC News during the beginning of the shutdown that he couldn’t afford to miss his paycheck. That was his quote:

I’m not wealthy, and I have three kids. I would basically be missing, you know, mortgage payments, rent payments, child support. So it is not feasible, not gonna happen.

What on Earth does he think is happening to Federal workers and other Americans out of work because of the Democrat shutdown? Does he think they don’t have mortgage payments, rent payments, school expenses, electric bills? If some Members of Congress can’t afford to miss a paycheck, how much more is that true for the many workers making a lot less than Members of Congress pull down?

The junior Democrat Senator from Minnesota stated she would not be forgoing her pay because she is continuing to work—because she is continuing to work.

Do Democrats even hear themselves? She does realize, right, that a lot of other people are continuing to work and have been working without pay now for 4 weeks, thanks to her actions and those of her Democrat colleagues? How many of those workers are going to miss their rent payments or mortgage payments before Democrats are satisfied?

“Shutdowns aren’t victimless crimes,” the senior Democrat from Virginia said—less than a year ago, I might add.

Mr. President, Democrats’ victims are piling up, and Democrats don’t look likely to spare anyone anytime soon. In fact, they are freely admitting it. The second ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives said recently:

Of course there will be families who are going to suffer. . . . But it is one of the few leverage times we have.

“But it is one of the few leverage times we have.”

I guess the Americans currently lining up at food banks can comfort themselves with the knowledge that they are being sacrificed to advance Democrats’ political goals.

If you ask Democrats the reason for the 180-degree flip in their views on shutdowns, if you challenge them to explain their hypocrisy, I suspect you wouldn’t get much of an answer. I suspect that, at best, Democrats would bleat something about how this shutdown is a special case—right?

A special case—it is always a special case with the Democrats. A historic blockade of Presidential nominees—well, that was a special case. Ignore anything that you ever said about

shutdowns right here on the floor of the Senate—well, this is a special case.

I will tell you what is actually special about this case. What is special about this case is the Democrats’ far-left base demanded a showdown with President Trump, and Democrats have abandoned every principle that they possess relating to shutdowns to give it to their base.

While some Democrats may be privately uncomfortable about all the damage a 4-week shutdown is doing, so far, they are too scared of their base to do anything about it.

Democrats claim that this shutdown is about addressing the expiring Obamacare subsidies. That is not what this is really about. If this were really what this is about, the Democrats would be voting to reopen the government so that we could actually engage in a serious discussion about rising healthcare costs and how Obamacare has failed to address them. But they are not because, at the end of the day, Democrats don’t want a solution; they want a political issue.

And if countless hard-working Americans are sacrificed in the process?

Of course, there will be families that are going to suffer. . . . But it is one of the few leverage times we have.

Apparently, that is just fine with the Democrats here in the Senate.

Mr. President, we will be voting once again, this week, to reopen the government—to reopen the government, restore hard-working Americans’ paychecks, protect nutrition programs, support critical services like air traffic control, and that list goes on and on and on. And Democrats will have a 13th chance to vote on a clean, nonpartisan funding bill that will reopen the government. All we need are five Democrats to join the three who are with us already, and we could have the government open in a matter of hours.

It is that simple. The solution is sitting right at that desk. The bill that passed the House a month ago is sitting at this desk and has been now for a month. We have repeatedly called it up and asked us to vote on it. Every time, we get 55 Senators voting for it. Everybody knows the rules. The Senate requires 60. But that bill, with five courageous Democrats stepping forward in helping us pass it, could be on the President’s desk, signed into law, and this government reopens. It could happen today. It could happen this afternoon. Let’s just hope that somewhere those courageous Democrats exist.

Shutdowns, even partial ones, are as devastating as they are stupid.

That was what the senior Democrat from Virginia said just last year. So how do you justify what you are doing now?

It is up to them, Mr. President. We can do it, and we can do it today.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.