

the Departmental Ethics Office, who was responsible for advising the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General on ethics and overseeing the ethics program of the Department of Justice;

Whereas, on October 21, 2025, President Trump alleged that he had “a lawsuit that was doing very well” and stated that the Department of Justice would “owe [him] a lot of money”;

Whereas the public or private attempts by the President to extract \$230,000,000 in personal payments from the Department of Justice raise serious questions about violations of article II, section 1, clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States (commonly known as the “Domestic Emoluments Clause”), misuse of Government funds, and potential violations of Federal ethics and anti-corruption laws;

Whereas such actions erode public confidence in the impartial administration of justice;

Whereas taxpayer dollars will be used to pay for any financial award to the President;

Whereas the people of the United States are struggling with an unprecedented housing affordability crisis, rising health care costs due to cuts by the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress and their failure to address expiring tax credits that directly lower the cost of private health insurance, and other rising costs due to inflation and the tariffs imposed by President Trump; and

Whereas the Federal Government has been shut down since October 1, 2025, and most of the approximately 2,400,000 Federal workers across the United States have not received their paychecks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the calls by President Donald Trump for the Department of Justice to pay him \$230,000,000;

(2) opposes the provision of financial compensation through lawsuits, paid from taxpayer money, to President Trump;

(3) urges any officials of the Department of Justice with personal or professional ties to President Trump to recuse themselves from any review or settlement of these administrative complaints;

(4) affirms the foundational principle that no public office may be used for personal enrichment;

(5) reaffirms its commitment to the independence of the Department of Justice’s prosecutorial role and the rule of law; and

(6) calls upon all public officials, including the President of the United States, to uphold the highest ethical standards and to place the public interest above personal gain.

SENATE RESOLUTION 471—CALLING ON CONGRESS, SCHOOLS, AND STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DYSLEXIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED, AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2025 AS “NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 471

Whereas dyslexia is—
(1) defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and

(2) most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and, often, the ability to learn a second language;

Whereas the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391; 132 Stat. 5194 et seq.) included a definition of dyslexia as part of the requirement of the Act to screen inmates for dyslexia upon intake in Federal prisons;

Whereas the definition of dyslexia in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of the First Step Act of 2018, is the first and only definition of dyslexia in a Federal statute;

Whereas dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;

Whereas dyslexia is persistent and highly prevalent, affecting as many as 1 out of every 5 individuals;

Whereas dyslexia is a paradox, in that an individual with dyslexia may have both—

(1) weaknesses in decoding that result in difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition; and

(2) strengths in higher-level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving;

Whereas great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiological, cognitive, and neurobiological bases of dyslexia;

Whereas the achievement gap between typical readers and dyslexic readers occurs as early as first grade; and

Whereas early screening for, and early diagnosis of, dyslexia are critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to fluent reading, the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment, and the provision of necessary accommodations that ensure success in school and in life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; and

(2) designates October 2025 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, Henry Wu, for today, October 28, 2025.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my team be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Christopher Stille, Madeleine Veal, Meredith Shea, Eric Gitson, Matthew Trone, Ethan Lukas, Christopher Adair, Cara Levy, Steven Kasperek, and Rami Major.

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

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2025, TO OCTOBER 31, 2025, AS “BAT WEEK”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 454.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 454) expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2025, to October 31, 2025, as “Bat Week”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 454) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 16, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 471, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 471) calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed, and designating October 2025 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 471) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that if Senator SULLIVAN makes a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 80, the Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m. and, if agreed to, that all time be deemed expired and the Senate vote on passage no earlier than Thursday, October 30; that following the vote on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 80, the Senate execute the order of October 28 in relation to Executive Calendar No. 457, Edmund G. LaCour, Jr.; further, that if Senator KENNEDY makes a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 69, the Senate vote on the motion at 2:15 p.m.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, Senators should expect two votes at 11:30 a.m., one vote at 2:15 p.m., and a further vote later in the afternoon.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator BLUMENTHAL.

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

The Senator from Connecticut.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as everyone in this Chamber knows and

everyone in our great Nation knows, we are in the midst of a healthcare crisis. Now, the word “crisis” probably is the most overused term in the political lexicon, but the American people know that this crisis is real and urgent because they know, if you don’t have your health, you don’t have anything. That old saying epitomizes the importance of healthcare when it affects our children, who can’t get healthcare for themselves; our seniors, who also depend on others; and everyday Americans across the country, who are at their kitchen tables tonight or at their workplaces or are with their families, wondering: When will it happen? When will I get sick, not just with a virus or the common cold? When will there be a healthcare crisis for me?

And it happens to everybody. Nobody is invincible. Everybody needs healthcare, and it should be regarded as a human right.

We face an imminent and real and present crisis right now for millions of Americans who will no longer be able to afford healthcare insurance, beginning in days or weeks, because premiums are skyrocketing. They will rise by double or triple what they are now. Insurance companies are already raising premium rates. Americans are beginning a period of open enrollment. In Connecticut, it begins on November 1, when they will have to make choices—literally, in effect, writing checks to insurance companies and saying: I am going to afford this plan. But many Americans will find no plan affordable if we fail to provide for them an extension of the healthcare tax credit that has enabled them to afford health insurance up to now under a measure that we passed and the President signed.

My Republican colleagues continue to ignore the needs and interests of the American people by blocking our efforts to fix this imminent, immediate crisis. The Republican-controlled House of Representatives is out of town, the President is out of touch in Asia, and we are left with the clock ticking. Time is not on our side.

Let’s be very clear. Republicans control the House of Representatives, which hasn’t shown up to work in over a month, but they continue to be paid; Republicans control the Senate; and maybe most importantly, the Republicans control the White House. This government shutdown is happening on President Trump’s watch. It is on him. These skyrocketing healthcare costs are happening on his watch too.

Instead of fighting for the American people, President Trump and Republicans have spent the past year seeking to strip millions of Americans of healthcare, food assistance, student loan support, and much more that is vital to their quality of life and, for many of them, their very survival.

Democrats have been sounding the alarm over the ongoing threats to healthcare and the impact it will have on every American, but Republicans

seemingly—I say “seemingly”—refuse to listen. I think they are listening but are in denial because instead of working with Democrats to prevent Americans from being crushed by impending medical debt, Republicans have wasted valuable time blocking every single Democratic effort to lower costs for families.

To be clear, if Republicans refuse to join Democrats in protecting the American people from massive increases in their healthcare costs, millions of people will suffer, and healthcare premiums will rise to incomprehensible levels.

Just this week, Connecticut launched a window-shopping tool that allows residents to preview their healthcare options for next year. It allows consumers to see how costs compare to next year’s costs. Very frankly, the options are preposterous.

For example, a couple in their sixties living in Hartford, CT—our capital—making \$100,000 a year will go from paying \$260.38 to \$2,614.60. That is for the same plan. It is an Anthem plan. They are going from the cost this year of \$260.83 to, next year, \$2,614.60. By the way, they are getting nothing more. It is the same plan. There is no additional coverage, and they are paying over \$2,500 more each month.

It is, in effect, a Republican healthcare tax on a family in their sixties making \$100,000 a year—that is a middle-class family—in Hartford, CT.

Let me give you another example. A family of four living in Hartford and making \$159,767, roughly \$160,000 a year—the average salary for a family of four in our State—would be forced to pay \$1,159.52 more. They go from \$796.65 this year to \$1,956.17 next year. I don’t know how they can afford it. The simple answer is, probably they can’t. And that family will be at risk of financial catastrophe without healthcare insurance coverage.

Already—let me just emphasize, already—healthcare debt is the major cause of bankruptcy in this country. It hurts our whole economy. So even if you don’t care about a family of four living in Hartford or a couple in their sixties, even if the humanitarian impacts are impervious to you, think about the economic consequences. Think about your pocketbook, not theirs. Bankruptcy will increase along with the suffering.

These price hikes, the taxes on healthcare, are absolutely absurd and abhorrent. It is incomprehensible to expect any American enrolled in one of these plans to have the disposable income necessary to keep their coverage. This added cost is money that could be used to cover weeks’ worth of groceries, heat, rent, or mortgage.

This added cost is money that many individuals and families simply don’t have. They won’t pay these prices because they simply cannot. Instead, many will be forced to go without health insurance, which raises the costs for everyone.