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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 31, 2025, at 1 p.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025

The Senate met at 10 a.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 Lord, we praise Your Holy Name. You are our strength, guide, and protection.

Lord, we continue to pray without ceasing for an end to this shutdown. Use our Senators to make this dream become a reality. Help them to express their gratitude to You with deeds of faith, love, and obedience. May our lawmakers, for the glory of Your Name, learn to foresee danger and take precautions. Prosper the works of their hands until the kingdoms of this world become the springboard for the eternal reign of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We pray in Your strong 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. MULLIN). 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.

### RECOGNIZING STEAD FAMILY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, my colleagues may get tired of me braying about great things in Iowa, but I am here again to do that.

The University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital continues to set the standard for pediatric care in our State and our region.

In the 2025–2026 U.S. News and World Report, Iowa's Stead Family was ranked No. 1 in Iowa and No. 12 in the Midwest under a category called the Best Children's Hospitals ranking.

Stead Family Children's Hospital has appeared in rankings every year since the U.S. News and World Report launched these indexes in 2007. These rankings reflect more than numbers; they represent the hospital's commitment to high-quality, compassionate, and innovative care.

Stead is home to Iowa's only level 4 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center, offering the highest levels of critical and emergency care.

In 2020, Stead Family also earned the Gold Beacon Award for excellence from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, the world's largest specialty nursing organization.

This award recognizes hospital units that exemplify exceptional patient care, strong leadership, and a sustained commitment to safety and quality.

Achieving the gold-level designation reflects Stead Family's success in fostering an environment where collaboration, evidence-based practice, and compassionate care thrive.

The University of Iowa Health Care system has also maintained Magnet designation for nursing excellence in 2008, 2013, 2018, and 2023.

The Magnet Recognition Program is considered the gold standard for nursing quality. Fewer than 10 percent of hospitals in the United States have earned this distinction, and even fewer have achieved redesignation multiple times.

Each of these recognitions affirms what Iowans already know: Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital is a place of hope, healing, and leadership.

The future of children's health in Iowa is bright, thanks to the tireless work of everyone at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

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. THUNE. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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



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## 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, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are now in day 29 of the Democrat government shutdown, and I say that because it is a Democrat shutdown. Now, the Democrats are out there publicly saying: Well, these are the Republicans who are responsible for shutting down the government, notwithstanding the fact that the House of Representatives has passed a bill sitting right here; that with five more Democrats, we could pick up and pass, put on the President's desk, he would sign it into law, and we could reopen the government.

Those are the simple facts. Those are the indisputable facts.

What it suggests to me, however, when they say that it is the Republicans' fault or somehow the Republicans are responsible for shutting the government down, it really defies facts. It defies history. It defies reality because as everybody who has been around here knows, we have now voted 13 times—13 times—on that bill sitting at the desk that would open up the government, put everybody back to work, and all the pain that is being caused on the American people would go away. Thirteen times we had that vote.

Interestingly enough, that matches the number of times the Democrats passed a clean CR when they had the majority the last 4 years under President Biden. On 13 different occasions—13 different occasions—they voted for a clean continuing resolution to fund the government.

At the time, they talked about how terrible it is, you know, that the government should be taken hostage when you have a dispute over other issues. You have tons of statements. I could spend all day just repeating the statements the Democrats made over and over and over again about the importance of funding the government and not taking it hostage to discuss other issues. The RECORD is replete with statements like that coming out of the Democrats.

So 13 times they have voted against funding the government right here. Thirteen times while they were in the majority, they voted for a clean continuing resolution. Now, explain that logic to the American people who are the ones that are experiencing the pain and the consequence of their shutdown.

I think the American people understand what is going on here. And we consistently see that, so much so that you even have the organizations—the unions around the country have come out now. You have the American Federation of Government Employees, you have the Teamsters, part of the Air Traffic Controllers Union all have endorsed a clean funding resolution. That, to me, suggests that it is resonating with the American people about who is responsible for this government shutdown.

But don't take my word for who it is, take the Democrats' own words. If you look at what has been said by some of the Democrat leadership here just in the last few days since the government actually shut down, that, of course, is the Democrat leader Senator SCHUMER, who said: "Every day gets better for us," commenting about the government shutdown.

My simple observation is, better for whom? For you because you think you are winning politically? What about the air traffic controllers? What about the TSA agents? What about the American troops? What about our Border Patrol agents? What about the people who work in this building? What about the 40 million Americans who are not going to get SNAP benefits starting Saturday if the government doesn't open up?

But "every day gets better," according to Senator SCHUMER.

Then, of course, this last week there was the House Democrat whip who said:

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

Of course there are families that are going to suffer. Yes, true, but it doesn't matter because we have leverage.

Then, of course, we have a third one here, one of our colleagues here in the Senate, the Senator from Delaware, who said this in an interview:

Frankly, this is our only moment of leverage and although a very unpleasant tool to use. . . .

Yes, it is unpleasant, unless you are a Democrat who thinks that this gives you a moment of leverage.

So lest there be any question about who is responsible for shutting the government down, make no mistake about it, these guys are the ones who are out there bragging about it "getting better for us every single day," or "we have more leverage now."

This has gone on long enough. We made it abundantly clear that this is not about what the Democrats say it is about. It is about the President in the White House. This is TDS. This is Trump derangement syndrome on steroids. And they are asking the American people to pay the price for that.

Thirteen times when Biden was President, they had no issues with funding the Federal Government with a clean CR. Now, we bring a clean, non-partisan CR—no partisan riders, no Re-

publican policies attached, just funds the government, comes over from the House a month ago now, we put it here just asking a handful of Democrats to join us because, as we know, it takes 60 in the Senate. I think most people understand that.

I mean, they are trying to ignore the fact now that Republicans have control of Washington. They have the House, the Senate, the White House. Anybody who follows this knows that in the U.S. Senate, the rules, the procedures in the Senate by which we operate and are governed, require a 60-vote threshold. So it takes more than 51. Meaning, since we have 53 Republicans, it is going to take a handful of Democrats. We have been able to generate 55 votes consistently now 13 different times for funding the government, opening up the government, but we need five more.

The question is, Are there five people over there with a backbone, five courageous Democrats, five Democrats who don't buy this, who don't believe that they ought to be using the American people as leverage—as leverage—to try to win a political battle? Are there five Democrats over there who believe we ought to do what is in the interest of the American people, the best interest of the air traffic controllers and the TSA agents and the men and women in uniform and the SNAP recipients that, starting on Saturday, are going to go without food assistance? This is not a game. You are playing with real people's lives.

In the Washington world, in the political world, they may think that they are winning this debate because it gives them leverage, but in the real world where real people live, people are hurting. People aren't getting paid. Federal workers aren't getting paid. As of Friday, last paycheck. Air traffic controllers' paychecks started going away yesterday.

I am still hopeful. I remain hopeful that there are enough sane Democrats who are not so afflicted with Trump derangement syndrome because that is what this is about, fundamentally, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. This is about Trump derangement syndrome. And it has broken out here in a way unlike anything I have seen in my time here. Disagree with the President, that is fine. Come down here, make statements, cast votes. Don't take the American people hostage and make them pay the price because you think that every day this is getting better for us.

## HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, the Democrat leader was on the floor yesterday morning claiming, once again, Republicans don't want to talk about fixing healthcare. Let me just say, for the 1,282nd time, that Republicans are more than happy to have a discussion about healthcare. We should have a discussion about healthcare because Democrats' signature healthcare law has done exactly nothing to address the problem of rising healthcare costs.