

don't want, that covers things you don't need.

How about health savings accounts? How about association health plans? How about across-State-line purchase of health insurance? So when you get a health insurance product you like, you can keep it. When you get a doctor you like, you can keep him. When you get a payment price you like, you can keep that and make it.

We would love to be addressing these issues, but our Democratic colleagues have decided they want to keep going with a government shutdown and hold the government hostage so they can appease their leftwing base.

It is time for them to end the theatrics and come to the table and get back to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

(The remarks of Ms. ERNST pertaining to the introduction of S. 3091 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. ERNST. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 (Mr. BUDD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time with respect to the Dunlap nomination be expired and the Senate vote on the confirmation of the nomination, notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Tuesday, November 4; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Tung nomination, that all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Wednesday, November 5; finally, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 371.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Chunyee Tung, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 371, Eric Chunyee Tung, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Jon A. Husted, Jim Justice, Ashley B. Moody, Roger Marshall, Joni Ernst, Ron Johnson, John Boozman, John Kennedy.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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, James E. Risch, Tim Sheehy, John Cornyn, Mike Rounds, John R. Curtis, Jim Justice, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick, Todd Young, Bill Hagerty, Dan Sullivan, Marsha Blackburn, Rick Scott of Florida, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with

Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Federal Government has a full lapse in funding and has for 30 days. This is not a new revelation.

I want to alert Senator SCHUMER to a grave concern I have. On November 1, 42 million Americans including 131,000 Iowa families will lose their food stamps. Food stamps cost 9 billion a month to administer.

I am calling on Senator SCHUMER to notify 42 million Americans that due to the Schumer Shutdown, their families won't be able to buy groceries with food stamps.

Let's wake up to the fact that Washington is an island surrounded by reality. Iowans in the Real America aren't glued to the TV. Iowans are living their lives, working hard, raising their families. Their world doesn't revolve around Congress. But guess what? Senate Democrats are taking away their food stamps as leverage for unrelated political demands.

Get the word out, Leader SCHUMER. Don't let Americans figure this out at the grocery store this weekend. That is unfair to the American people. Senate Republicans have voted 13 times to fulling fund government including food assistance. Forty-four Senate Democrats have opposed fully funding government 13 times. Americans are suffering because Democrats are holding government hostage.

I can't understand why Senate Democrats want Americans to lose access to their food assistance, law enforcement to go unpaid, and air traffic controllers to call in sick for work.

I am begging Senator SCHUMER to return the government to the American people, as it is their government.

#### HONDURAS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on September 3, 2025, I spoke about the upcoming November 30 general elections in Honduras for President, Members of Congress, and Members of the Central American Parliament. Significant fraud has been a problem in many of Honduras' past elections, most notably prior to, and during, the 2013 and 2017 elections of former President Juan Orlando Hernandez who today sits in a U.S. prison. So it is important that this election, like the election of Hernandez' successor in 2021, is widely accepted as free, fair, and transparent and that the results are honored in and outside of Honduras.

At that time, I expressed concern about a report that on July 16, Counselor Ana Paola Hall had resigned from the National Electoral Council due to political pressure and threats against her and her family. I also expressed concern that the government of President Castro had reportedly failed to

implement the system for transmitting election results, which is designed to ensure transparent and timely reporting.

Since then, I have been informed that Ms. Paola did not resign and that Honduras's electoral authority—the National Electoral Council or CNE—is now implementing an updated system for transmitting election results. This is positive news, and it should reinforce public confidence in the CNE's commitment to the integrity of the elections. It is my understanding that this new electoral transmission system is considered to be more effective and secure than the systems in place during previous elections, and it should help counter efforts—already reportedly underway—to undermine the fairness of the electoral process through legal and judicial maneuvers or to manufacture an excuse by some to challenge the results of the election if their candidate loses.

On September 3, I also spoke about President Castro's failure to achieve her pledge to establish an international commission to combat corruption and impunity, and the lack of progress in bringing to justice those responsible for the murder of environmentalist Juan Lopez and others who have lost their lives defending the land and water that indigenous communities depend on. There is no doubt that part of the responsibility for the failure to establish the commission falls on the Honduran Congress, which is dominated by the National Party of former President Hernandez, whose government functioned as a criminal enterprise. But President Castro insisted this was a priority, including during her campaign, and it is disappointing that she and her government did not do more to build public support to overcome opposition in the Congress. Honduras' justice system has so far been largely incapable of bringing to justice those responsible for significant crimes of corruption and for ordering the killings of environmental defenders, other social activists, and journalists—including indigenous environmental leader Berta Caceres and members of cooperatives in the Aguan Valley, where land rights defenders continue to be targeted with violence. It is critically important that Honduras' next President reaffirms the government's commitment to such a commission and strives to make it a reality.

It is in the interest of the United States that on November 30th the people of Honduras can freely cast their votes in a fair election for the candidates of their choice. It is not the role of the United States to pick winners and losers. I hope the elections usher in a new government of leaders who are committed to strengthening the institutions of democracy, upholding the rule of law, and improving the lives and protecting the rights of the Honduran people.

#### TRIBUTE TO BERL PERDUE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Sheriff Berl Perdue, the president of the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police—FOP—who will be stepping down from leading this incredible organization after more than 13 years. Sheriff Perdue is a brave public servant who has devoted his whole career to serving and protecting Kentuckians through his roles as a police officer and sheriff of Clark County. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating my friend Berl on a job well done.

After graduating from Eastern Kentucky University in 1981 with a bachelor of science degree in police administration, Berl went on to attend the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council—KLEC—Basic Police Academy. His determination to lead and make a difference in the community was evident early on. Berl graduated as president of Class No. 141 and started his career with the Winchester Police Department in May of 1982. He joined the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police that very same month, demonstrating his high regard for the organization from the very beginning.

Not only has Berl served his fellow Kentuckians, but he has also served his fellow officers. Starting in 1991 and continuing for the next two decades, Berl served as president of the Winchester/Clark County FOP Lodge No. 34, making a name for himself by strengthening his relationships in the law enforcement community. During this time, he was also elected to serve as vice president of the Kentucky FOP, an office he faithfully carried out for 13 years. Berl retired from the Winchester Police Department in 2006 after 24 years on the force, and rising to the rank of detective sergeant.

Berl continued his service to our great Commonwealth after being elected to the office of Clark County Sheriff, taking office in January of 2007. After only 1 year in office, the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association named him 2008 Sheriff of the Year. In June of 2012, Berl's peers elevated him to the role of State president of Kentucky FOP. I have had the pleasure of becoming friends with Berl over the years, relying on him for wise counsel and frank advice for anything related to law enforcement.

In addition to leading Kentucky FOP, he also served as the 2021–2022 president of the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association, becoming the first person to simultaneously hold both positions. Berl's work ethic and commitment to getting things done allowed him to excel in both roles. His selfless spirit can also be seen in his service on the KLEC and his appointment to serve on the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board.

As Sheriff Perdue's time in this role comes to an end, I want to acknowledge and honor his work representing over 9,800 sworn law enforcement professionals across Kentucky. Berl has

shown immense dedication to others, always putting the Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police first. His commitment to our great State and Nation is unwavering, and I wish him the best in this next chapter of his life. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him once more and in celebrating Sheriff Berl Perdue's career of public service.

#### TRIBUTE TO RON DERMER

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Minister Ron Dermer for his exceptional service and dedication to duty as the Minister of Strategic Affairs for the State of Israel.

Minister Dermer was born and raised in Miami Beach, FL. He earned a degree in finance and management from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as a degree in philosophy, politics and economics—PPE—from Oxford University.

From 2005 to 2008, Minister Dermer served as Israel's Economic Attache in the United States. Beginning in 2009, he then spent 4 years as a senior advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. From 2013 to 2021, Minister Dermer served as Israel's 18th Ambassador to the United States. Following his ambassadorship, he briefly left public service and served as a nonresident fellow at the Jewish Institute for National Security of America and later as a partner at Exigent Capital Group. In 2022, Minister Dermer returned to the Israeli Government as Israel's Minister of Strategic Affairs and a member of Israel's Security Cabinet.

Working with Minister Dermer during my time in Congress has been a great honor. He has been one of the most effective voices for the State of Israel and his extraordinary career has been defined by his commitment to fostering peace and stability within the region. I consider Ron Dermer's contributions to the U.S.-Israel relationship and security of the Jewish state to be on par with any military or political leader that has ever served the State of Israel. Furthermore, Minister Dermer has played a critical role in strengthening the relationship between the State of Israel and the United States, and I know the State of Israel has benefited from his extraordinary leadership and judgment. It is my honor to join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Minister Ron Dermer on his service to the State of Israel. We wish Ron all the best as he continues on to his next chapter.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we will soon have a voice vote on a motion to adjourn the Senate until next week. Had there been a recorded rollcall vote on that motion, I would have been a resounding “no,” and I ask to be recorded as a “no” based on my strongest opposition to Members leaving town.