

(Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1795, a bill to modify the program of grants to support high-quality charter schools.

S. 1805

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1805, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 1806

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to terminate unused authorities of the Securities and Exchange Commission that were established pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2376

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2376, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include rioting in the definition of racketeering activity.

S. 2378

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2378, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish funds for investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2398, a bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2960, a bill to develop economic tools to deter aggression by the People's Republic of China against Taiwan.

S. 2963

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2963, a bill to provide back pay to Federal contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 3024

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3024, a bill to appropriate funds to ensure uninterrupted benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3056, a bill to state the policy of the United States with respect to religious freedom in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 3070

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3070, a bill to provide Federal student loan borrower relief for Federal employees.

S. 3072

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3072, a bill to prohibit the imposition of additional tariffs on coffee imported from countries to which the United States has extended normal trade relations, and for other purposes.

S. 3079

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3079, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay and pay for civilian employees of certain elements of the intelligence community in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

S. RES. 323

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 323, a resolution urging the United States to lead a global effort to halt and reverse the nuclear arms race.

S. RES. 463

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 463, a resolution expressing condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party's persecution of religious minority groups, including Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists and the detention of Pastor "Ezra" Jin Mingri and leaders of the Zion Church, and reaffirming the United States' global commitment to promote religious freedom and tolerance.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 481—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD USE ITS CONTINGENCY FUNDS AND INTERCHANGE AUTHORITY TO FINANCE THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 481

Whereas, in 1964, Congress authorized the supplemental nutrition assistance program (referred to in this preamble as "SNAP") to "alleviate . . . hunger and malnutrition" and ensure that families would never go hungry;

Whereas approximately 1 in 8 people in the United States rely on SNAP, and in 2024, SNAP helped approximately 42,000,000 people avoid hunger or malnutrition, including about 16,000,000 children, 8,000,000 seniors, 4,000,000 people with disabilities, and 1,200,000 veterans;

Whereas, in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, Congress appropriated \$3,000,000,000 to the SNAP contingency fund to remain available through September 30, 2026, that would be "placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations";

Whereas, in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, Congress appropriated another \$3,000,000,000 to the SNAP contingency fund for these same purposes, to remain available through September 30, 2027;

Whereas this contingency fund, which now totals more than \$4,500,000,000, was created to ensure that SNAP funding would be available to respond to emergencies, including a government shutdown, so that children, seniors, and people of the United States who are at risk of going hungry have access to food;

Whereas it is highly damaging for children to go without food and the ability of children to learn in school is deeply damaged by persistent hunger;

Whereas, during the 2018-2019 shutdown in the first Trump administration, the United States Department of Agriculture (referred to in this preamble as the "USDA") said in guidance released in January 2019 that "funding is available from the contingency that can be used to provide benefits for February", though the shutdown ended before the contingency funds needed to be used;

Whereas, on September 30, the USDA posted guidance on its website indicating that SNAP “has been provided with multi-year contingency funds that can be used for State Administrative Expenses to ensure that the State can also continue operations during a Federal Government shutdown” and that “[t]hese multi-year contingency funds are also available to fund participant benefits in the event that a lapse occurs in the middle of the fiscal year”;

Whereas, earlier in 2025, the Government Accountability Office explained that “SNAP is considered an appropriated entitlement, meaning that the government is legally required to make payments to those who meet the program requirements” and “USDA’s liability [extends to] the availability of appropriations for these payments”;

Whereas the Secretary of Agriculture has discretion under section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) to transfer funds within nutrition programs via interchange authority; and

Whereas, in October 2025, the Trump administration used its interchange authority to fund the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Trump administration is legally obligated to fund the supplemental nutrition assistance program (referred to in this resolution as “SNAP”) through the use of the contingency fund;

(2) the Trump administration has the legal authority and the funds to finance SNAP through the month of November;

(3) exercising this power is extremely important for the health and wellness of families experiencing hunger, including about 16,000,000 children, 8,000,000 seniors, 4,000,000 people with disabilities, and 1,200,000 veterans; and

(4) the administration should immediately exercise its legal authority to fund SNAP in November 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my interns for their shadow days on the following dates: Flora Xia on November 5, 2025; Nidhi Nair on November 20, 2025; and Maxwell Robben on December 4, 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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 Tuesday, November 4, 2025; 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 the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that the closure motion with respect to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, ripen at 11:30 a.m.; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; and that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate execute the order of October 30 in relation to the confirmation of the Dunlap nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, President Trump has developed a new MAHA strategy. Instead of Make America Healthy Again, his new strategy is “Make America Hungry Agenda.” He is weaponizing food against America’s most vulnerable families. In my State of Oregon, that means cutting off food to 757,000 people, including 210,000 children and 130,000 seniors.

Now, when you think about these numbers, they are hard to envision, but Oregon is roughly 300 miles from the northern border to the southern border. I-5 runs the entire length of the State. So if all of those individuals were lined up on the highway, they would be just 2 feet apart for 300 miles, and every third person, approximately, would be a child. That is the level of impact we are talking about.

You know, when children go without food, the impact is pretty significant. There is the impact on their physical development. There is the impact on their mental development. And, of course, if you are hungry, you can’t learn a damn thing in school—so three ways of really hurting America’s children, millions of American children.

Congress together, Democrats and Republicans, said this should never happen. The House and the Senate together said this should never happen. So together we created two tools. The first tool is the SNAP contingency fund meant to ensure that families can keep putting food on the table. The

second tool is interchange authority that allows the Secretary of Agriculture to use tariff funds to supplement the contingency fund.

Back in September, USDA’s—the U.S. Department of Agriculture—website noted that it planned to use the contingency funds in order to make sure that SNAP was delivered in November, but then in October, last month, it deleted that language, and the President said: My hands are tied. America’s most vulnerable families must go hungry.

Well, now we know that the administration certainly was well aware of the contingency fund because it was on their website, and we know that the Department of Agriculture is well aware of its ability to use the interchange to transfer funds from a program that would enable it to provide the full SNAP benefits in the month of November. In fact, it just used this interchange recently in both October and November for the WIC Program.

Right now, section 32 funds—there is \$23 billion in there. So just one-fifth of those funds would enable the full November SNAP funds to be distributed.

Last week, I saw a speech by MIKE JOHNSON, the Speaker of the House, on television, and he was saying that Republicans are not going to provide SNAP funds because it would reduce pressure on Democrats to reopen the government. In other words, the Speaker of the House was saying that America’s families, the most vulnerable families—the health and welfare of children, seniors, the most vulnerable adults—that they are just bargaining chips.

Well, let me tell you, our vulnerable families are not bargaining chips. Basic food for children is not a bargaining chip. So we are here to say: Hell no. It is not acceptable to use children and the most vulnerable as bargaining chips.

That is why 25 States and the District of Columbia filed a suit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture to say that it is illegal to stop funding SNAP. On Friday of last week, two judges agreed in two different jurisdictions—in Massachusetts and in Rhode Island—and they said to the Trump administration: You must proceed to fund SNAP. The contingency fund is there for that purpose, and you have other funds to enable, through the interchange, to provide the full amount in November.

Both are needed, because there is about \$4.65 billion, we are told, left in the contingency fund, but SNAP, in a single month, can be \$8 to \$9 billion. So that second tool is essential. And, again, there is \$23 billion in there waiting to be used. So there is absolutely no reason not to fund the full SNAP benefits for the month of November.

But then the administration responded to the court, and they said: We are not going to do it. We will use the contingency funds, but we are not going to use the interchange authority.