

a government entity, and over 40 percent if they work for a business. So this is something which is already out there.

And then I am told: Well, the Federal Government has to set it up.

You know, I will point out that I am on an ObamaCare policy through the small business exchange. My FSA is already administered by the Federal Government through the small business ObamaCare exchange. All we are asking to do is to open that window a little bit more and to take in the individual market ObamaCare exchange. We already have the existing mechanism to do this within the Federal Government. This can be done. We should not consider it so complicated to accomplish.

Now, inevitably, there is going to be some bureaucrat that says they need 6 months to open a window, and that is why I am glad President Donald Trump is the President when this is coming up, because if there is one guy that can cut through the bureaucratic—I am a gastroenterologist, and certain terms came to mind. The Presiding Officer is from a farm State, and maybe they do to you. But the one guy that can cut through the stuff that seems an obstacle to others is President Donald Trump.

I always smile. On Operation Warp Speed, they said it might take 18 months, maybe 10 years, to get a vaccine to market, and President Trump's leadership led it to be in people's arms from before we started within 11 months. This man can make it happen.

So I don't consider it too complicated for the patient to understand, and I don't consider it too complicated for the Federal Government to adapt to, which means we can even do it in 2026.

Now, the next thing I hear: Is it going to cost money?

It is going to cost money. And, again, my Democratic colleagues should like this because the first year, it will cost about the same as the enhanced premium tax credits, because, right now, we are 2 months from the beginning of the year, and there is not a whole lot of time for reforms to be put in place to lower the cost of healthcare.

So for our fellow Americans who are depending upon this, we can fix it for them.

But now we also have the opportunity to pass other reforms that truly will lower the cost of healthcare. So come 2027, those reforms begin to work down the cost of healthcare, and we as Americans will benefit—not just in the ObamaCare exchanges, but in the commercial market, in the Medicare space, and in other spaces as well. We begin to lower healthcare costs for all. That is more value for the individual, more value for the employer, and more value for the taxpayer.

So the choice is before us. We can continue to try to paper over the cost of health insurance by throwing billions more at it—under the enhanced premium tax credit, the money goes to

insurance companies, and 20 percent gets hung up in administrative costs and profit—or we can spend 100 percent of it in prefunded, flexible spending accounts benefiting patients and their families.

What can it be used for? Under the enhanced premium tax credit, you are choosing to use it for insurance premiums and whatever the insurance company thinks you should get. Under the prefunded, flexible spending account, you decide or—since I am looking at Senator CRAMER—Senator CRAMER's wife decides because wives—women—make most of these decisions. She will decide to pay for dental, physician, glasses, prescriptions, or orthodontia. You name it—she gets to pick.

Who makes the decision under the enhanced premium tax credit? Insurance companies. Under prefunded, flexible spending accounts, the patient does, the mother does, the wife does. These are the people that will then make the decisions.

Does it lower costs? No. Under the enhanced premium tax credit, it drives premiums up.

Under the prefunded, flexible spending account, we empower patients to shop to find the best deal for their dollar. That drives competition, and that lowers costs.

I cannot imagine why anybody would choose the status quo of enhanced premium tax credits versus giving the patient the power. We should give the patient the power.

I say this—and I want to be very clear. I am not being partisan. I am in good faith trying to say that everyone should put their party behind them, put their partisan politics behind them, and be focused only on how do we lower healthcare costs for the average American—no, for all Americans. How do we lower healthcare costs? That should be our focus.

My staff asked me if I am wearing a purple tie because I am bipartisan. I said: No. I am wearing a purple tie because LSU lost badly last night, and I thought we should encourage them. So this is my LSU Tigers tie.

That said, just so it works out, I am really emphasizing that this is something we can work on together. President Trump is for it, and I would like my Democratic colleagues to consider it—not just reject it because a Republican proposes it but to actually realize it is in good faith, trying to find a solution for the high healthcare costs that are hurting American families.

Let's take a risk. Let's take a risk. Let's be bold. Let's do something different than we have done before—no, the same thing we have done before, but we have done it in a different space. We have done it on the small business ObamaCare exchange, we have done it through our employer, and we have done it through the Indiana Medicaid Program. Let's try the individual exchange. Let's just trust those patients to make wise decisions for themselves as opposed to treating them like

something—the Federal Government has to tell them what to do.

I return where I started. As a doctor, I took care of the uninsured for 20 years. I always found that my patients, even if they weren't really educated—but you explain the options to them, they make wise decisions. They made sophisticated decisions when you gave them control of their healthcare and you allowed them to make that wise decision.

Let's trust the American people, Mr. President. Let's give power to the patients, not billions to the insurance companies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## RECESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 8 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:37 p.m., recessed until 8 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CRAMER).

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, exactly 1 month ago today, I stood on the Senate floor and spoke about the impact that the government shutdown was having on an already troubled aviation system and that the traveling public was facing tremendous challenges with that shutdown, and I cautioned against prolonging it. Now, 30 days later, we are still here.

I was concerned that if the government shutdown continued, it could force the closure of parts of the airspace and lead to further reductions in the air traffic controller workforce. Unfortunately, both these concerns have materialized in what has become the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history. With 2,300 cancellations, and counting today—Sunday—it will go down as one of the worst days in air travel.

I have never seen anything good come from a government shutdown. Lapses in Federal funding have made it harder for families to access SNAP benefits, Head Start Programs have been put on pause, and thousands of Federal employees are unable to receive a paycheck.

This dysfunction is damaging enough to our constituents and economy here at home, but it also sends a dangerous—a dangerous—message to the watching world. It demonstrates to our allies that we are an unreliable partner, and it signals to our adversaries that we can't work together to meet even the most fundamental responsibilities of Congress.

As this shutdown continues, I want to particularly focus on the impact

this lapsed funding is having on the aviation industry.

TSA agents and air traffic controllers have had to continue working while missing two paychecks. It is a stressful job and one that has grown increasingly more difficult throughout the year. Combine that with the uncertainty of how to pay rent, put food on the table, and gas in your car, it is no surprise—no surprise—that we are seeing more and more controllers not showing up to work. We were already facing a shortage of controllers, and now we are seeing more having to pick up second jobs to pay the bills or seeing some quit entirely.

Our inaction and our inability to gain consensus are deterring young people interested in futures such as air traffic controllers or other aviation professionals from pursuing those careers.

The vulnerabilities in our aviation system have led Secretary Sean Duffy to begin reducing flights by 10 percent at 40 major airports. Airlines, businesses, and general aviation alike are cutting into their operations to make certain that airspace is as safe as possible. It is critical to know that these impacts are not lopsided on those high-traffic areas. Small- and medium-hub airports, such as we have in Kansas that connect to those 40, are experiencing this pain just as much.

While this is a painful step, it is necessary for the safety of the traveling public, and I support Secretary Duffy's decision.

American Airlines indicated to me they canceled more than 240 flights yesterday and delayed more than 1,000 flights, impacting more than 150,000 passengers.

Airlines for America said that staffing shortages disrupted the flights of more than 4 million passengers from October 1 to November 7 on their partner airlines, and that was before the mandatory reductions were put in place by the Department of Transportation.

We can expect more cuts if we do not reopen the government.

We saw how fragile our air system is, and it is the reason I highlight aviation and the consequences of the shutdown tonight. We saw how fragile our air system is earlier this year when a series of failures led to a midair collision on January 29, which claimed the lives of 67, including those of Kansans. That accident forced Congress and our Nation to reckon with an issue that has plagued us for decades: Why have we not effectively modernized our airspace system?

Since that crash, steps have been taken to train more controllers and improve the aviation system, including a \$12.5 billion investment in modernizing our airspace. But those efforts are becoming much more difficult to accomplish during a shutdown.

Unfortunately, the position the aviation industry finds itself in today cannot be easily solved, but we cannot

even begin to solve it unless we reopen the government. Every day we remain shut down, the fragility of the system intensifies.

Thanksgiving is only 18 days away. Americans are purchasing, would have purchased, or already purchased tickets to be with their families. If we remain in a shutdown much longer, it will become increasingly difficult for airlines to deliver on their promises to their customers.

The circumstances we are in cannot continue. We must reopen the government. I urge my colleagues to pass a clean continuing resolution to reopen the government.

I am committed to working with my colleagues—my colleagues—to address the concerns they have and any issues brought forth by the shutdown.

We must return to regular order, advance a clean CR and these three appropriations bills, and then consider further appropriations and these issues that so many of us care so deeply about. Our constituents and our Nation depend upon us to do so.

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.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes each: Senator COLLINS, Senator SCHUMER, Senator SANDERS, and I.

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

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today, the Senate Appropriations Committee advanced legislation to reopen government immediately, funding vital programs and resuming pay for Federal workers who, for the last 40 days, have had to live with the stress of missed paychecks and not knowing when they would be paid.

Under our legislation, all Federal employees, including members of our military and Coast Guard, the Capitol Police officers, Border Patrol agents, TSA screeners, air traffic controllers—all will receive their back wages.

It is significant that this measure also includes three full-year fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills, including the annual Agriculture-FDA bill, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs legislation—very timely, given that Veterans Day will soon be upon us—and the Legislative Branch funding.

This three-bill package, which originally passed the Senate on August 1 with overwhelming bipartisan support—87 votes in 2 cases, 81 in another—will support our veterans, our troops, our farmers, and rural communities.

Of note, this package will provide full-year funding for the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC.

One of the most unfortunate and shameful consequences of the shutdown has been that these vital nutrition programs were in jeopardy for our most vulnerable families, including 170,000 Mainers who rely on the SNAP program. Other programs will be funded through January 30 while the Senate and House continue our work on the remainder of the yearlong appropriations bills. For example, funding for important programs like Head Start and such as the Low-Income Heating Assistance Program will now be restored.

I look forward to voting for this legislation and ending the unnecessary harm to the security of our families and our Nation. We must begin to act tonight. We must not delay any longer.

Finally, I want to thank the many members on both sides of the aisle of the Appropriations Committee and the Senate leadership who have worked especially hard to bring this package together.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank our staff. My staff missed an entire night's sleep to get this package together and get the job done.

Again, I want to particularly thank the members of the Appropriations Committee, including the three who served as the subcommittee chairs: Senator BOOZMAN, Senator HOEVEN, and Senator MULLIN. I want to thank KATIE BRITT—Senator BRITT—who did an extraordinary amount of work, LISA MURKOWSKI, MIKE ROUNDS, JERRY MORAN, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, CINDY HYDE-SMITH, DEB FISCHER. There are so many who worked so hard on this package. I want to thank each and every one of them.

Let's get the job done, and let's do it fast.

Did I miss Senator HOEVEN in my list? Senator HOEVEN was a rock star.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I understand that, the way the process has been developed, it is impossible to delay the votes that are going to take place. If that were not the case, that is certainly what I would do because I think it is important that the American people fully understand what is being voted on today.

Everybody in America knows that our current healthcare system is broken. It is dysfunctional. It is cruel. It is by far the most expensive healthcare system in the world and the only healthcare system of any major country that does not guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right, covering every man, woman, and child. We are unique in that respect. Yet, tonight, what this Senate is about to do is make a horrific situation even worse.

So let's be clear what this vote is about. If this vote succeeds, over 20 million Americans are going to see at

least a doubling of their premiums in the Affordable Care Act. In my State of Vermont and throughout this country, for certain groups of people, it will be a tripling and a quadrupling of their premiums. There are people who will now be paying 50 percent of their limited incomes for healthcare. Does anybody in the world think that makes sense?

If this resolution is passed tonight, we are on a pathway to throw 15 million Americans off of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act—15 million.

Our job is to create universal healthcare, guarantee healthcare to every man, woman, and child, not throw 15 million people off the healthcare they have—low-income and working-class people.

And, my friends, know what you are voting on. Studies are out there that when you throw 15 million people off of healthcare, some 50,000 of our fellow Americans will die unnecessarily every single year. Does anyone think that is funny, something to laugh at, something that you just go past? I don't. Fifty thousand Americans die unnecessarily.

Now, I know, as part of this resolution, that the majority leader is going to say: Well, Democrats can create—put together—their own bill, and it will come to the floor here in the Senate for a vote.

As everybody here knows, that is a totally meaningless gesture. You can get 100 votes here in the Senate. It won't mean anything because the House is not going to take it up, and the President of the United States certainly will not sign it.

So I hope that anybody here who is thinking of voting for this reconsiders, goes back home and talks to their constituents and asks them what it will mean if their healthcare premiums are doubled or tripled.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, America is in the midst of a Republican-made healthcare crisis—worse than anything the American people have seen in decades. Republicans have spent the past 10 months dismantling the healthcare system, skyrocketing costs, and making every day harder for American families. Because of Republicans, Americans are going to suffer immensely as this healthcare crisis gets worse.

Democrats have been fighting to end this crisis over and over again. Democrats have wanted to lower costs, but Republicans fought us every step of the way. We gave Republicans not one, not two, but three chances this year to extend the ACA premium tax credits. Republicans said no every time. On Friday, we offered Republicans a compromise, a proposal that would extend the ACA tax credits for a year and open up the government at the same time. They once again said no. And when

they said no on our compromise, they showed that they are against any healthcare reform.

Instead, they passed the biggest healthcare cuts in our Nation's history just to give tax breaks to billionaires. And even then, they weren't satisfied with merely closing hospitals and community health clinics; they callously did nothing to deal with the looming crisis of ACA credits.

Premiums will spike by thousands of dollars a month. Millions will lose insurance. Democrats have sounded the alarm. We have demanded for months to meet with the Republican leadership, but Republican leaders refused to even discuss the issue, let alone negotiate it. We have asked them to meet in the summer and throughout the shutdown. To this day, Republicans still say no.

We asked President Trump to step in and meet with us to deliver lower healthcare for Americans, and instead, Donald Trump has taken the American people hostage—from cutting off food aid to hungry families and vets and seniors and kids, to manufacturing flight cancellations, to cutting off home heating aid—while he builds a billion-dollar ballroom with gold-plated toilets.

Therefore—therefore—I must vote no. This healthcare crisis is so severe, so urgent, so devastating for families back home that I cannot in good faith support this CR that fails to address the healthcare crisis.

But let me be clear. However this vote turns out, this fight will and must continue. Democrats must fight because millions of families will lose healthcare coverage. We must fight because children who are dying of cancer will not get healthcare coverage. We must fight because a senior citizen cannot afford to pay \$25,000 a year just for health insurance. We must fight to keep millions from financial ruin.

And make no mistake about it, the American people know who is inflicting this healthcare trauma on them: Donald Trump and the Republicans. Americans will remember Republican intransigence every time they make a sky-high payment on health insurance.

So we are going to fight legislatively, fight back home, fight in the courts, and bring this fight in the elections. Healthcare costs made a major impact on the 2025 election, and they will certainly have an even greater impact on the 2026 election.

So in conclusion, the contrast between the two parties is crystal clear: Republicans are the party hell-bent on taking people's healthcare away—all to bow to the billionaire elite and special interests. Democrats are united as the party of lower healthcare costs and improving our healthcare system.

We will not give up this fight. We will deliver for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, after 40 long days, I am hopeful we can finally bring this shutdown to an end. I don't need to go over all the reasons why it is imperative to get the government open as soon as possible. From the truly precarious situation we are in with regard to air travel, the fact that our staffs have been working without pay for a full 40 days now, all of us, Republicans and Democrats, who support this bill know that the time to act is now.

So in just a few minutes, I will call up the vehicle for a clean continuing resolution, packaged with three bipartisan, yearlong appropriations bills: Agriculture appropriations, Military Construction, VA appropriations, and Legislative Branch appropriations. These bills will fund SNAP for the entire fiscal year, they will fund WIC for the entire fiscal year, and they will fund our veterans for the entire fiscal year.

After 40 days of uncertainty, I am profoundly glad to be able to announce nutrition programs, our veterans, and other critical priorities will have their full-year funding, and my goal is to quickly move to other full-year appropriations bills.

As I have said many times, I firmly believe that the way to fund the government is by passing appropriations bills through regular order—a process that gives Senators from both parties the fullest chance to make their voices heard.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, I also want to mention healthcare. There has been a lot of talk over the last several weeks on both sides of the aisle about the healthcare crisis in this country, and I am thankful to be able to say that we have Senators, both Democrat and Republican, who are eager to get to work to address that crisis in a bipartisan way. These Senators are not interested in political games; they are interested in finding real ways to address healthcare costs for American families. We also have a President who is willing to sit down and get to work on this issue. So I am looking forward to seeing what solutions might be brought forward.

Regardless, as I have said for weeks to my Democrat friends, I will schedule a vote on their proposal, and I have committed to having that vote no later than the second week in December.

Again, I am optimistic that after almost 6 weeks of this shutdown, we will finally be able to end it.

I will call up that bill in a matter of minutes, and I look forward to passing the clean continuing resolution and appropriations bill package in the very near future.

MOTION TO PROCEED TO THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Now, Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the cloture vote on October 16 on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371.

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

The motion was agreed to.

#### MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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, James C. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 610 Leg.]

#### YEAS—60

Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Moreno
Boozman	Hagerty	Mullin
Britt	Hassan	Murkowski
Budd	Hawley	Ricketts
Capito	Hoeven	Risch
Cassidy	Husted	Rosen
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cornyn	Johnson	Schmitt
Cortez Masto	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Kennedy	Shaheen
Crapo	King	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Curtis	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tillis
Durbin	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young

#### NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Ossoff
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Bennet	Hirono	Paul
Blumenthal	Kelly	Peters
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Reed
Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cantwell	Lujan	Schatz
Coons	Markey	Schiff
Duckworth	Merkley	Schumer
Galego	Murphy	Slotkin
Gillibrand	Murray	Smith

Van Hollen	Warren	Wyden
Warner	Welch	
Warnock	Whitehouse	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 40.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion, upon reconsideration, is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The majority leader.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3168

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3168) to appropriate funds for pay and allowances of Federal employees, contract employees, and members of the Armed Forces during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, at the appropriate place, the explanatory statement to accompany the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MS. COLLINS, CHAIR OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, REGARDING H.R. 5371, THE CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, AGRICULTURE, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

The following is an explanation of the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026.

This Act includes continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2026, three regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2026, and authorization extensions, as follows:

- Division A—Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026
- Division B—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026
- Division C—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026

- Division D—Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026
- Division E—Extension of Agricultural Programs
- Division F—Health Extenders
- Division G—Department of Veteran Affairs Extenders
- Division H—Miscellaneous

Section 1 of the Act is the short title of the bill.

Section 2 of the Act displays a table of contents.

Section 3 of the Act states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

Section 4 of the Act states that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this legislation as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

Section 5 of the Act provides a statement of appropriations.

#### DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

##### CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTIVES

The joint explanatory statement accompanying this division is approved and indicates Congressional intent. Unless otherwise noted, the language set forth in House Report 119-172 and Senate Report 119-37 carries the same weight as language included in this joint explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement. While some language is repeated for emphasis, it is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

In cases in which the House or the Senate or this explanatory statement has directed the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 60 days after enactment of this act, unless otherwise directed.

Hereafter, in this Division of this statement, the term “the Committees” refers to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

For the appropriations provided by this act and previous Acts, the departments and agencies funded by this agreement are reminded that the Committees use the definitions for transfer, reprogramming, and program, project, and activity as defined by the Government Accountability Office [GAO] in GAO-04-261SP Appropriations Law—Vol. I and GAO-05-734SP Budget Glossary.

A transfer is the shifting of funds between appropriations. It applies to (1) transfers from one agency to another, (2) transfers from one account to another within the same agency, and (3) transfers to an interagency or intra-agency working fund. In each instance, statutory authority is required.

Reprogramming is the utilization of funds in an appropriation account for purposes other than those contemplated at the time of appropriation. It is the shifting of funds from one object to another within an appropriation.

A program, project, or activity [PPA] is an element within a budget account. PPAs are identified by reference to include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Act, 2026, accompanying Committee reports, explanatory statements, and budget justifications. Program activity structures are intended to provide a meaningful representation of the operations financed by a