

adults and hospitals that rely on these reimbursements; and

Whereas, the Kaiser Family Foundation has found that this legislation will also restrict the use of provider taxes, a key funding mechanism that Vermont employs to support its Medicaid program; and

Whereas, rural hospitals in Vermont rely heavily on Medicaid funding due to the demographics of the populations they serve, and reductions in this support will shift the cost of uncompensated care onto already strained hospital budgets, designated mental health agencies, primary care clinics, and private insurers, resulting in higher insurance premiums for individuals, school systems, and employers; and

Whereas, VT Digger reports that Vermont officials estimate that as many as 45,000 Vermonters could lose health insurance coverage as a result of the federal funding changes; and

Whereas, according to the 2021 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey conducted by the Vermont Department of Health and Market Decisions Research, approximately 35 percent of Vermonters under age 65 and 17 percent of Vermonters age 65 and older reported that they could not afford needed health care, representing roughly 187,800 working-age adults and 34,900 aged 65 and older, or more than one in three Vermonters overall who struggle to pay medical costs not covered by insurance; and

Whereas, the 2021 Vermont Household Health Insurance Survey also determined that 11 percent of households, approximately 60,000 Vermonters, carry medical debt, which often affects their ability to pay for food, clothing, and other necessities; and

Whereas, national estimates from the Congressional Budget Office and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities project an additional \$186 billion reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known as 3SquaresVT in Vermont, funding over the next decade due to the Budget Reconciliation Act, which would result in fewer food benefits for thousands of Vermont households.

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved* that the Rutland Board of Aldermen:

- Expresses its concern regarding the potential impacts of the Budget Reconciliation Act on the health, well-being, and economic stability of Rutland Regional Medical Center, Rutland residents and Vermonters statewide;

- Urges the Vermont General Assembly to explore legislative measures to help protect Vermont's health-care system and mitigate the adverse effects of anticipated reductions in Medicaid and SNAP funding;

- Calls upon Vermont's Congressional delegation to continue building bipartisan coalitions to safeguard federal funding for Medicaid, Medicare, and SNAP, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not left behind;

- Directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this resolution to Vermont's Congressional delegation, the Governor, and the leadership of the Vermont General Assembly; and

- Encourages other municipal boards across Vermont to consider adopting similar resolutions in support of protecting health care and nutrition programs essential to their communities.

Adopted this 3 day of November 2025, by the Board of Aldermen of the city of Rutland, Vermont.

DAVID W. ALLAIRE,
Chair, David Allaire, Board of Aldermen, City of Rutland, Vermont.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3168. A bill 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.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-2114. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to advise that he is exercising his authority to designate an Acting Inspector General of the Department of Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KIM (for himself and Mr. MCCORMICK):

S. 3169. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to expand new home construction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3170. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement an automated system with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3171. A bill to waive the guarantee fee for certain business loans made to veterans and spouses of veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3172. A bill to repeal certain Acts that impose sanctions upon Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3173. A bill to prohibit the Small Business Administration from awarding sole source contracts until the Administration conducts a full audit of and submits to Congress a report on the business development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3174. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to affirm a collective bargaining agreement, and to nullify certain Executive orders that relate to collective bargaining by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 492. A resolution recognizing community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. Res. 493. A resolution reducing the annual rate of pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs during a year; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. Res. 494. A resolution observing the 50th anniversary of the date on which the SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank in Lake Superior, and remembering the 29 lives lost in one of the worst storms ever recorded on the Great Lakes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. GALLEGO):

S. Res. 495. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and honoring the United States veterans who served during the conflict; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 496. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 8, 2025, as "National First-Generation College Celebration Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 497. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WELCH):

S. Res. 498. A resolution honoring Dr. Jane Goodall and her legacy as an ethologist, conservationist, and activist; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 142

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 142, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines.

S. 961

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 961, a bill to amend

chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the Armed Forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member.

S. 966

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. McCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 966, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define "State of residence" and "resident", and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to enhance the security operations of the Transportation Security Administration and stability of the transportation security workforce by applying the personnel system under title 5, United States Code, to employees of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to modernize the business of selling firearms.

S. 1717

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1717, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1748

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1748, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 2690

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. McCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2690, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that commercial driver's licenses be restricted to United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to engage in employment in the United States that includes driving a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 2721

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2721, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) 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. 3151

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3151, a bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to provide for the automatic contingent extension of the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 491

At the request of Mr. GALLEGO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 491, a resolution recognizing the 80th anniversary of the commencement of continuous operations of Stars and Stripes in the Pacific and the invaluable service of the Stars and Stripes as the "hometown newspaper" for members of the Armed Forces, civilian employees, and family members stationed around the world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 492—RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY CARE AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR MEETING THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 492

Whereas 10 years ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the "VA") experienced a nationwide crisis regarding the ability to provide access to care that highlighted the urgent need for timely, high-quality services for veterans;

Whereas Congress responded with the bipartisan passage of the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 132 Stat. 1393), which expanded opportunities for veterans to receive care in their communities when the VA could not meet their needs;

Whereas community care has since proven to be a vital complement to the VA health care system, offering veterans greater convenience, accessibility, and choice, particularly for those in rural areas, those facing transportation or mobility challenges, and those requiring specialized treatment;

Whereas VA data demonstrate that community care is cost-effective and also strengthens veteran trust in the VA as an institution;

Whereas veterans, their families, and caregivers have consistently affirmed that community care provides life-saving access to oncology, mental health, emergency, pain management, and other essential services; and

Whereas Congress has consistently provided the VA with record levels of funding to support both direct care and community

care, ensuring that resource constraints should never justify limiting veterans' access to needed treatment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes community care as an essential tool for meeting the health care needs of the veterans of the United States;

(2) affirms that community care complements, rather than threatens, the mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this resolution as the "VA");

(3) urges the VA to implement the VA MISSION Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-182; 132 Stat. 1393) in both letter and spirit, ensuring veterans have timely access to community providers when the VA cannot meet their needs; and

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to ensuring that every veteran has timely access to high-quality, affordable, and veteran-centered care, whether provided in VA facilities or in the community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 493—REDUCING THE ANNUAL RATE OF PAY OF SENATORS IF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS DURING A YEAR

Mr. KENNEDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 493

Resolved,

SECTION 1. NO PAY FOR SENATORS DURING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Government shutdown" means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more Federal agencies or departments; and

(2) the term "Secretary of the Senate" means the Secretary of the Senate, or an employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate who is designated by the Secretary to carry out the requirements of this section.

(b) REQUIRING REDUCTION OF PAY OF SENATORS IF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OCCURS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If on any day during a pay period a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall exclude from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to that pay period for the compensation of each Senator an amount equal to the product of—

(A) an amount equal to one day's worth of pay under the annual rate of pay of the Senator under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and

(B) the number of 24-hour periods during the pay period during which the Government shutdown is in effect.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to days occurring after the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026 (in this section referred to as the "pay reduction effective date").

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR SENATORS BEFORE GENERAL ELECTION.—

(1) HOLDING SALARIES IN ESCROW.—If on any day before the pay reduction effective date a Government shutdown is in effect, the Secretary of the Senate shall—

(A) withhold from the payments otherwise required to be made with respect to a pay period for the compensation of each Senator an amount equal to the product of—

(i) an amount equal to one day's worth of pay under the annual rate of pay applicable to the Senator under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501); and