

after-school programs held on October 23, 2025.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3955. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3956. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3955. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 8, beginning on line 11, strike the following:

(51) Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

(52) Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

SA 3956. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution S. Res. 520, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the matter proposed to be stricken, strike lines 3 through 4.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, De-

cember 3, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 9:45 a.m.

##### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two of my colleagues from my office, with whom I work, who are working with me for a few weeks, Colyn Lorey and John Tober, be granted floor privileges until December 4, 2025.

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

#### ENSURING THAT THE ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES IS CHILD-CENTERED AND COMPASSIONATE AND THAT YOUNG PEOPLE AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE ARE PROVIDED WITH ADEQUATE SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO TRANSITION SUCCESSFULLY TO INDEPENDENT ADULTHOOD

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate immediately proceed to S. Res. 516.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 516) ensuring that the adoption and foster care system in the United States is child-centered and compassionate and that young people aging out of foster care are provided with adequate support and resources to transition successfully to independent adulthood.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 516) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 518.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 518) designating October 2025 as "National Principals Month".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 518) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 20, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 527 and S. Res. 528.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 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 Thursday, December 4; 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; I further ask that the previous order with respect to S.J. Res. 91 be vitiated and, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 131, the joint resolution be read a third time, the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution, and, if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and S.J. Res. 91 be indefinitely postponed; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, following the disposition of H.J. Res. 131, the Senate proceed to executive session and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520; finally, that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate execute the order with respect to the Rodriguez nomination, and if confirmed, the motion 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.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators KENNEDY and REED.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### WELFARE FRAUD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as you well know, the American people are the most generous people in the entire world. In our country, when you are hungry, we feed you; when you are homeless, we house you; when you are too poor to be sick, we will pay for your doctor. We spend trillions of dollars a year helping our friends and neighbors who are less fortunate than we are, and that is rare in this world.

I have been all over our wonderful world. You have, too, Mr. President. In many countries, if you get down on your luck, they will let you die in a ditch. But not in America. Not in America. We take care of our fellow citizens. But it is expensive. We spend trillions of dollars a year to do this, and that money we spend didn't just fall from Heaven. We thank Heaven for it, but it came out of taxpayers' pockets, and we shouldn't lose sight of that fact.

That is why I get so irritated—"irritated" is the wrong word—angry when I find out that people take advantage of the American people's generosity. It

makes me want to knee someone in the groin. It just makes me furious, and I think the American taxpayers feel the same way.

What I am about to tell you, Mr. President—let me apologize in advance—is deeply disgusting. It is deeply disgusting. I mean, it is clown world on steroids. When I first read about this, I read it a second time because I experienced slack-jawed astonishment. When I read it a second time and I realized it was true, I just wanted to run away screaming.

What am I talking about? We have discovered—the Federal prosecutors have discovered that for the last 5 years, there has been massive welfare fraud in the great State of Minnesota—massive. Over \$1 billion of American taxpayer money has been stolen—just stolen. They can call it fraud, but a better term would be "stealing."

This fraud has been centered in the Somali community in Minnesota. Now, I am not here to criticize the Somali community; I am here simply to describe what happened. The Somali community in Minneapolis is about 80,000 people. They are centered around Minneapolis. And let me say it again: I am not here to denigrate the Somali people or people of Somali ancestry just because of the actions of a few, but it is a fact that this \$1 billion in welfare fraud occurred almost exclusively in the Somali community in Minnesota and was orchestrated by people of Somali ancestry. That is a fact. Facts aren't racist; facts are facts. So far, 59 people have been convicted, 86 have been charged, and 78 of them are of Somali ancestry. That is just a fact.

Now, what these criminals did was they had three very elaborate schemes. The first scheme was centered on supposedly feeding hungry children in the Somali community. A group, a nonprofit run by some people of Somali ancestry—the name of the nonprofit was "Feeding Our Future." Feeding Our Future went to the welfare authorities in the State of Minnesota, which, of course, was administering Federal taxpayer money, and Feeding Our Future said: We want to feed hungry children in the Somali community.

The welfare people and State government in Minnesota gave them the money to do that. It started out very small. The idea was that Feeding Our Future, the Somali nonprofit organization, would take this Federal taxpayer money, American taxpayer money, and go to businesses—most of which were Somali businesses in the Somali community—and set up feeding sites where they supposedly would take children to get a hot meal.

On paper, it sounded great. As I say, it started out very, very small—just a few million dollars—but eventually it got bigger and bigger and bigger, and more businesses in the Somali community signed up to be feeding sites. Feeding Our Future, the Somali nonprofit, kept going back to the Social Services Department in Minnesota and saying:

We need more money. We need more money.

At the height of the fraud, they were spending about \$100 million a year—not over the lifetime of the program, \$100 million a year.

There is just one problem: There were hungry children; they just weren't getting any of the money. The businesses, many of which were Somali-owned, which were getting some money to feed the children from Feeding Our Future, the nonprofit that was quarter-backing this whole thing, weren't giving any of the money to hungry children. They were spending it. These businesses were spending it on yachts and vacations and jewelry and furniture for their homes.

That was scheme No. 1. But it got worse. The second scheme was supposedly to help people who are homeless. Remember I said that in America, when you are homeless, we will house you? Well, that is what they were trying to do in Minnesota.

A nonprofit was set up—again, run by someone of Somali ancestry—and this nonprofit went to a bunch of providers who supposedly were going to provide housing, and they told the welfare authorities in Minnesota that they needed millions of dollars to house people who were homeless.

Once again, the program started out small. When they started it in 2020—these crooks started it in 2020—they said "We only need \$2.6 million," but then in 2021, they said "We need \$21 million." In the following years—they said "We need \$42 million" the next year, then \$74 million to house the homeless, and then \$104 million a year—not the total scheme, a year.

There is just one problem: None of the money was going for housing. None of the money was going to help people who were homeless. These providers and this nonprofit that was coordinating it just put the money in their pockets.

But there is more. They came up with a third scheme. This one makes you want to throw up in a potted plant. This one is centered around autistic children. Once again, in this third program, a group of providers—supposedly medical providers—got together, and they went to the welfare authorities in Minnesota and said: We need money to help autistic children.

They said: Well, that is a wonderful thing to do.

Then these providers, once the welfare department at the State government in Minnesota gave them the OK, went out and started recruiting autistic children. They say: Well, OK. We have to get the word out somehow.

But they couldn't find very many autistic children, so they started going to parents in the Somali community and saying: Can we call your child autistic? Can we certify that your child is autistic? If you let us do that, we will pay you a bribe, anywhere from \$400 to \$1,500 a child.

Now, once again, the program didn't start big. These were sophisticated