

We are simply saying, let's make sure the same tax credits that are helping people afford their healthcare, that are in place today—not some new radical plan, that are in place today that made more accessible healthcare yesterday and last year and the year before—that they continue to be there for families next year.

If we extend the tax credit, we can bring relief during the holidays as people are facing the effects of these tariffs, which have increased everything from Christmas presents to housing costs, trying to get timber, electricity—you name it.

Millions of Americans are now going to have to decide, Do I extend my health coverage or can I pay my rent or my electricity bill? Can I put food on the table?

I heard all over my State about this, particularly in the rural areas. Do you know why? Because 27 percent of farmers and ranchers are on these Affordable Care Act plans. In my State, it is called MNsure.

Like DeNae and Mike in St. Cloud—not in the metropolitan area of the Twin Cities—but they are business owners of a small business. They say they are already “struggling with rising costs” and will now see their premiums double.

Or Jody in Windom, MN, who will have to pay more than triple her coverage for her and her husband next year as her premiums go from \$500 to \$1,800 per month.

Susan from St. Paul told me these massive increases are “truly crippling” her family budget.

In Mankato, Desirea—where my in-laws live in Mankato—has already sacrificed her own educational and career goals to pay for healthcare for her kids. Now she says she is “trying to figure out how to pay for healthcare” for her family and worried families like hers will be “financially ruined,” in her words.

Dan from Red Wing said families like his “don't know what they will do.” Some will take on second jobs, if they can find them. Some will take on debt to keep their coverage. Some may be forced to drop coverage altogether.

Karen from Moorehead, on the border of North Dakota, told me:

I am very fearful that I will lose my insurance because of not being able to afford it.

It is not just in Minnesota. In fact, more than three-fourths of the people who get healthcare through this Marketplace live in States that President Trump won.

So that is why—talk about a reasonable idea to our Republican colleagues—when three-fourths of the policyholders are in States that Donald Trump won. That has been our focus.

I would do other things. I would do more on prescription drug negotiation. I would do something about a public option. I would do many other things to make this better. But for right now, we are dealing with now.

Earlier this year, we marked the 60th anniversary of Medicaid and Medicare.

More than 110 million Americans depend on these programs. And we know that we should be strengthening care and not undermining it. But right now, I urge my colleagues to join us in simply extending these healthcare tax credits. As one of my farmers put it, he is facing a “perfect storm of ugly.” The tariffs have dried up his markets overseas. His input costs for parts for his equipment are too expensive. And now there is this healthcare plan that he didn't see coming.

He didn't believe that when President Trump had promised that he would reduce costs, that he would be seeing a doubling of his healthcare premiums.

It is time to work together to do with what we all know will keep costs down for families. Instead of sending \$20 billion to Argentina, maybe we could spend it here to help our constituents afford their healthcare. That would be at least about 1 year—\$24 billion for 1 year. That was \$20 billion.

Budgets are decisions about values and what you value.

It is time for our colleagues to not just say what they are saying behind closed doors, but they should vote their constituents and vote with us to help with their healthcare premiums.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader whip.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and 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.

CLAIMING AGE CLARITY ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to H.R. 5284, the Claiming Age Clarity Act.

I support my colleagues' efforts to simplify the language the Social Security Administration, SSA, uses related to claiming retirement benefits. However, I am concerned that the bill's lack of administrative funding to implement the legislation would harm the Agency's ability to serve the American public.

According to SSA estimates in September 2025, implementing this bill would cost between \$8 and \$12 million and require significant manpower to update its rules, regulations, guidance, and other materials—including benefit statements—both printed and online versions.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Social Security's customer service budget has dropped by 23 percent since fiscal year 2010 after adjusting for inflation. Over the

same period, SSA is serving 17 million more Social Security beneficiaries, a 28-percent increase. Moreover, since February 2025, SSA reduced staff by nearly 6,000 employees through encouraging retirements and voluntary resignations, including 2,000 from frontline positions. In August 2025, SSA diverted 2,000 field office staff away from serving customers in the front office to answer national 800 number calls indefinitely. Field offices, which bore the brunt of those staffing cuts, are now forced to backfill the staffing shortages with other employees at the expense of timely processing benefit claims and assisting seniors who come into the field offices. Simply put, SSA is having to do more with less resources and fewer staff.

As my colleagues know, annual statements are an effective communication strategy to educate individuals about their earnings and payroll tax records, estimate of earned monthly benefits, and other information designed to help them more effectively plan for retirement. To this end, SSA has worked diligently over the last several years to streamline and modernize the Social Security annual statements to increase the public's understanding of its programs. However, SSA's funding constraints already limit SSA's ability to educate Americans about their Social Security benefits. Section 1143 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §1320b-13, SSA is required to mail Social Security annual statements to most workers aged 25 and older who are not currently receiving Social Security benefits. Yet, due to budgetary constraints, SSA has suspended mailing statements to those individuals since 2011.

Enacting this legislation without providing SSA with the necessary resources to implement and effectively communicate this change, including mailing annual statements, would stymie the bill's effects. Similarly, changing terminology—even to make it clearer—would presumably create confusion among some, resulting in increased call volume and foot traffic in the field offices and on the national 1-800 number.

I am committed to working with the sponsors of the legislation and our colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations to ensure that SSA has the necessary resources to effectively implement the bill while improving customer service for the millions of Americans who rely on Social Security. Until then, I will object to any unanimous consent request in relation to this legislation.

BURMA

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the ongoing and often forgotten civil war and humanitarian crisis taking place in Burma, which impacts the broader Southeast Asia region. We should all be outraged by the horrific crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Burmese military

against the Rohingya and other Burmese minority groups.

The fallout from the Burmese military's February 2021 coup and jailing of State Counsellor and Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi continues to roil the country. Ethnic minority groups within Burma, which had long been at odds with the Burmese military junta, saw the ousting of Suu Kyi as a prelude to greater repression, and took up arms against the junta, in collaboration with the "People's Defense Forces" of the government in exile.

The violent conflict between opposition groups and the Burmese junta has caused immense suffering of Burmese civilians, primarily due to displacement and military bombing campaigns, targeting civilians as retribution for rebel gains on the battlefield.

The Burmese people are no stranger to displacement. A decade ago, Burma's military junta engaged in a violent persecution of the Rohingya minority, forcing 1.5 million people to flee to Bangladesh and Thailand. A recent investigation by the United Nations concluded the 2017 attacks were a "coordinated and organized operation" to strip the Rohingya of their land rights within the country. In 2022, the State Department officially determined that these actions constituted a genocide.

Today, refugees from the conflict in Burma, both Rohingya and members of other minority groups, face an even more dire situation. Amnesty International reports that the Arakan Army, one of the ethnic armed organizations controlling parts of Burma, is continuing to displace the Rohingya. Many other Burmese citizens are fleeing bombardment by junta artillery and warplanes. Despite these horrors, many countries are now refusing to accept any Burmese refugees—including, regrettably, the United States, which recently banned all travel to the U.S. by Burmese citizens following an executive order from President Trump.

Rather than slamming the door, the Trump administration should reverse this misguided decision and allow Burmese refugees who have a credible fear of persecution to seek refuge in the United States. The United States should also increase aid to the Burmese people and support for democratic forces within the country, strengthening the opposition's position in potential negotiations with the junta for an end to the conflict. Trump administration aid cuts, including in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that hit the country earlier this year, contravene the express purposes of the bipartisan BURMA Act. I recently co-signed a letter to Secretary Rubio with eight of my Senate colleagues calling for the Trump administration to make Burma a diplomatic priority in the coming months.

REMEMBERING DANIEL TUCKER

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy

of Daniel "Danny" James Tucker, former longtime Chairman of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in Southern California and a tireless champion for Tribal sovereignty, economic self-reliance, and cultural preservation of tribal communities.

Danny Tucker was born on February 5, 1952, in San Diego County to Francis Prietto and William Tucker. He grew up in El Cajon and graduated from Santana High School in 1970. At just 18 years old, he began what would become a lifelong career in public service when he was elected vice chair of the Sycuan Tribal Council. There, he became a strong voice in support of Tribal sovereignty during the fight to bring high-stakes bingo to the reservation.

His service on the council would eventually lead to four terms as Chairman, first from 1993–1996 and then from 2003–2014. It was through that role that Chairman Tucker continued to advocate for economic opportunities through gaming, leading the Tribe through a critical transition to Class III gaming, and eventually serving the entire State as chairman of the California Nations Indian Gaming Association.

But Chairman Tucker's leadership extended beyond his local community to the national level, too—regularly engaging with Congress on Tribal issues while serving as vice chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association and leading the organization through its fight to offer casino gaming on Tribal land.

Under his leadership, Chairman Tucker implemented transformative policies to protect Tribal languages and cultural programs; expanded medical, public safety, and utility services; and strengthened Sycuan's enterprise investments.

But perhaps his most important roles in life were that of husband, father, grand- and great-grandfather, and friend to so many who knew him best on the golf course or behind a microphone singing R&B. Angela and I send our love to Chairman Tucker's wife Lori; his daughters Deedra and Dawnda; his siblings Charlotte, Lela Mae, Delores, and Willie; and all the family members and friends who loved him.

His legacy will surely be felt throughout the region, State, and country for generations to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, December 10, 2025, he had signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 616. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the Federal charter for the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

H.J. Res. 131. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

At 2:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 356. An act to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2283. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Oklahoma Avenue in Guthrie, Oklahoma, as the "Oscar J. Upham Post Office".

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 323. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Prospect Street in Avon, New York, as the "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 573. An act to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes.

H.R. 655. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the City of The Dalles, Oregon.

H.R. 1008. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 298 Route 292 in Holmes, New York, as the "Sheriff Adrian 'Butch' Anderson Post Office Building".

H.R. 1009. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 86 Main Street in Haverstraw, New York, as the "Paul Piperato Post Office Building".

H.R. 1276. An act to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky.

H.R. 1372. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Macedonia Lane in Knoxville, Tennessee, as the "Reverend Harold Middlebrook Post Office Building".

H.R. 1461. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 521 Thorn Street in Sewickley, Pennsylvania, as the "Mary Elizabeth 'Bettie' Cole Post Office Building".

H.R. 1676. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to approve the wildlife conservation and restoration program of a State within a certain period of time.

H.R. 1830. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the "Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office".