

the other hand, funding for the Department of Homeland Security—I sometimes think that they are not very unrelated at all, especially because they are defunding the very entity that could and otherwise would and should—and if we were able to enact the SAVE America Act, ultimately would—help protect our elections, to make sure that they are secure, to make sure that they are free from foreign election interference, which is exactly what happens when we allow foreign nationals, not citizens of the United States, to vote in our elections.

She referred to ICE agents, to ICE as a whole, as a “goon” squad. She accused ICE of being out there, deployed, and killing people. This is sad. This is tragic.

(Mr. MARSHALL assumed the Chair.)

Now, keep in mind there are about 22,000 ICE agents. A subset of those—about 6,000 of them—are responsible for apprehending and removing those removable illegal aliens that are in the country, so about 6,000 out of the 22,000. Then it is a much lower subset of the 6,000 that she might be referring to when she accuses ICE, a much broader Agency, of killing people and being a “goon” squad.

How many of those people were actually involved in any of the activity she has complained about? I don’t know the answer, but it is not 6,000. It sure as hell isn’t 22,000, and it sure as hell isn’t 260,000. That is the total number of employees going unpaid within the Department of Homeland Security. So this is collective punishment at its worst, at its most indefensible.

She and her Democrat colleagues stand here today, continue over a month into this shutdown—not concerned, blaming the collective for what she is complaining about with just a few, before investigations are even complete and before we know where, when, to what extent wrongdoing on the part of any agents might have been involved.

This is wrong. It is not just wrong, but I sometimes wonder, is this, in fact, a willful attempt to subvert the enforcement of our laws—not just our immigration laws but also our laws that govern our elections, that protect our elections from foreign election interference? As they say in Latin, “res ipsa loquitur”—the thing speaks for itself.

Before I wrap up, I want to thank our Republican leadership in the Senate. I want to thank my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from Wyoming who serves as the Republican whip, and I want to thank my friend and colleague the distinguished Senator from South Dakota, the majority leader, Senator JOHN THUNE, for their leadership. I want to thank them for keeping us here through this weekend to keep us debating these matters.

We have no business going home—not for a weekend, not for a recess. We have no business going home until this

is done. We have to get DHS funded. We have to get the SAVE America Act passed. And yes, they are related. For the very same reason we need one, we also need the other. And for this very same reason that they oppose one, they oppose the other.

But the fact is, the American people are not with them; they are with us. The American people understand that it is not fair to punish the collective for what may or may not be the wrongdoing of just a few. The American people understand that it is not an act of aggression, certainly not an unconstitutional overreach, certainly not an egregious abuse of power, or anything other than common sense to require people who vote in U.S. elections to be American citizens and to end this barbaric practice to which we have been subjected for far too long and which we are told: Yeah, it is illegal for noncitizens to vote, but you can’t do anything about it. They have rendered it unenforceable. We are trying to fix that with a narrowly tailored piece of legislation.

Now, if one of them—even one of them—wants to talk about changes that we could make that would make them feel better about it, I am all ears. I have been listening to that for 3 days now—and longer than that, before we got on it. But since we got onto this bill about 3 days ago, I have been listening especially attentively for anyone to make a constructive suggestion from the other side or even an argument that is itself defensible in light of what the SAVE America Act actually does, in light of what Federal law actually says, and in light of what the U.S. Constitution actually allows, authorizes, and says, and I have yet to hear it.

Sometimes I wonder what it is that they actually want. Do they actually want our borders to remain open, as they were between 2021 and 2025? Do they, beyond this, actually want noncitizens to continue to be able to vote, even when we know that in some States they are openly allowing or even inviting noncitizens to participate in some local elections, even when they know that there are thousands upon thousands of noncitizen registered voters that have been detected just in the small handful of States that have, on their own, undertaken a review to see who is registered? They have found thousands, and that process is far from complete yet. How many more are there?

How long are the American people to be expected to suffer through a system that invites, allows, and perpetuates forces that will undeniably dilute and, by diluting, ultimately deprive them of one of their most sacred rights—their right to vote?

Finally, when we talk about constitutional protections of rights, my colleagues say again and again and again that because their right to vote is constitutionally protected—and it is, by multiple amendments, in multiple ways, by the Constitution—that that

somehow means that you can’t put any reasonable restrictions on it. Well, that is not true. That has never been true. We do have restrictions on them all the time. We also have restrictions on a lot of other constitutionally protected rights, and that doesn’t mean that you don’t have to prove who you are and that you have the right to do the thing you want to be able to do.

We already have to prove our citizenship every time we start a new job with the document requirements that are far more strict than those are here. We already have to divulge all kinds of information that is far more intrusive than anything required here.

In fact, on the subject of specifically constitutionally protected rights, the right to bear arms—do you know what you have to do when you want to buy a gun through a federally licensed firearms dealer? You have to provide ID, and you have to show that you are who you say you are. Then they run it through a database to make sure that, in addition to being who you say you are, that you also have the right to exercise the constitutionally protected right that you want to exercise by buying that gun.

It is the same exact thing. It is also a constitutionally protected right. And yet we allow it why? Well, because we have laws, and those laws decide how that right may be exercised, and we ban certain persons from wielding that right. For example, if you are an alien illegally or unlawfully present in the United States or you are a convicted felon or you fit into any of the other categories in 18 U.S.C. section 922(g), you are not allowed to purchase, possess, use, or probably even think about a gun. You will be prohibited from doing so.

They are apparently OK with that. If they are OK with that—and that is a constitutionally protected right—why aren’t they OK with this, when here, when somebody else exercises that right, they are undermining your vote, my vote, the vote of every American citizen?

We cannot allow that to happen. I will continue to come back to the Senate Chamber every day—day after day, week after week, month after month—if that is what it takes to get this thing passed, but it will pass. We will not stop until it does.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority 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.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK SHEEHAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrick Sheehan, my military and veterans liaison. Patrick is a native of Casper and graduated from Natrona County High School and the University of Wyoming. For over 4 years, Patrick has been an invaluable member of my team in Wyoming. Patrick is a veteran, having spent 12 years in the Air Force as a security forces defender. He served across the country and around the world with multiple Middle East deployments, including Iraq and Afghanistan. He later served as a member of the Wyoming Veterans Commission.

These experiences paved the way for his service to veterans across Wyoming. Patrick has an ability to connect with veterans and get them the help they need, while cutting through the bureaucratic redtape. In his time in my office, Patrick worked over 1,000 cases helping veterans and their families across and in every corner of Wyoming. As he moves on to his next journey, he leaves behind a legacy of unyielding advocacy for the Wyoming men and women who have answered the call to serve their country. I cannot thank Patrick enough for his hard work, dedication and his service to Wyoming and our Nation.

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RECOGNIZING WYRULEC COMPANY'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Wyrulec Company, a rural electric cooperative dedicated to serving electric power to southeastern Wyoming and western Nebraska.

On April 16, 2026, the Wyrulec Company will celebrate 90 years of service during its annual membership meeting, held at the Goshen County Fairgrounds in Torrington, WY. It is an opportunity for members to highlight Wyrulec's proven record of providing reliable, affordable power to Wyoming.

The Wyrulec Company has the distinction of being the first rural electric cooperative in the State of Wyoming. In 1936, after Congress passed the Rural Electrification Act, residents established the cooperative to bring electricity to rural areas long left without access to this essential service. They were confident the benefits of providing reliable rural electric services would transform daily life for members.

At the time, most farms and ranches operated without electricity, relying on labor-intensive methods for everyday tasks. But by December of 1937, electricity was flowing to Wyrulec's members, marking a historic turning point for rural Wyoming.

The advent of accessible electricity had a profound impact on the co-op's members. It fundamentally reshaped agricultural production for the area's farmers and ranchers. Wyrulec's formation also influenced regional economic

development. Rural electrification connected Wyoming's isolated communities in a way never seen before.

Wyrulec began with just over 100 members. Today, it serves 2,463 members. The company is a Touchstone Energy cooperative that receives its power primarily from the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and the Basin Electric Power Cooperative. It services five counties in Wyoming and Nebraska with over 2,000 miles of transmission line.

Wyrulec goes above and beyond to provide top-notch customer service. Experienced linemen, foremen, and supervisors are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, working to ensure the lights stay on. These dedicated workers often leave their families to brave hazardous conditions to repair broken lines and restore energy.

Wyrulec's ongoing efforts to maintain and modernize its electric systems support agriculture, small businesses, schools, and essential services, strengthening the economic stability and resilience of rural Wyoming.

Wyrulec is deeply committed to giving back. Beyond delivering power, Wyrulec supports Wyoming through infrastructure development, local employment, and community support initiatives. It offers incredible opportunities for young people, including energy leadership camps and scholarships. The co-op's Operation Round Up program provides financial assistance to local causes. Wyrulec's cooperative model prioritizes the needs of its members while reinvesting resources in the communities it serves.

The success of the Wyrulec Company can be credited to its experienced leadership. The organization's leadership includes:

Ryan Schilreff, General Manager
Dewey Hageman, Board President
Mark Knaub, Board Vice President
Kenda Knudsen, Board Treasurer
Ben Scott, Board Secretary
Kyle Kilty, Board Assistant Secretary

It is an honor to celebrate this significant milestone for the Wyrulec Company. Its legacy of serving rural Wyoming with reliability, innovation, and community focus has strengthened local economies and improved overall quality of life.

Wyrulec's resounding success stands as a testament to the strength of the cooperative model and the enduring spirit of innovation and collaboration in rural Wyoming.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT- ABILITY OFFICE OPINION LET- TER

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated March 5, 2026.

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2026.

Hon. ELIZABETH WARREN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR WARREN: Thank you for your letter requesting that the Government Accountability Office provide its legal opinion on the applicability of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to ten (10) specific Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) agency actions that had been rescinded by a May 12, 2025 CFPB Notice.

As discussed with your staff, GAO cannot accept your request because this matter has been rendered moot for purposes of a GAO legal opinion. CRA requires agencies to submit rules to Congress and provides Congress with an opportunity to review and disapprove those rules so that they have no force or effect. GAO issues legal opinions on the applicability of CRA to agency actions that have not been submitted to Congress to ensure that Congress has an opportunity to disapprove those actions if they are rules under the statute. In this case, however, the 10 actions identified in your letter are no longer legally effective as a result of CFPB's May 12, 2025 Notice. The Notice therefore rendered the applicability of the CRA to those documents a moot question. Moreover, CFPB's submission of the May 12, 2025 Notice to Congress in October 2025 rendered the issue of the applicability of the CRA to that document also moot.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Edda Emmanuelli Perez at 202-512-5400 or emmanuellipereze@gao.gov, or Ms. Kisha H. Clark, Assistant Director, Congressional Relations on my staff at 202-512-3208 or clarkk@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

DAVID POWNER,
Acting Managing Director,
Congressional Relations.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT- ABILITY OFFICE OPINION LET- TER

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated March 16, 2026.

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2026.

Hon. ELIZABETH WARREN,
Ranking Member, Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR SENATOR WARREN: Thank you for your letter requesting that the Government Accountability Office provide its legal opinion on the applicability of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to sixteen (16) specific Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) agency actions that had been rescinded by a May 12, 2025 CFPB Notice.

As discussed with your staff, GAO cannot accept your request because this matter has been rendered moot for purposes of a GAO legal opinion. CRA requires agencies to submit rules to Congress and provides Congress with an opportunity to review and disapprove those rules so that they have no force or effect. GAO issues legal opinions on the applicability of CRA to agency actions that have not been submitted to Congress to ensure that Congress has an opportunity to disapprove those actions if they are rules under the statute. In this case, however, the