

This bill addresses a gap in our Nation's marine stranding system and solves it.

I thank my colleagues for the bipartisan support on this legislation, especially my long-time partner Senator CORNYN and again ask for unanimous consent to pass the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance and Rehabilitation Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 843), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 843

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance and Rehabilitation Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RESPONSE.

Section 408 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1421f-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following:

"(10) SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RESPONSE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations specific to address sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response, the Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall include separate eligibility for grants under this subsection to address the purposes described in paragraph (2) with respect to sea turtles.

"(B) CONDITIONS OF GRANT.—A grant awarded under this subsection to address sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response shall—

"(i) include the equivalent grant criteria and administration authorities and requirements described under paragraph (3), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4), and paragraphs (5) through (9), developed, as appropriate, and awarded separately for sea turtles and in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in lieu of the Marine Mammal Commission; and

"(ii) in addition to the considerations under paragraph (4)(B), also consider rehabilitation of stranded sea turtles.

"(C) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—In order to apply for a grant awarded under this subsection to address sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response, an entity shall—

"(i) submit an application described in paragraph (5) to the Secretary of Commerce with respect to sea turtles;

"(ii) be authorized by and in compliance with—

"(I) an authorization issued under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(1)(A)) with respect to sea turtles; or

"(II) a cooperative agreement entered into under section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535) with respect to sea turtles;

"(iii) comply with the standard conditions for care and maintenance of captive sea tur-

tles prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior when relevant facilities will be utilized for such purposes; and

"(iv) comply with all relevant data reporting, requirements, such as the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network data collection requirements.";

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

"(c) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—
"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States—

"(A) an interest-bearing fund to be known as the 'Joseph R. Geraci Marine Mammal Rescue and Rapid Response Fund'; and

"(B) an interest-bearing fund to be known as the 'Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Rapid Response Fund'.

"(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the funds established under paragraph (1) shall be available only for use by the Secretary to provide emergency assistance."; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "marine mammal rescue and response" after "to carry out the";

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(iii) by inserting after clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO SEA TURTLE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RESPONSE.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of Commerce to carry out the sea turtle rescue, rehabilitation, and response grant program under subsection (b)(10), \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030, to remain available until expended."; and

(iv) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated by clause (ii), by inserting "or (B)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) RESCUE AND RAPID RESPONSE FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated—

"(A) to the Joseph R. Geraci Marine Mammal Rescue and Rapid Response Fund \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030; and

"(B) to the Sea Turtle Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Rapid Response Fund \$500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030."

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate is in session once again this weekend, and once again Republicans are doing nothing productive. Yesterday, instead of considering legislation to tackle inflation or end the war in Iran, MAGA Republicans wasted Senate floor time on a radical culture-war amendment that went nowhere. It failed, and it accomplished nothing—a total waste of time with nothing to show for it.

And, yesterday, the Republicans once again blocked the Senate's ability to finally start paying our TSA workers. These workers have gone now for weeks without pay. They work around the clock. They keep our airports running. Republicans had the chance to

pay them once again, and they refused. They refused.

The bottom line is this was the first time we saw "yes" or "no" votes from Republicans on an amendment that simply said "Pay them." Don't wait, as the Republicans are saying, until we resolve all the other issues in ICE. It simply said "Pay them now," and they said no. And that shows you, when they are voting yes on amendments that won't actually pay them because it won't pass because it is tied to all the other complications in ICE—including the desire that American people have that we must have warrants when you bust into someone's home and that the police should not wear masks—they say they will only vote for TSA agents if we get rid of those things, if we don't make sure they have to wear masks. That is fake. That is not really helping TSA workers. Our amendment did. They all voted no.

But we are going to keep at it. I say this to TSA workers. I say this to people at the airports who are waiting in line ungodly hours. We will keep doing this and doing this until the Republicans see the light and feel the pressure that they are holding up payment and relent.

Now, today, Donald Trump and Homan are saying they will deploy ICE agents to airports starting on Monday. This is really disturbing. ICE agents—who are untrained and have caused problems everywhere they have gone—lurking at our airports? That is asking for trouble, and it will certainly make the chaos at the airports even worse. No one has any faith in ICE agents. They haven't received training. They don't know what it is to be a TSA person and do what you need to do there.

The real problem here is they have no plan for using these ICE agents. Trump says send them there, they send them there, and Homan says they are still drawing up plans, with less than a day's notice.

What is this? We know what it is. It is another impulsive action by Donald Trump. Some idea pops into his head, and he announces it, and then the people working for him, a few of whom do have some degree of talent and ability—not many—underlings—they have to rush to try to implement what they know is an idiotic plan.

In this case, it is a plan that has no planning. It is another impulsive action from Donald Trump. When he acts impulsively, there is usually trouble. Whenever Donald Trump acts impulsively with no follow-through, there is trouble.

ICE agents will be asked to do things they are not trained to do. They don't know how to perform core TSA screening functions. Travelers will be on edge with Federal agents looking over their shoulders. All they will do is worsen the situation at airports, which are already on edge.

So I have an idea for Donald Trump: Instead of sending ICE agents to harass travelers at airports, why doesn't

Trump get his act together and agree to pay the TSA workers and get the Senate Republicans to do so?

IRAN

Mr. President, now let's talk about the disastrous war in Iran, causing so much havoc, so much chaos, and raising everybody's gas prices and prices on so much else.

Here is what Donald Trump said on Friday about the war. Donald Trump said:

You know, I may have a plan or I may not.

For a war? Whoa. Here people's lives are at stake, billions are being spent on an almost daily basis, and he says:

You know, I may have a plan or I may not.

These are the words of the Commander in Chief in the middle of a war involving one of the most dangerous regimes on Earth:

I may have a plan or I may not.

That is unhinged and dangerous. Lives are on the line, and the President says he may not even have a plan. Tens of billions are being wasted. No plan. Troops being killed and injured. No plan. Civilians being killed and injured. No plan. Gasoline costs \$3.94 a gallon on average. And Trump: I have no plan—or I may not have a plan, which means none.

What does Donald Trump do? He lifts sanctions on two of the states that are enemies to us in so many ways—Iran and Russia—so they can go after our own troops and allies. Lifting sanctions on Iran and Russia so they can go after our troops and our allies—it is the dictionary definition of "asinine."

Donald Trump's military strategy is like watching a snake eat its own tail.

This war needs to come to an end.

Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, and other Cabinet officials must come before the Senate and testify under oath in public to explain why we are in this mess and what the goal even is. Even some Republicans are openly admitting they have no clue what the administration is trying to accomplish in the Middle East.

Enough is enough. The American people do not want a war with Iran that has no end. They do not want to see our troops deployed again and again to the Middle East. They don't want to just have a knot in their stomach every time they pull up to the gas pump and, soon enough, the grocery store as well because of the higher prices caused by this war. It must come to an end.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska.

NOMINATION OF MARKWAYNE MULLIN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to speak on the vote we are getting ready to take here right now.

The minority leader, Senator SCHUMER, was on the floor just a minute ago. I certainly hope we can continue to move forward in a good-faith manner to fund Homeland Security and get the reforms and compromise that have been demanded on both sides. I am hopeful we can get there.

But one way we can show that momentum—and I believe there is momentum in these negotiations, because we all need to fund Homeland Security—is to have strong, bipartisan support for the Secretary of Homeland Security whom we are getting ready to confirm here in the U.S. Senate right now. That is my good friend and fellow U.S. Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN.

And the Presiding Officer knows it. Every Senator knows it. He is smart. He is thoughtful. He has good friends on both sides of the aisle. As a matter of fact, I would say that Senator MULLIN, of all the Senators here, probably works more across the aisle—not just Senators to Senators but Senate and House, Senate and White House. He is a really indispensable convener for this body to get things done. That is his reputation. Everybody knows it, and everybody thinks highly of him. I certainly think highly of him.

But, to me, someone with that skill set and that reputation and that experience of working across the aisle here, of working with Members of the House—by the way, Democrats and Republicans—is exactly the kind of leader we need at Homeland Security at this moment—exactly the kind of leader we need at Homeland Security at this moment.

So I am very hopeful that we are going to have a strong bipartisan vote for our colleague Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN to move forward as the Secretary of Homeland Security. Of course, that would be good for the Senate, showing a bipartisan vote on someone who is clearly qualified—and, yes, does have the temperament. I know that came up in the hearing. But, again, when I watched him work for years in this body, there is no one who works harder to actually try to get compromise to move things forward. That is his reputation here. And I know my Senate colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree with me on this.

So strong bipartisan support is what I have been pitching so many of my Democratic colleagues on, for this highly qualified U.S. Senator. It would be good for the Senate. It would be good for the Department of Homeland Security. To be honest, given what has been going on with Homeland Security, it would be good for the country, and I hope we can get there.

As I mentioned, I have been working with a lot of my colleagues—Republicans but especially Democratic colleagues—to say: Come on. We need this at this moment. You guys should be a yes. You all know you should be a yes.

By the way, in private—and I have a lot of good friends on the other side of the aisle—they say: Hey, DAN, I know I should be a yes on this, but—but—there are a lot of butts in terms of excuses. They are not great excuses. I won't go through all of them.

Hey, I am from a really blue State. Tough on me. Hey, I might be running for Governor. Hey, I might be running for President.

This is what they have said.

But I don't think that should matter. We have all taken those kind of votes, tough votes, that we know are the right thing to do. And, again, as I mentioned, it is the right thing to do right now for Homeland Security, for the U.S. Senate, for the United States of America, a strong bipartisan support for this great American, by the way, who is highly, highly qualified.

And you know, the excuses are now coming out, the "buts." I mean, we have all taken tough votes. You know, I certainly have taken my few in terms of Cabinet officials. I supported a strong number of Biden Cabinet officials. Those weren't always popular votes back home in my State. I certainly wouldn't have chosen those nominees had I been in that position, but I am a strong believer in the general principle the President should typically get the Cabinet that he wants. And I think President Trump made an inspired choice by nominating MARKWAYNE MULLIN.

So I am hopeful that my colleagues—and everybody knows it is the right thing to do, to give him a strong bipartisan vote.

Enough "buts." I have heard too many "buts" from my Senate Democrat colleagues. You know he is a qualified individual. You know he is going to do a very good job leading this critical organization.

I am hoping a strong bipartisan vote can then help us lead to compromise and get Homeland Security funded, which is what we need to do. So I am looking forward to working with my good friend—and he is a very good friend—MARKWAYNE MULLIN to be the next Secretary of Homeland Security.

We are going to start voting on him here in a couple of minutes. I look forward to working with him on the historic buildup of the Coast Guard in Alaska that is happening—very exciting, icebreakers in the One Big Beautiful Bill—the Working Families Tax Cut Act. I like that name much better. The biggest investment in the Coast Guard in American history—\$25 billion—and everybody loved that: Democrats, Republicans.

He is the right man, right individual, to lead this organization at this time, and I am hoping we have a strong bipartisan vote that he deserves in the next couple of minutes to move his nomination forward.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the MULLIN nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

CLOTURE MOTION

The **PRESIDING OFFICER** (Mr. JOHNSON). 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 696, Markwayne Mullin, of Oklahoma, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Jim Banks, Marsha Blackburn, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Bill Hagerty, Rick Scott of Florida, Shelley Moore Capito, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, James Lankford, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of MARKWAYNE MULLIN, of Oklahoma, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—37

Alsobrooks	Blunt	Rochester	Gillibrand
Baldwin	Cantwell	Hassan	Hassan
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper	Hickenlooper
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Hirono	Hirono

Kim	Padilla	Van Hollen
King	Reed	Warner
Klobuchar	Rosen	Warnock
Lujan	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schatz	Welch
Merkley	Schiff	Whitehouse
Murphy	Schumer	Wyden
Murray	Slotkin	
Ossoff	Smith	

NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Gallego	Paul
Coons	Kaine	Peters
Durbin	Kelly	Shaheen

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 37. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of MARKWAYNE MULLIN, of Oklahoma, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 526

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have a resolution that I have talked about before. I want to emphasize that it is not a bill.

Could I ask for order in the Chamber? The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. Order in the Chamber.

Mr. KENNEDY. I want to emphasize that it is a resolution; it is not a bill. I also want to emphasize, at the outset, that it only applies to the Senate. It only applies to the U.S. Senate.

And here is what my resolution would do: It would change Senate rules to provide that, when we are in a shutdown, Senators cannot be paid, cannot receive their salaries. Their checks would be—think of it this way—locked in a vault. And once the shutdown is over, the Senators could pick them up.

Now, I think everybody in the Congress knows what I am about to say. It is maybe a bit cynical, but it is true. If I were King for a day—I am not, and I don't aspire to be—and I wanted to avoid shutdowns, I would do two things. I would provide that Members of Congress can't be paid during a shutdown, and I would provide that Members of Congress can't leave Washington, DC, during a shutdown.

Now, I can't pass the second part of that, so I am going to try to pass the first part of that.

This resolution—again, it is not a bill—is about shared sacrifice. And I am not doing it to punish anybody. I am not doing it to try to embarrass anybody. I recognize that there are varying degrees of wealth among U.S. Senators and their ability to go without a paycheck.

I know and like every Member of this body, and every Member of this body who has a substantial amount of wealth has achieved that wealth through their own hard work, and

most, if not all, of them started with nothing. And do you know what I say? God bless them. More power to them. That is America.

So I want to put that up front because I am sure some are going to point out that some of our Members are wealthier than others, and it is true. I mean, not to single anybody out, but I have seen Senator RICK SCOTT's house. It is bigger than a Costco, OK? More power to him. He earned that. I have seen Senator MARK WARNER's house. It is bigger than a Target. More power to him. He earned that money. He started from nothing. So did Rick.

But this bill isn't about that. It is about shared sacrifice and sending a message. We have about a squillion employees at the Department of Homeland Security that aren't being paid, and there is no prospect of them being paid.

Before I yield to my colleague Senator MORENO, I want to point this out. I said it yesterday, but I am going to say it again. The party line among us is that we are "that close" to reaching a deal to get government back open, to which I respond respectfully: Dream weaver. OK? I don't believe it. I hope I am wrong.

I know Mr. Homan is now involved. He is good, but he can't work miracles. I do not believe, because of the faction of my Democratic friends' party that is in control, that my Democratic colleagues can vote for anything—anything—that could be interpreted as helping ICE. I just think that is political and policy reality. This is America; they are entitled to their opinion.

What I think we should do, as I said yesterday—and Senator CRUZ has talked about this eloquently. I want to give him full credit. The Democrats have offered to open every part of DHS except ICE. I would gratefully accept their offer. Let's get them open immediately, and then the very next day, we should start a budget resolution. Through reconciliation, we should pass a budget for the rest of ICE—the rest of DHS that is not open.

Now, I would welcome my Democratic friends' involvement with that, but I know they can't vote for it. But we could do this through reconciliation, as we passed the One Big Beautiful Bill. We have two more shots under the rules of reconciliation. It would easily be sustained in a Byrd bath. It would not take 60 votes; it would take 50 votes plus the Vice President. That is how we passed the One Big Beautiful Bill.

So before I call on Mr. MORENO and return to the subject, I really think we ought to surprise ourselves and do something intelligent if we really want to get this government back open. We could have it open within a week. The Democrats, I think, will find that acceptable, and I believe Republicans will find that acceptable if we would just do it.