

can and must work together in a bipartisan manner to address this critical concern of the American people. It is possible. Don't believe this is not possible.

We just did it. We just did it with the ROAD to Housing Act last week.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have a problem. We have a problem with voter confidence. We have a problem with voter integrity. The American people want it fixed, and the SAVE America Act is a commonsense and effective solution for addressing this problem.

For all these many reasons, I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the SAVE America Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate took an important step by beginning debate on the SAVE America Act—a commonsense piece of legislation that safeguards our elections by implementing voter ID requirements and ensuring that only U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in our elections.

This is not a controversial idea. In fact, recent polling shows that over 70 percent of Americans support the bill.

Let me try that one more time. Over 70 percent of Americans support this bill. That means Republicans, Democrats, and Independents—over 70 percent.

That means that the American people agree that only eligible citizens should vote in our elections. It means the American people support voter ID as a reasonable and responsible safeguard.

The Presiding Officer was secretary of state in the Buckeye State—huge State, millions of people. The Presiding Officer knows from his own experience that whether somebody is an Independent, whether they are Republican, whether they are Democrat, the law is that you have to be a citizen.

People want integrity—voter integrity—at the ballot box. This is a pretty fundamental concept, which is why Americans overwhelmingly support it.

The fact that you should have voter ID—just take voter ID. That is over 80 percent. I mean, think about it. Let's see. ID to get into a government building, to get a fishing license, to rent a hotel room, to rent a car. I mean, come on.

It just doesn't get any more fundamental; it doesn't make any more common sense. So it really shouldn't be a partisan issue. As I said, it is a commonsense issue, it is that simple, and

this body should come together and vote and pass it.

So I urge our Democrat colleagues to join us and I guess just do what 70 to 80 percent of Americans want, what 70 percent of their own Democratic voters want. How about doing what their voters want—let alone ours—and the Independents?

So, somehow, the false choice they are bringing up there is that, gee whiz, if we do this, somehow you are denying voters access to the polls. Well, that is just not true. That is not true at all. In fact, when voters trust the process, they are more likely to participate. Think about it. If they trust the process, that makes them motivated to participate.

Again, it is not a burden to simply have a photo ID. They have to have it for everything else, so they certainly should have it when they vote.

For example, in my State of North Dakota, you know, elections are both secure and accessible. Our approach actually goes above and beyond. In North Dakota, my State, we already go beyond what is required in the legislation.

North Dakota officials across multiple State agencies conduct daily maintenance to ensure clean, updated, and accurate voter rolls. We also have a robust voter ID policy that requires an individual to provide a birth certificate, a passport, or a certificate of naturalization to get a driver's license. Now, this is to get a driver's license or a nondriver ID. But once you get that so you can drive your car, you are in great shape to vote.

Again, this is stuff that people have in their everyday lives, so to try to make it out that it is a problem—well, that just doesn't fly.

The American people expect us to protect the integrity of the election system.

Again, the Presiding Officer was secretary of state. That was his job every single day. But it is our job too. It is our job too. And the Voting Rights Act requires it, and that is exactly what this legislation does.

Americans support the SAVE America Act, and I urge our Democrat colleagues to join us in doing exactly what the American people are asking us to do, what they elected us to do.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, with that, I would also like to speak about another critical issue that we need to get resolved, and we need to get it resolved sooner, not later. We need to get it resolved. As a matter of fact, we are way past due for getting it resolved. And that is funding the Department of Homeland Security.

Want to go back to one of those fundamental things that you just have to do? Funding the Department of Homeland Security. Look at the risk right now, the global risk of terror. Look at all the things that are going on in the world and here at home. Pretty fundamental—pretty fundamental that we need to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

We have now been shut down since February 14. What is it—37 days? Paychecks have been stopped. The hard-working men and women of the Department of Homeland Security continue to work to secure the homeland, but they are not getting paid.

For more than a month, we have been working to find an agreement to fund the Department of Homeland Security, which is more important now than ever, as I said, given all the things that are going on.

Since the start of fiscal year 2026, Customs and Border Protection has had almost 4,000 encounters with individuals at U.S. ports of entry who are in some way tied to the Terror Watchlist.

Let me repeat that. Since the start of fiscal year 2026, this year, Customs and Border Protection has had encounters with almost 4,000 individuals at our ports of entry who are in some way tied to the Terror Watchlist.

Again, it goes to fundamental homeland security. That is what we are talking about, and that is what Republicans are standing here on the floor fighting to get funded. We need our Democrat colleagues to join us.

We have offered to make reforms to ICE, including body cams and more training. Guess what. It is right in the bill. It is right in the bill.

Also, the President has made changes at DHS. He sent Tom Homan to Minneapolis-St. Paul to defuse the situation there, and Border Czar Homan did an incredible job. He did a really good. Ask Democrats. Don't take my word. They will tell you he did a really good job of deescalating the situation in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

Also, right now, we are in the process of confirming new leadership at DHS, our colleague Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN. I mean, we had the first vote, and we are in the process of confirming him to lead the Department of Homeland Security. We had the initial vote, bipartisan vote—bipartisan.

Earlier this week, the administration—and obviously, there are a lot of us working on getting this done, and we have been working with the administration on it. Earlier this week, the administration provided a list of the policy changes we have been working on—meaningful changes to respond in a commonsense way to concerns our colleagues across the aisle have brought up.

Let me mention some of those. First, limiting civil enforcement actions at sensitive locations like hospitals, schools, and churches; expanding use of body-worn cameras and requiring longer term retention of the video; conducting greater oversight of DHS detention facilities; and enforcing the use of visible officer identification for DHS law enforcement.

Now, we have offered a clean continuing resolution. If they want to keep negotiating, fine.

If you want to keep negotiating a bill that you have already agreed to, that

has already been passed by the House, and you think you can sell that to the American people somehow, that that makes sense, fine and dandy. We will put a CR in place, we will put a continuing resolution in place, and I guess you can negotiate until the cows come home.

You know, the interesting thing about that continuing resolution—it goes back to the funding level of the Biden administration. So all you would be doing—for our Democrat colleagues—is voting on something that they had voted for multiple times. So when they vote against the CR, they are reversing themselves. They are now voting against something that they have repeatedly voted for.

But nonetheless, we said: Fine. We will do the CR. If you want to keep talking about it, hey, fine. But at least pay the TSA agents and the other hard-working people at DHS while you seemingly want to negotiate this on and on ad infinitum.

So that, obviously, again, is us trying to find options to get this done.

The other thing, as I said, the actual bill, which we negotiated with them—I am on the Appropriations Committee; we negotiated with them—they agreed to, and the House passed, has more body cams, has more training—things they have asked for. Just vote for what you negotiated.

So, you know, obviously, we are frustrated, but do you know who is a lot more frustrated? The people that are standing in lines at airports for 3-plus hours, maybe more. Do you know who else is frustrated? The families of those hard-working TSA agents, not to mention the TSA agents themselves who aren't getting paid.

So at the end of the day, I mean, it has just come down to, at some point, our colleagues across the aisle are going to have to join with us. I understand maybe their leftwing base thinks this second Schumer shutdown is a good idea, but the American people absolutely don't.

They don't think that the shutdown that is being created by the Democrats right now is a good idea. They think it is a very bad idea. They think it threatens security in our country. They think that it tremendously inconveniences what they are trying to do in their everyday lives when they have to go to the airport 3 hours and more ahead of time. And they certainly think it is unfair to the hard-working men and women of DHS that are working to protect all of us and not getting paid.

We are way past time—way past time—to have our colleagues join us, to say yes to something of all these offers we have put on the table and fund DHS.

I yield the floor.

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

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 655. A resolution expressing support for the annual designation of the first Saturday after the Spring Equinox as "National Day of Play"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 656. A resolution designating the third week of March 2026 as "National CACFP Week"; considered and agreed to.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 655—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ANNUAL DESIGNATION OF THE FIRST SATURDAY AFTER THE SPRING EQUINOX AS "NATIONAL DAY OF PLAY"

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 655

Whereas the Surgeon General has formally declared an epidemic of loneliness and social isolation, highlighting health impacts such as higher risk for anxiety, depression, heart disease, dementia, and a shorter life span;

Whereas people are spending less time with family and friends and are less involved in their communities;

Whereas a 2022 study found that families spend a significant portion of shared physical spaces in alone-together time, meaning individuals are present but engaged in their own activities such as using devices;

Whereas studies suggest that 21 percent of adults in the United States feel lonely;

Whereas only about 1 in 3 adults receives the recommended amount of physical activity each week, with less than 5 percent participating in 30 minutes of activity each day;

Whereas community-focused events, shared activities that require collaboration, and acts of service for the common good can bring a community together and promote social connection;

Whereas social connectedness reflects the continuum of meeting social connection needs;

Whereas social connection can help reduce the risk of chronic disease and serious illness;

Whereas social connection can improve the ability to manage stress, anxiety, and depression;

Whereas social connection encourages healthy eating habits and physical activity;

Whereas important communities such as neighborhoods, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and parks and recreation centers offer social connections;

Whereas play can be defined as an activity that is self-chosen, intrinsically motivated, and conducted in an active, but relatively non-stressed, frame of mind;

Whereas play is fundamentally connected to social connection as it provides space to develop and practice essential social skills such as communication, cooperation, empathy, and negotiation;

Whereas play promotes brain development, executive function skills, stress reduction, creativity, and problem-solving skills while also strengthening relationships and fostering healthy social-emotional growth;

Whereas play is a proven stress reliever for both children and adults, promoting overall well-being;

Whereas play reduces obesity and associated diseases;

Whereas children today spend up to 35 percent less time playing freely outdoors due to a combination of factors, including increased screen time;

Whereas excessive device use has detrimental physical and mental health impacts;

Whereas long-term consequences of excessive device use include impaired social development and cognitive function, particularly in children;

Whereas excessive device use can foster an absent presence, where individuals are physically together but mentally disengaged, leading to reduced quality in face-to-face interactions and increased feelings of social isolation;

Whereas taking a break from electronics and screen time can provide significant physical, mental, and social benefits;

Whereas a National Day of Play advocates for and celebrates the essential role of play and social connections;

Whereas a National Day of Play encourages individuals to put down their devices and participate in community organized events;

Whereas a National Day of Play strengthens community bonds and encourages a national focus on creating safe and healthy environments for all;

Whereas the Spring Equinox represents the official start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, signifying rebirth, renewal, and balance;

Whereas the Spring Equinox marks the time when days begin to get longer; and

Whereas March 21, 2026, is the first Saturday after the Spring Equinox: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 21, 2026, as "National Day of Play";

(2) expresses support for the annual designation of the first Saturday after the Spring Equinox as "National Day of Play";

(3) recognizes the importance of social connection for mental, physical, and social development; and

(4) encourages people to put their electronics down and play.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 656—DESIGNATING THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH 2026 AS "NATIONAL CACFP WEEK"

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas the third week of March is annually recognized as "National CACFP Week"