

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7147) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 4790), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

Mr. THUNE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7147), as amended, was passed.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The Senator from Missouri.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4277

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, the bill in the Chamber well right now does one simple thing: It gives U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement stable, long-term funding so it can do the job the Congress assigned it to do—enforce the immigration laws on the books and protect the American people. It provides \$100.36 billion for operations and support and provides \$5 billion for procurement, construction, and improvements, all available through September 30, 2036.

This bill is necessary because Democrats are trying to do through appropriations what they could not do in public debate. They could not persuade the American people to support amnesty for millions of illegal aliens who poured into this country under the Biden Presidency. They could not stop President Trump from closing the border. So now they are trying to cripple interior enforcement by defunding and hamstringing ICE.

But either today or through reconciliation, we will fully fund ICE. That is what this fight is about. The

border is closing. The next task is deportation, and deportation requires officers, detention space, transportation, technology, and operational support. It requires an ICE that is funded to do the job it is charged to do, not be starved out by politicians who want enforcement to fail. My bill says plainly we are not going to let that happen.

Democrats' own rhetoric gives away the game. They say they only want to deport the worst of the worst, but if that were true, they would not be trying to weaken the very Agency responsible for finding, detaining, and removing criminal illegal aliens. You cannot claim to support deporting dangerous offenders while working to cut the legs out from underneath ICE.

We are not going to abolish ICE by a budgetary gimmick. We are not going to force the Agency to do more with less while the left expands sanctuary policies, wages lawfare against deportation, and turns enforcement into a political target. We are not going to accept the lie that immigration enforcement should begin only when an illegal alien has already committed a violent crime in this country because by then, for some American families, it is already too late.

And we know what that looks like. It looks like Laken Riley; it looks like Stephanie Minter; it looks like Sheridan Gorman; it looks like Katie Abraham—Americans whose lives cannot be restored after the fact because Washington refused to enforce the law before the next crime was committed.

That is why this bill matters. This bill funds deportation operations. It funds the officers who carry them out. It funds the actual enforcement of our laws Congress has passed, Republicans and Democrats alike. It says that the answer to a border invasion is not performative outrage followed by bureaucratic surrender; the answer is enforcement.

So the question before the Senate is simple: Are we going to fund immigration enforcement or not?

We will be back in reconciliation, where 50-plus-1 votes are enough and the filibuster cannot save you. We will be back to deliver the funding for ICE needs, and we will be back to deliver the policy changes the American people are demanding.

By the way, if we are going to do another reconciliation bill, I may want to do something more than budgetary measures to help ICE do its job, like defunding sanctuary cities or removing the financial incentives for illegal immigration. So be careful what you wish for.

All of it—all of it—will be paid for, all of it targeted, all of it designed to give ICE the tools and funding it actually needs.

To my Democratic colleagues: This bill is the moderate option. What is coming next is going to supercharge deportations.

To my Republican colleagues: Let this be a rallying cry. Every time the

Democrats obstruct the safety of American families, the wall gets 10 feet higher and ICE gets another \$100 billion. Because the American people are watching. They see exactly who is standing in the way of law enforcement and public safety, and they are not going to forget it. The safety of American citizens is not optional, and neither is our resolve to defend it.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4277, which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. That is right; the American people have been watching. What they have seen is that the Democrats have been steadfast in our insistence that we not support providing more funding for ICE without also including commonsense reforms to rein in the abuses we have seen in Minnesota and elsewhere, particularly after two Americans were shot and killed.

All we have been demanding here is what the American people are demanding: body-worn cameras; no masks; keeping ICE agents out of our hospitals, schools, and churches; and ensuring ICE follows the same practices and procedures as local law enforcement.

We have just spent 6 weeks having this very fundamental argument with Republicans over providing new funding to ICE in 2026. Now, this UC would provide 10 years of funding to ICE with zero reforms—10 years, \$100 billion, and that is on top of the \$75 billion Republicans already gave ICE last year.

So for those same reasons Democrats have made on the floor the past several weeks, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 672.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 672, John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

John Thune, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 674.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 674, Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

John Thune, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Please find enclosed the following notification from the Department of State.

Department Notification Number: RSAT 26-21

Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 26-21 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Belgium for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$156.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Recipients:

Speaker of the House of Representatives
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Sincerely,

PAUL D. GUAGLIANONE,
Senior Bureau Official,
Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 26-21

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) (U) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Belgium

(ii) (U) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.
Other \$156.1 million.
Total \$156.1 million.

(iii) (U) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales case BE-B-WDQ was below congressional notification threshold at \$86.95 million (\$0 in

major defense equipment (MDE)) and included AN/PRC-117G radios; AN/PRC-152A radios; AN-PRC-160 radios; AN/PRC-158 radios; and AN/PRC-163 radios. The Government of Belgium has requested that the case be amended to include additional non-MDE items. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

MDE: None

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items will be included: AN/PRC-117G radios; AN/PRC-152A radios; AN-PRC-160 radios; AN/PRC-158 radios; AN/PRC-163 radios, AN/PRC-167 radios; KIK-11 tactical key loader, AN/PRC-117G accessories, dismount kit, vehicular integration, and batteries; AN/PRC-152A accessories, dismount kit, and vehicular integration; AN/PRC-158 accessories, dismount kit, vehicular integration, and training; AN/PRC-160 accessories, dismount kit, vehicular integration, batteries, and training; AN/PRC-163 ancillaries, batteries, and dismount accessories; AN/PRC-167 ancillaries, batteries, and dismount accessories; RF-9820S radio and dismount accessories; radio specific audio, power, and configuration accessories; U.S. government and contractor technical engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) (U) Military Department: Army (BE-B-WDQ).

(v) (U) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) (U) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) (U) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) (U) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 24, 2026.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

(U) Belgium—Communications Equipment

(U) The Government of Belgium has requested to buy additional AN/PRC-163 radios; AN/PRC-167 radios; AN/PRC-160 radios; KIK-11 tactical key loader, AN/PRC-117G accessories, dismount kit, vehicular integration, and batteries; AN/PRC 152A accessories, dismount kit, and vehicular integration; AN/PRC-158 accessories, dismount kit, vehicular integration, and training; AN/PRC-160 accessories, dismount kit, vehicular integration, batteries, and training; AN/PRC-163 ancillaries, batteries, and dismount accessories; AN/PRC-167 ancillaries, batteries, and dismount accessories; RF-9820S radio and dismount accessories; radio specific audio, power, and configuration accessories; U.S. government and contractor technical engineering, logistics, and personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales case, valued at \$86.95 million, included the following non-major defense equipment items: AN/PRC 117G radios; AN/PRC-152A radios; AN-PRC-160 radios; AN/PRC-158 radios; and AN/PRC-163 radios. The estimated total cost is \$156.1 million.

(U) This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(U) The proposed sale will enable the Belgium Army to communicate across moderate to extended distances using encryption that