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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 12 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026

(Legislative day of Tuesday, April 14, 2026)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable KATIE BOYD BRITT, a Senator from the State of Alabama.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, today, give us zeal with knowledge that will order our priorities for Your glory. Remind us to strive to bring deliverance to captives, sight to the morally blind, and uplift to the downtrodden.

As our lawmakers make plans, give them faith to know that Your principles, priorities, and purposes will prevail. As our Senators cultivate reverence for You, bless them with safety, security, and peace.

Lord, let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with us.

We pray in Your transcendent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 17, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KATIE BOYD BRITT, a Senator from the State of Alabama, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. BRITT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

AMENDING THE FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008 TO EXTEND THE AUTHORITIES OF TITLE VII OF THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.R. 8322, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8322) to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to proceeding to the measure?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, Americans understand that every single day there are abuses of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. And the reality is, a growing number of Democrats and Republicans are now saying that a straight extension of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act law is absolutely unacceptable in any way, shape, or form.

So it is clear it is time for real reforms to protect Americans from warrantless surveillance by a government that they rightly do not trust.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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So for the last hour or so, I have been speaking to colleagues in the other body of the House. And they have told me, unequivocally, that this short-term extension makes reform more likely and expiration makes reform less likely.

But make no mistake about it, opponents of reform have shown no willingness, for years and years, to negotiate meaningful reform. And those of us in a bipartisan, bicameral way who have insisted that this time will be different want to emphasize that this morning,

The reality is that the country believes that security and liberty are not mutually exclusive. We can have both. A good bill that we are insisting on will do that. A bad bill will give us less security and less liberty.

So I hope that opponents of reform are going to understand what is going on in the Congress and in the country and start talking about what is genuinely good reform and what it would look like.

I will say that I am now the longest serving member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and I have never seen the concern on both sides of the aisle, that is bicameral, for real reform.

So I have talked to my colleagues in the House, and their views have been particularly important because they have told us about their work last night and what it means for real reform.

And we are going to be following that here every single day because Ben Franklin said—you are going to hear me talk about that—anybody who gives up their liberty for security doesn't deserve either.

We are going to insist on it.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 8322) 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.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4344

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4344) to extend section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for 3 years.

Mr. THUNE. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the Calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

MORNING BUSINESS

FISA

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote on H.R. 8322, a bill to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026, I would have voted nay.

NOMINATION OF COLONEL THOMAS M. SIVERTS

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I release my hold on the promotion of Col. Thomas M. Siverts, PN793-2, on the Executive Calendar.

In March 2026, I raised concerns about Colonel Siverts' appearance on an episode of a podcast known as The Berm Pit, which is anti-Semitic and racist.

I requested the Marine Corps to provide me with a copy of this podcast episode, so I could review the nature of his participation in this podcast. I was first told the podcast was not accessible, but the Marine Corps provided me with a copy of the episode after I objected to the promotion of Colonel Siverts. I have since been able to review the podcast episode, and I did not have any concerns with the exchange on the podcast.

Further, Colonel Siverts wrote a letter to me unequivocally condemning anti-Semitism and racism, noting that at the time of his appearance on the podcast, the podcast had no association with the hateful ideologies expressed by others on different episodes of the podcast months later.

Colonel Siverts made clear that the ideologies of anti-Semitism and racism are antithetical not only to the values of the Marine Corps, but to who he is too.

My concerns have been addressed, and I support the Senate confirming Colonel Siverts' promotion to brigadier general.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.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, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1689. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

H.R. 6398. An act to amend the Clean Air Act relating to review by the Environmental Protection Agency of proposed legislation.

H.R. 6409. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to clarify standards for emissions emanating from outside of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8322. An act to amend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 to extend the authorities of title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 through April 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 6398. An act to amend the Clean Air Act relating to review by the Environmental Protection Agency of proposed legislation; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6409. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to clarify standards for emissions emanating from outside of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4344. A bill to extend section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for 3 years.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4343. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that a Member of Congress convicted of certain felony offenses relating to sexual abuse shall not be eligible for retirement benefits based on that individual's Member service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4344. A bill to extend section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 for 3 years; read the first time.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1552

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.