



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

No. 70

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Dr. Chad Balthrop, executive pastor at First Baptist Church Owasso, from Owasso, OK.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You are the powerful controller of all things, and we praise You. You have made us a nation of laws. We believe words on paper are enough to manage behavior. Yet, experience demonstrates that words alone frequently fall flat. So we need You to do something in us and through us that can't possibly be explained because of us. We seek Your forgiveness and the mercy found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Write Your word on our hearts and in the heart of our Nation. Begin with these lawmakers. I am so thankful for the sacrifices they make to serve people. They are instruments of Your justice. Their decisions are in Your hands. May they be wise and faithful. Give them courage to walk humbly with You and one another. In our disagreements, grant us the gift of repentance and capacity for forgiveness. Let them be the people who enter a room and peace follows after.

Bless their families with Your presence. Bless those who serve by their side with skill and integrity. We long to be a nation that lights the world for generations. So we entrust our lives to You and choose to use who we are and what we have for the benefit of others. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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 executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 21, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES LANKFORD, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LANKFORD 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Democratic leader is recognized.

### IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last week, in Nevada, Donald Trump said

“the war in Iran is going along swimmingly . . . it's perfect.” From Trump, again: “The war in Iran is going along swimmingly.”

The truth is that the Trump administration is barely treading water, caught in the riptide of its own incompetence. Donald Trump has become so frustrated by his inability to end his own war of choice that he warned yesterday that “lots of bombs will start going off” if his cease-fire expires tomorrow. He also repeated his threat “to knock out every single powerplant and every single bridge in Iran.” That would constitute a war crime.

Trump has backed himself in a corner, and he knows it. Thirteen American servicemembers have been killed, hundreds of others wounded. Gas is over \$4 a gallon and won't be coming down anytime soon.

Only one in four Americans—only one in four Americans—thinks Trump's war has been worthwhile, and Trump's approval rating has sunk to its lowest point on record.

And Trump says everything is “perfect.” What planet is he on?

It is absurd. It is an insult to the American people.

And Senate Republicans have backed Trump up the entire way. Four times now, Senate Republicans have voted against our War Powers Resolution, and they have surrendered one of Congress' most important responsibilities under the Constitution to Donald Trump.

Senate Democrats will force a fifth vote on our War Powers Resolution tomorrow, and we will continue to force votes every week this catastrophe continues.

Make no mistake, every time Senate Republicans continue voting against our resolution, they tie themselves more tightly to this failed war policy and this failed President. Republicans can try to duck and dodge responsibility all they want, but unless Republicans join us on our resolution, they

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S1845

will go down with Donald Trump's ship.

#### FEDERAL RESERVE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Kevin Warsh—Kevin Warsh's confirmation hearing comes at a dire time for an independent Fed and for the American economy at large. Donald Trump continues his brazen efforts to force the central bank to serve his personal political interests rather than the best interests of the American economy and the American people.

Trump's attempt to oust Lisa Cook from the Fed Board and his sham investigation against Chair Jerome Powell have threatened the independence of the Fed, one of the most important financial institutions in the world.

If you are worried about the cost of living, if you don't want to see interest rates go up, then Donald Trump's meddling in the Fed should alarm you. If there is one thing markets do not like, it is chaos. And the more Donald Trump meddles with an independent Fed, the more chaos he injects into the markets. And the more chaos he injects into the markets, the more interest rates go up.

The markets hate chaos. Do you hear that, Donald Trump? The markets hate chaos, and you are causing chaos in the markets with your on-again, off-again, hot, medium, cold statements about this war.

No new Fed Chair should be confirmed under this body under a cloud of coercion and uncertainty that has been created by Donald Trump. It would set an awful precedent for the future independence of the Fed.

I urge Senate Republicans not to proceed with Warsh's confirmation so long as these attacks on the Fed's independence continue, as Senator TILLIS has pledged to do.

With inflation rising, costs soaring amidst Trump's disastrous war of choice with Iran, Trump will even put more pressure on the Fed to manipulate interest rates to serve as part of his agenda. Whoever serves as the next Chair must be able to withstand that immense amount of pressure.

From Trump's blundering war in Iran to his costly and constantly changing tariffs, the Trump administration has poisoned our economy with uncertainty. Senate Democrats will not allow Donald Trump to inject more chaos into our economy by undermining the Fed.

#### RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on reconciliation, instead of focusing on the issues that Americans truly care about right now, Senate Republicans will entangle the Senate in the partisan sideshow that is reconciliation. In just a few hours, Republicans will release a budget resolution that will demonstrate just how out of touch they are with the American people.

Senate Republicans want to pour \$75 billion into ICE and Border Patrol without putting any restraints on these rogue Agencies' rampant violence in our streets. That is not what the American people want.

Americans want us to lower their costs, to end this debacle in Iran; to reopen FEMA, the Coast Guard, TSA, and other Agencies Republicans have shut down. And they do not want us to waste our time and their tax dollars empowering Trump's personal police force.

For weeks, Democrats have been ready and willing to address Americans' priorities. For weeks, Republicans have chosen to put the partisan policies of Donald Trump and Stephen Miller first.

Americans want to know why Republicans aren't fighting to lower their gas, healthcare, grocery, and housing costs. During reconciliation, Democrats are going to make sure this majority answers to the American people, and we will put a focus on lowering the costs of healthcare and gas and groceries and housing costs and many other costs that have gone up due to Trump's incompetence.

#### HAITI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Haiti, later today, I am meeting with Haiti Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime to discuss how we can support Haiti's path to security and democracy by helping its government stop violence and root out corruption.

The Haitian community is woven into the fabric of American society, and it is particularly true in New York, which is the proud home of the largest Haitian-American diaspora in the country.

Sadly, Donald Trump continues to vilify and demean Haitian-Americans with his bigoted attacks. He repeated vile, baseless stereotypes about Haitians on the campaign trail and tried to strip them of temporary protected status.

In defiance of the process that Congress established, Trump threatened Haitians' TPS, even though the dangerous conditions they fled in Haiti persist and are even getting worse. That is cruel, and that won't fix our broken immigration system.

I will continue fighting for the Haitian community in New York and beyond to help Haiti make progress on the challenges it faced today, and I look forward to meeting with the Prime Minister.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1689

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1689) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if it were up to Republicans, we would have finished the appropriations process months ago. We made a lot of progress on restoring the appropriations process this past year.

We had, for the first time in years, actually moved 11 of the 12 appropriations bills across the finish line under regular order, something that literally hadn't been done in years. And I think if you go back to when the last time we did all 12, it might have been 30-some years ago. But that progress was disrupted.

It was disrupted, first, when Democrats shut down the entire Federal Government in the fall. It was disrupted again when Democrats refused to fund the Department of Homeland Security in February. And it was disrupted, yet again, when Democrats walked away from bipartisan talks because they refused to fund law enforcement and border security.

For 67 days now, Democrats have refused to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. That is unacceptable, and it is why Republicans are going to move forward this week with a budget resolution that will allow us to take up a funding bill for the law enforcement and border security components of DHS.

And to prevent another reckless attempt by Democrats to defund law enforcement when we next take up appropriations, Republicans will fund law enforcement and border security for the next 3 years.

Now, I say "reckless" about the Democrats because that is exactly what they are. Democrats are refusing to fund the Agency that protects our Nation's borders. Think about that for a minute. Let that sink in. Democrats are refusing to fund the Agency that protects our Nation's borders.