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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who has been the hope, refuge, and joy of many generations, thank You for giving us the power to seek You. We praise You for Your promise that those who keep on seeking will find.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers to seek Your wisdom in order to be guided by Your loving providence. Give them a clearer vision of Your truth, a great faith in Your might, and a deeper assurance of Your love. Teach them to work and not to ask for any reward except that of knowing they are doing Your will. Do for them immeasurably, abundantly, above all that they can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The President pro tempore.

NATIONAL HOME VISITING WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have two short messages.

Strong families build a strong society and a strong America. Along that thought, for the second year, I have led a bipartisan resolution in the Senate to recognize National Home Visiting Week.

Evidence-based home visiting programs—as an example, programs like the Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program—are examples of programs offering important services that support pregnant women, new moms, and entire families.

The positive outcomes that families demonstrate in areas like maternal, mental, and behavioral health issues illustrate just how important these services are.

Evidence-based home visiting programs also reduce child abuse, reduce neglect, and reduce family conflict. Targeted intervention of this kind is very important and key to preventing a family's involvement with the child welfare system, and that is a very noble goal that I have long worked to help families achieve.

Strengthening families and supporting parents as they raise the next generation is paramount. In many areas, my State leads. So I am proud to say that Iowa was one of the early adopters of home visiting programs, and it has proven successful—very successful—in our State.

In fact, an Iowan from Sioux City was named a “2025 Home Visitor of the Year” by the Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals.

I would like to thank the home visitors and their supervisors, who provide evidence-based services that help families build a strong foundation.

FARM BILL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, my last point that I would like to make

this morning is to take a minute to discuss what is going on in the other body. So I take a little while here now to thank Iowa Members of the House of Representatives—Congressman FEENSTRA, Congressman NUNN, and Congresswomen HINSON and MILLER-MEEKS—for their very good efforts, fighting for Iowa farmers during the farm bill negotiations in the House of Representatives; and part of that discussion involved the biofuel issue of E15.

E15 is a top priority for not only Iowans but for people generally in the Midwest, where we have abundant corn crops that make the ethanol that ends up being E15.

E15 will expand markets for farmers, help consumers at the pump, and, according to the economists for the Iowa Corn Growers, add \$14 billion to an already hurting ag economy—and when I say “already,” already for the last 3 or 4 years.

Now, E15 is a no-brainer that is supported by President Trump. In fact, when President Trump visited Iowa in early March, he said he would like to have Congress present an E15 bill to him to sign.

So I hope the leadership of the House of Representatives keeps its word to get E15 a floor vote and do that in very short order.

In fact, I don't really know what all the problem is about E15, because by Presidential waiver, we have had E15 the last 2 years of Trump 1, 4 years of the Biden administration, and now 2 years in this Trump administration; and I have never heard any controversy about that.

Then, secondly, we have had the Governors of eight Midwestern States petition the EPA for E15 year-round and throughout all those eight States; and I have never heard any controversy about that.

But when we want to pass legislation that would avoid a Presidential waiver and allocate E15 in the other 42 States

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



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that don't have it year-round, all of a sudden, it becomes quite a controversial issue, something I just don't understand.

I think it is the case that now we are having some legislation to bring certainty to the issue of E15, and it is going to make it possible for retailers to invest in the very expensive pumps that it takes to distribute E15, and that certainty is very necessary for that investment. But, all of a sudden, it becomes a very controversial issue, where it has not been a controversial issue by Presidential waiver or by those eight State Governors petitioning EPA to have it in those States.

It ought to be done now and help American agriculture and reduce the price of gasoline tremendously through E15.

Now, I hear from some States that don't have E15 that their people don't want it because it is going to raise the price of gasoline.

Come to Iowa. Come to other Midwestern States where we have E15 year-round, and you will find the gasoline that has ethanol with a 15-percent mixture cheaper than any other grade of gas that you can buy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are a Nation of immigrants, but we are also a Nation of laws. That is a common-sense statement and one on which Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree. But, lately, Democrats have proved that they don't really think we are a Nation of laws. In fact, they don't really seem to care whether some of our laws, particularly laws dealing with border security and illegal immigration, get enforced at all.

And they are even trying to defund the very Agencies that enforce those laws. That is right: no funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; no funding for Border Patrol. This is what passes for a reasonable proposal in the Democrat Party today.

Democrats apparently think it is reasonable to have nobody patrolling the southern border. They think it is reasonable to let criminal illegal immigrants continue living freely in our country. If that is the Democrats' position, I guess it just proves how far to the left their party has moved.

While our Democrat colleagues try to appeal to the "defund the police" crowd, Republicans are doing our job. Last week, Senate Republicans moved forward to begin a process that will allow us to fund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement without—without—Democrats.

And in order to prevent Democrats from trying to defund law enforcement again in September, we are going to fund these Agencies for the next 3 years. We are going to give these law enforcement officers certainty that they won't be used as political pawns by Democrats and that they will be able to do the job they were hired to do. And that is an important job.

Protecting our borders and deporting criminal illegal aliens are essential components of our country's security. It is unfortunate that Democrats don't agree.

Last week, the Democrat leader said that Border Patrol and ICE are two Agencies that "nobody respects in this country."

"Nobody respects Border Patrol and ICE." That is what he said.

Apparently, the fact that there are men and women putting their lives on the line to ensure dangerous individuals don't enter our country does not merit respect from Senate Democrats.

I guess it is no surprise. After all, Democrats have a history of failing to respect our immigration laws. The Biden administration clearly did not believe in enforcing immigration laws, and the result was 4 years of record-breaking illegal immigration under President Biden's watch.

Millions—millions—were coming here illegally every single year, and a whole lot of those people were waved through and allowed to take up residence in this country.

And long before the Biden border crisis, Democrat-led cities and States were implementing sanctuary city policies that prevented their law enforcement agencies from working with Federal law enforcement to get criminal illegal immigrants off our streets.

These misguided policies have had tragic consequences. Laken Riley is just one example. Mr. President, 2 years ago, Laken was murdered while out on a run on the campus of the University of Georgia. Her killer was an illegal immigrant who should never have had the opportunity to get near her.

He entered the country illegally during the Biden administration. He was released into the interior and was subsequently arrested in New York City and later issued a citation for shoplifting in Georgia a few short months before Laken's murder.

After being arrested in New York City, he was released before Immigration and Customs Enforcement could issue a detainer, a request that police hold an individual so that he could be taken into immigration custody.

And so this individual, here in the United States illegally—and subsequently involved in two crimes—was

free on the University of Georgia campus when Laken Riley went running in February of 2024.

A man, who had illegally entered our country and then committed not one but two crimes in our country, should not have been free on our streets, but he was because of open border and sanctuary policies implemented by Democrats.

The Democrats haven't learned their lesson. Today, Democrats are advocating for defunding border security and immigration enforcement. They are advocating for a return to the policies that led to tragedies like the murder of Laken Riley, policies that led to a crisis at the southern border and made America and Americans less safe.

Thanks to Democrats, we have seen what happens when our immigration laws aren't enforced. No one—no one—wants to go back to that—no one, I guess, but Democrats. We are not about to let that happen. Republicans will continue to work to ensure that our borders are secure and that dangerous criminals are not on our streets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 728.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2026.

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 bill 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. 728, Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2026.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Bill Cassidy, Katie Boyd Britt, Ashley B. Moody, John Boozman, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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