

also avoiding costly and life-threatening conflicts. The recent actions in Venezuela were limited in scope, short in duration, and done to protect U.S. interests and citizens. What President Trump has done in Venezuela is the definition of the President's article II constitutional authorities as Commander in Chief.

Similarly, President George H.W. Bush authorized limited military operations to arrest and bring Panama's Manuel Noriega to the United States to stand trial for drug-related charges. Interestingly, that lasted 2 weeks, and there were thousands of troops involved—not done in a very short period of time with only a handful of troops—and the Democrats applauded President Bush for his action.

For years, my Democratic colleagues have called for Maduro's removal. You heard me the other day read statements that my Democratic colleagues have made. But when President Trump actually made that happen, now they say: How dare he do this. This is TDS, Trump derangement syndrome, at its obvious worst.

I firmly believe the operation in Venezuela was a good thing. I understand that some of my colleagues disagree with me, but that does not give this body the right to block the Commander in Chief's article II authority and defy every law of gravity and try to stop something that isn't happening.

I yield the floor to my friend from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, in a moment, I will make the motion that my colleague from Idaho mentioned, the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 298, but I do want to just address the points that he made very briefly.

My colleague from Idaho had said there is no current use of U.S. hostilities in Venezuela, and he has also said that the military operation Absolute Resolve is over. That is what he has just told this body. And he has said, because of those two facts, he is making the motion that we will hear in a moment, the inquiry.

I just want to refer my colleagues to the letter exchange between Senator RISCH and Secretary Rubio because that is not what the letters say. The letters do not say what has been represented by my colleague.

Let me read what Senator RISCH asked the President, and then let me read Senator Rubio's response.

Senator RISCH said: I respectfully request that you provide Congress with an official correspondence confirming that Operation Absolute Resolve has ended and that U.S. military personnel are no longer involved in hostilities in Venezuela.

Those were the two questions posed to the President.

Let me read you Senator Rubio's answer. He did not confirm in his answer that Operation Absolute Resolve has ended. The letter does not mention Op-

eration Absolute Resolve because it hasn't ended. The President himself has said that he is holding out the possibility of doing the exact same thing that he did to President Maduro to other Venezuelan officials who have been indicted by the United States, and that is why Secretary Rubio, in the letter, could not give an affirmative answer to Senator RISCH's question. Operation Absolute Resolve has not ended.

There was a second question Senator RISCH asked: Confirm that U.S. military personnel are no longer involved in hostilities in Venezuela.

Secretary Rubio wouldn't confirm that either. All Secretary Rubio says is: There are currently no U.S. Armed Forces in Venezuela.

What about the boat strikes? What about the naval blockade? What about the naval seizure of Venezuelan oil? Those are all hostilities under domestic and international law. They are all hostilities. And that is why Secretary Rubio, I think, being intellectually honest, refused to give an affirmative answer to my colleague's question. He said there are no troops currently in Venezuela, but he would not say that the U.S. military is not involved in hostilities.

So even on this record, with my colleague posing two questions to the administration—tell us the operation is over; tell us the United States is not involved in hostilities—the administration would do neither. And for that reason, I ask that we proceed on the path we are on to have this debate finally before the American public.

**DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST VENEZUELA THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—Motion to Proceed**

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I therefore move to proceed to Calendar No. 298, S.J. Res. 98.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 298, S.J. Res. 98, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Venezuela that have not been authorized by Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

**POINT OF ORDER**

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I make a point of order—raise a point of order—that this joint resolution is not entitled to privilege under 50 U.S.C. 1546a due to U.S. troops not being engaged in hostilities.

**VOTE ON POINT OF ORDER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair submits the question to the Senate for its decision.

The question is, Is the point of order well taken?

Mr. RISCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 9 Leg.]

**YEAS—50**

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

**NAYS—50**

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Collins	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Paul	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

(Mr. JUSTICE assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative and the point of order is sustained.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR**

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3627. A bill to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

**EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2459. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Portions of Permanent Program Performance Standards Related to Siltation Structures" ((RIN1029-AC92) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0010)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2460. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation

and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Backfilling and Grading” ((RIN1029-AD03) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2461. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prior Balance Replacement Funds” ((RIN1029-AC93) (Docket No. OSM-2025-0013)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2462. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2026-2028 Enterprise Housing Goals Final Rule” (RIN2590-AB59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2463. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rule: Modifications to the Enhanced Supplementary Leverage Ratio Standards for U.S. Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies and Their Subsidiary Depository Institutions; Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity and Long-Term Debt Requirements for U.S. Global Systemically Important Bank Holding Companies” (RIN3064-AG11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2464. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Housing, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, six (6) reports relative to nominations, vacancies, designations of service in acting roles, discontinuations of service in acting roles and actions on nominations for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2465. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjusting and Indexing Certain Regulatory Thresholds” (RIN3064-AG15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2466. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Home Mortgage Disclosure (Regulation C) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold” (12 CFR Part 1003) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2467. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Truth in Lending Act (Regulation Z) Adjustment to Asset-Size Exemption Threshold” (12 CFR Part 1026) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2468. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with

title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2469. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Transition Period to Calendar Year 2026 for Certain Requirements in Revenue Ruling 2025-4” (Notice 2026-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2470. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safe Harbor for the Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration under Section 45Q for Qualified Carbon Oxide Disposed of in Secure Geological Storage in Calendar Year 2025” (Notice 2026-1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2471. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Exempt Organizations Rulings and Determination Letters Procedures” (Rev. Proc. 2026-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2472. A communication from the Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2025 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2473. A communication from the Associate Director, Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental, and Public Affairs, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy and designation of an acting officer for a position covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 for the position of Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2026; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2474. A communication from the Chief of Staff, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation’s fiscal year 2025 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2475. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2025 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2476. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Section 1295 Retroactive QEF election PLR Revenue Procedure” (Rev. Proc. 2026-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2477. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Withdrawal of Interpretive Guidance: Retail Commodity Transactions Involving Certain Digital Assets” (RIN3038-AF64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2478. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Progress Report on the C.W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program and National Cord Blood Inventory Program”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2479. A communication from the Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Military Readiness Activities in the Hawaii-California Training and Testing Study Area” (RIN0648-BN44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2480. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Numbering Policies for Modern Communications; Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers; Implementation of TRACED Act Section 6(a)-Knowledge of Customers by Entities with Access to Numbering Resources” (RIN3060-AK36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2481. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System” (DA 25-12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2482. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Auction of Advanced Wireless Services (AW-3) Licenses; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 113; Bidding Scheduled to Begin June 2, 2026” (DA 25-1075) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2483. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Fireworks Display, Ohio River Mile Marker 73-74, Wellsburg, West Virginia” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-1099)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2484. A communication from the Administrative Assistant, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; West of Cyril E. King Airport, St. Thomas, Virginia” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-1110)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2485. A communication from the Acting Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Delete, Delete, Delete” (FCC 25-85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3630. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46164 Westlake Drive in Sterling, Virginia, as the "Firefighter Trevor Brown Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. COONS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 3631. A bill to allocate funds for the local law enforcement grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 3632. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide credits for the production of renewable chemicals and investments in renewable chemical production facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 3633. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to reauthorize the expansion of middle mile infrastructure into rural areas; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3634. A bill to express the sense of Congress regarding the conduct by the Netanyahu administration in Gaza and to impose sanctions to discourage governments from obstructing humanitarian assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 3635. A bill to reauthorize the Fort Peck Reservation Rural Water System Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3636. A bill to amend titles 23 and 49, United States Code, to modify the rules relating to eligible projects under the TIFIA program and the railroad rehabilitation and financing program, to establish a transit-oriented development financing program for projects of a certain size, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3637. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3638. A bill to permit voluntary economic activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3639. A bill to expedite processing of satellite and space licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. MOODY):

S. 3640. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to include any entity identified

as a Chinese military company on the Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3641. A bill to revoke the visas of, and impose visa restrictions on, certain individuals located in the United States and abroad who are associated with regimes in Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Bolivia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3642. A bill to direct the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate certain payment increases under State programs funded by the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3643. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Program Fraud, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3644. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to debar child care providers who commit fraud from receiving certain financial assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3645. A bill to improve the efficiency of the removal process by enhancing cooperation between government entities and by expanding the grounds for deportation for any alien to include any felony or any 2 misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3646. A bill to stop the Government from attacking individuals and organizations for their political speech or participation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 405

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 405, a bill to modify eligibility requirements for amateur sports governing organizations.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine

(Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to improve mental health services of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on whether hospital emergency departments should implement fentanyl testing as a routine procedure for patients experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 944, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to the highway safety improvement program, and for other purposes.

S. 1245

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1245, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1320

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1320, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain steps regarding research related to menopause, perimenopause, or mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 1572

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1572, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Federal carjacking statute.

S. 1773

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the deduction for personal casualty losses as in effect prior to the enactment of Public Law 115-97.

S. 2225

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2225, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare.