

(2) the number of employees in the Forest Service as of—

(A) the date on which the report is submitted; and

(B) January 1 of the year in which the report is submitted and January 1 of each of the previous 9 calendar years.

**SA 4224.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The Attorney General shall retain, preserve, and compile any records or evidence related to any investigation, prosecution, services provided to victims, or incarceration of Jeffrey Epstein: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report that includes information on the history of the Jeffrey Epstein case (including the 2008 non-prosecution agreement), victims and testimony (including notifications under section 3771 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the “Crime Victims’ Rights Act”)), investigation of co-conspirators, internal reviews and misconduct findings by the Department of Justice, the current status of investigations into the financial and trafficking networks of Jeffrey Epstein, an intelligence assessment of Jeffrey Epstein’s financial ties, clients, and connections (if any) to the United States Government or foreign governments, and oversight failures at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York, New York: *Provided further*, That, as necessary to protect privacy, the Attorney General may redact the names and personally identifiable information of victims from the report submitted to Congress.

**SA 4225.** Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prevent a State law enforcement agency from participating in an investigation into a Federal law enforcement officer-involved shooting that occurred in Minnesota on January 7, 2026.

**SA 4226.** Mr. LUJÁN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act—

(1) the amount made available under this Act for “Justice Operations, Management, and Accountability—Salaries and Expenses” shall be \$127,000,000;

(2) the amount made available under this Act for “Community Oriented Policing Services—Community Oriented Policing Services Programs” shall be \$813,000,000; and

(3) the amount made available under this Act for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381) shall be \$266,093,613.

**SA 4227.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

(5) The use of military force by the armed forces of a foreign state within or against the United States to apprehend, arrest, and transfer the President of the United States to that foreign state would be considered an act of war against the United States.

**SA 4228.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 1, add the following:

(5) Seven members of the United States Armed Forces were wounded during the warfighting in Venezuela and have the full support of Congress as they recover.

**SA 4229.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DEFINITIZATION AND DISBURSEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AWARDS.**

Any grant allocation, discretionary grant award, discretionary contract award, or other transaction agreement made by the Department of Energy that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, was obligated with a unique award key and a Federal award identification number and remains capable of being definitized shall be definitized and disbursed before September 30, 2026, only for the purposes associated with the award or transaction agreement, as applicable, and for the entity with the same recipient identifier as such award was made, within the same period of availability as the award was originally provided.

**SA 4230.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. **DOJ GRANT ELIGIBILITY.**

In awarding grants administered by the Department of Justice to any entity and in determining the eligibility of the entity to receive grant funds, the Attorney General may not require the entity to agree to comply with, certify compliance with, or comply with—

(1) section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373);

(2) any memorandum issued by the President; or

(3) any Executive Order issued by the President.

**SA 4231.** Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be obligated or expended to open, improve, authorize, permit, construct, plan, or consider any easement, special use authorization, or other instrument allowing any utility corridor or year-round road to be located on winter wildlife habitat in the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado within sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 of T. 4 S., R. 82 W., to the 680-acre parcel described on page 1 of the Record of Decision for the Berlaimont Estates Access Route Final Environmental Impact Statement, dated March 2023.

**SA 4232.** Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 6938, making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 444(a) of division C, strike “division J” in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through “Infrastructure” in paragraph (3) and insert “section 100051 of Public Law 119-21 (commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) (139 Stat. 385)”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The majority leader.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 15, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 6938.

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

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator WHITEHOUSE.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

## U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here on the floor for the 36th speech in my "Scheme" series, calling attention to the rightwing scheme to capture our courts and justice system.

It has morphed from stacking the Court with billionaire-selected Justices to now putting pressure on sitting judges to try to get them to do what the Trump political operation wants. It turns out that the rightwing interests don't always like it when the courts they worked so hard to capture just don't deliver.

Last week, the Judiciary Committee's Federal Courts Subcommittee held a hearing on impeaching rogue judges, it was called. My Republican colleagues argue that Federal judges should be impeached and removed from office for ruling in ways that MAGA doesn't like.

Over the past year, there is a backdrop to this, which is that Federal judges and their families—and their families—have been the victims of a campaign to smear and attack judges who rule against the Trump administration. It is pretty clear that many of these calls for impeachment are just a tactic in that intimidation campaign.

There are some tells.

Tell No. 1: It is rare for a Senator to call for a judge's impeachment because

the Senator would be a juror, and it is hard to be an impartial juror later if you already called the defendant guilty.

Tell No. 2: Impeachment isn't a remedy for judges getting decisions wrong. Appeal is that remedy, as the Chief Justice has clearly stated. Impeachment is a remedy for actual misconduct. Virtually everyone has agreed on that for almost 200 years.

When Senators start saying the almost 200 years of law history is wrong, that is a pretty big hint they may have another agenda.

Tell No. 3: If Republicans were serious about rooting out judicial misconduct, we probably would have gotten answers about Clarence Thomas paying his taxes. There is evidence that Justice Thomas may have broken criminal statutes. We know he failed to report on his financial disclosures more than a quarter of a million dollars in income from a forgiven loan, not to mention the undisclosed boondoggles of private jet and yacht travel.

Well, that raises a very obvious question: If income wasn't declared on his judicial disclosure report, did he also not report it to tax authorities? I have asked that question. Thomas has refused to answer it. Whether, when, and by whom his taxes on that income were paid are all unanswered questions. None of my Republican colleagues seem interested in that misconduct even though ordinary people are regularly prosecuted for tax violations and false statements.

Tell No. 4: My Republican colleagues don't seem at all interested in how their impeachment threats egg on more nefarious and dangerous threats against judges and their families. The campaign of threats under the shadow of which the Federal judiciary is now operating is unlike any time in memory.

Also, there is significant evidence that this campaign is being orchestrated. Yet the Marshals Service and our MAGA DOJ have repeatedly refused to confirm that they would investigate for orchestration or conspiracy or enterprise. That is worth looking into. That might have been a good subject for the hearing, but that is not what it was about.

Tell No. 5: This is a big one. One of the judges my Republican colleagues want to impeach—the prime target, in my view—is Chief Judge James Boasberg of the DC District Court. Few judges have been singled out more for MAGA attacks than Chief Judge Boasberg.

What are his sins? Well, he sentenced January 6 rioters who President Trump unleashed on this building 5 years ago. MAGA world has since decided that no crimes were committed that day. That is new. At the time, Senator CRUZ, who called the hearing to impeach Judge Boasberg, described those crimes as a "violent terrorist attack on the Capitol." That was then.

The campaign against Chief Judge Boasberg very much involves the

MAGA DOJ. What are his sins there? Well, first, FBI Director Patel tried to scapegoat Chief Judge Boasberg as the person stopping Patel from being honest with the Judiciary Committee about his grand jury testimony in the Mar-a-Lago classified records case.

I asked him what he told the grand jury. It is black letter law that a witness is allowed to disclose his own testimony to a grand jury, and Patel had testified before that grand jury. He did so only after he had asserted his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination and was given immunity from prosecution.

The obvious implication is that whatever Director Patel told that grand jury put him at risk of prosecution, and we wanted to know what crime Patel thinks he might have committed. It is kind of relevant when he is now the Director of the FBI.

Director Patel lied to us in the committee that he couldn't describe his testimony based on a supposed court order from what he called the DC district chief judge.

Guess who that is. Chief Judge Boasberg. Chief Judge Boasberg later exposed that lie in a related proceeding, saying that Patel could "divulge the contents" of his own testimony and "nothing was preventing him from doing so before the committee." So he blew up Kash Patel's lie. That meant, when Patel came back, he had to invent a new lie to avoid answering that question.

Second is another MAGA DOJ sin.

When the MAGA DOJ wanted to illegally jet people out of the country in the dark of night to an El Salvadoran prison, Chief Judge Boasberg was on duty, and he ordered that stopped. This infuriated the MAGA DOJ. Then-Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove told DOJ lawyers that if courts stopped these deportations, they would need to be ready to tell those judges "f you," using the full four-letter word. Chief Judge Boasberg became the target of that Bove "f you."

In that matter, considerable evidence of contempt of court by DOJ officials caused Chief Judge Boasberg to notice probable cause and schedule contempt proceedings. That, I think, is the heart of this whole messy situation.

One of the subjects of that contempt proceeding was now-Judge Bove. As that contempt proceeding went forward, two Trump judges on the DC Circuit stepped in, and they blocked that contempt hearing. They blocked it using something called an administrative stay, which is the procedure that usually lasts for hours, days, or at most a week or 10 days. They blocked that contempt hearing using an administrative stay for 4 months. Guess what happened during that 4 months. Republicans hustled none other than Emil Bove onto the Third Circuit Court of Appeals with no factual record from any contempt proceeding for the committee to see. Bove's judiciary hearing