

10973 (90 Fed. Reg. 46027; relating to restriction on entry of certain nonimmigrant workers), which was issued on September 19, 2025, petitions filed on behalf of aliens entering the United States as nonimmigrants to perform services in a specialty occupation described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b)) and who will be working for a public school or a public school district in the United States shall not be required to be accompanied or supplemented by the payment of \$100,000 otherwise required under section 1(a) of such Proclamation.

SA 5450. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 33; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . FEE EXEMPTION FOR NATURALIZATION APPLICATIONS OF CERTAIN NATIONALS FROM OUTLYING POSSESSIONS.

Section 325 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1436) is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(2) by striking “except that in applications” and inserting “except that—

“(1) in an application”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) no fee shall be charged or collected from the applicant for the filing of such an application or for the issuance of a certificate of naturalization upon being granted United States citizenship.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed and open session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to Commissions, committees, Boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all Members of

the Republican conference be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from May 21 through June 1.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4632

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that 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. 4632) to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, to establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations, and for other purposes.

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

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NATIONAL MUSHROOM DAY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHESTER AND BERKS COUNTIES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 676.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 676) recognizing and honoring National Mushroom Day and the contributions of Chester and Berks Counties to the national mushroom industry and to healthy diets.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 676) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 16 (legislative day, April 14), 2026, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consider-

ation of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 749 and S. Res. 750.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

EXPANDING WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS FOR CONTRACTORS ACT OF 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4631, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4631) to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The bill (S. 4631) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4631

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. DEFENSE CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES: PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

Section 4701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “An employee” and all that follows through “services contractor” and inserting “A protected individual”;

(II) by striking “disclosing” and all that follows through “evidence of”;

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) and inserting the following subparagraphs:

“(A) Refusing to obey an order that would require the protected individual to violate a law, rule, or regulation related to any contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant.

“(B) Disclosing to a person or body described in paragraph (2) information that the protected individual reasonably believes is evidence of the following:

“(i) Gross mismanagement of any Department of Defense contract or grant, any gross waste of Department funds, any abuse of authority relating to any Department contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Department contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

“(ii) Gross mismanagement of any National Aeronautics and Space Administration contract or grant, any gross waste of Administration funds, any abuse of authority relating to an Administration contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Administration contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

“(iii) A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an employee” and inserting “a protected individual”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following subparagraph:

“(B) it shall not be within the authority of an executive branch official to request that a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee engage in a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1).”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following subparagraph:

“(E) Propose appropriate disciplinary action against any executive branch official for any request made of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee that subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a).”;

(B) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following paragraph:

“(8) CLARIFICATION FOR SCOPE OF WAIVER RESTRICTIONS.—The rights, forum, and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any public or private agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.”;

(3) by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking “an employee” and inserting “a protected individual”; and

(B) by striking “the employee” and inserting “the protected individual”; and

(5) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) The term ‘protected individual’ means—

“(A) a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, including—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

“(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) within the Department of Defense;

“(B) an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or a

former employee of such contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee whose protected disclosure or engagement in any activity protected against reprisal under this section occurred prior to termination, including an employee of—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

“(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) within the Department of Defense; or

“(C) a person performing personal services for the Department of Defense or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration pursuant to a contractual agreement for the performance of personal services, including a personal services contract or personal services agreement, and who engages in an activity for which any reprisal is prohibited under subsection (a), including a person performing personal services pursuant such a contractual agreement for—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

“(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) within the Department of Defense.”.

SEC. 3. ENHANCEMENT OF NON-DEFENSE CONTRACTOR PROTECTION FROM REPRISAL FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.

Section 4712 of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following paragraph:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A protected individual may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for the following:

“(A) Refusing to obey an order that would require the protected individual to violate a law, rule, or regulation related to any contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant.

“(B) Disclosing to a person or body described in paragraph (2) information that the protected individual reasonably believes is evidence of the following:

“(i) Gross mismanagement of any Federal contract or grant, any gross waste of Federal funds, any abuse of authority relating to any Federal contract, subcontract, grant, or subgrant, or any violation of law, rule, or regulation related to any Federal contract or subcontract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or subcontract) or grant or subgrant.

“(ii) A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “an employee” and inserting “a protected individual”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following subparagraph:

“(B) it shall not be within the authority of an executive branch official to request that a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or sub-

grantee engage in a reprisal prohibited by paragraph (1).”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Propose appropriate disciplinary action against any executive branch official for any request made of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee that subjected the complainant to a reprisal prohibited by subsection (a).”;

(B) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following paragraph:

“(7) RIGHTS, FORUM, AND REMEDIES NOT WAIVABLE.—The rights, forum, and remedies provided for in this section may not be waived by any public or private agreement, policy, form, or condition of employment, including by any predispute arbitration agreement.”;

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking “an employee” and inserting “a protected individual”; and

(B) by striking “the employee” and inserting “the protected individual”;

(4) by striking subsection (f) and redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(5) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) The term ‘protected individual’ means—

“(A) a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Federal Government, including—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

“(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

“(B) an employee of a contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee of the Federal Government or a former employee of such contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee whose protected disclosure or engagement in any activity protected against reprisal under this section occurred prior to termination, including an employee of—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

“(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)); or

“(C) a person performing personal services for the Federal Government pursuant to a contractual agreement for the performance of personal services, including a personal services contract or personal services agreement, including a person performing personal services pursuant to such a contractual agreement for—

“(i) the government of each of the several States, the District of Columbia, an Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

or any other territory or possession of the United States;

“(ii) the government of any political subdivision of, agency of, or instrumentality of, a government listed in clause (i); and

“(iii) an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)).”.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026,
THROUGH MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned to then convene for pro forma session only, with no busi-

ness being conducted, on the following dates and times: Friday, May 22, at 8:30 a.m.; Tuesday, May 26, at 8 a.m.; Thursday, May 28, at 3:30 p.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, May 28, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 1; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 5:30 p.m., the clo-

ture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

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.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:37 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 22, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.