



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

No. 92

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Gracious God, let Your glory be over all the Earth. Thank You for Your faithfulness that endures forever.

Today, give our lawmakers steadfast hearts that they may honor You. Give them the wisdom, courage, and commitment to strive to do Your will. May their debates and discussions be characterized by civility.

Lord, lead our Senators throughout life's changing scenes, providing them with strength for every challenge. Remind them of the importance of reverential awe, which is the beginning of wisdom.

Lord, grant us all competence, reverence, and humility for the living of these days.

We pray in Your righteous 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. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

### ETHANOL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Iowa is the leading producer of ethanol. About 43,000 jobs are connected with that production. Ethanol is produced from corn. Iowa is the No. 1 producer of corn in the United States.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill for 15 percent mixture of ethanol with petroleum gasoline. That is E15.

Up until now, E10—10-percent mixture—has been considered a pretty good success story. So expanding it will have more homegrown renewable energy, if we can get E15 nationwide year-round. And it takes legislation to make that happen.

In recent weeks, some of my colleagues have come to the floor to speak on this very same subject—some for E15 legislation and some against E15 legislation.

So I think there are a lot of myths about ethanol and E15 that need to be cleared up. One of those myths that continues to spread is that year-round, nationwide E15 is a mandate. So I want to be very clear: E15 legislation is not a mandate; it is a choice.

And it is this simple: You are driving into the filling station to fill up your car—even today with the high price that it is—you will see that you have a

choice of gasoline with no ethanol or with 10-percent ethanol or E15.

The trouble is, not every retailer has it. But it is a choice when you go to the pump to punch the button you want for the type of gasoline that you want to put in your car.

I support E15 legislation because it removes both outdated and unnecessary redtape from the EPA. Just as an example of that redtape, the law says that in some parts of our country, you can't dispense ethanol in your gasoline in June, July, August, and September. You can't do it during those months.

However, we have been successful under 2 years of Trump 1, 4 years of Biden, and 2 years now of Trump, by Presidential waiver, that we can have E15 nationwide. But that is redtape that we shouldn't have to go through.

And that is the reason for the legislation. It would allow consumers to have a choice to purchase E15 year-round in all 50 States. And it takes legislation to do that because you will never get the retailers of gasoline to spend the money to update their pumps for E15 without the legislation. Some have done it now, trusting that there will be a Presidential waiver year after year, but a lot of retailers won't depend on that.

So this legislation is not a mandate because it would not force gas stations to sell E15 if they don't want to. However, because E15 saves consumers 10 to 30 cents per gallon, I suspect that many fuel retailers will choose to provide their customers with this high quality, low cost, homegrown fuel.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2461

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, enforcing our Nation's laws is not optional. Securing our borders isn't optional. Supporting the men and women who do this important work—funding law enforcement—isn't optional either. That should go without saying, but unfortunately, Members of the Democrat Party have made it clear that they disagree. Incredibly, Democrats have refused to provide a single penny for border security and immigration law enforcement for fiscal year 2026—that is zero dollars for a physical presence at our Nation's border; zero dollars to deport criminals who have made their way into our country illegally. If Democrats had their way, illegal immigrants would be allowed to flood across our Nation's southern border entirely unchecked.

I guess we really shouldn't be surprised. After all, it is hardly the first time Democrats have demonstrated that border security and immigration enforcement are at the very bottom of their priority list. For decades now, Democrat-led cities and States have implemented sanctuary policies that prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with Federal immigration authorities. These policies have had deadly consequences. Yet Democrats have defended them and continue to uphold them across the country.

Then there was the crisis at the southern border. There were 4—4—straight years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at our southern border under Democrats and President Biden.

The New York Times reported:

After Mr. Biden became president, migrant encounters at the southern border quickly doubled, then kept rising. New arrivals overwhelmed border stations, then border towns, and eventually major cities like New York and Denver.

That from the New York Times.

Contrast that with today. Illegal crossings have plummeted to a trickle, and as of the end of April, not a single illegal immigrant has been released at the border and into our country for an entire year.

But Democrats are apparently determined to bring back unchecked illegal immigration. To do that, they are embracing the far-left ideologies of "defund law enforcement" and "abolish

ICE." These were once considered fringe positions among Democrats. Today, they are basically the official positions of the Democrat Party.

The junior Senator from California said in January:

I'm not giving ICE or Border Patrol another dime.

The junior Senator from Massachusetts told a crowd in February:

We know that we must defund and abolish ICE.

One Democrat Senate candidate has even said:

Dismantling ICE is the moderate position.

This is today's Democrat Party—a party in thrall to its far-left base and a party that has completely abandoned its national security responsibilities when it comes to enforcing immigration law and securing our borders.

Needless to say, as long as Republicans are in charge, we are not going to let Democrats defund border security and immigration law enforcement. So we are moving forward with a bill to fund these important responsibilities for the remainder of the Trump administration so that Democrats cannot again put our Nation's security and Americans' safety in jeopardy.

I don't know who Democrats think benefits from blocking funding for Border Patrol and ICE. The American people certainly don't benefit from there being no law enforcement at the border. They don't benefit from human traffickers and drug smugglers being able to enter our country unchecked or from rapists, murderers, and other criminals being allowed to live freely in our country.

Democrats' position puts illegal immigrants in danger as well. Border Patrol agents are the ones pulling illegal immigrants out of the Rio Grande and rescuing dehydrated migrants in the desert. But Democrats don't support these agents' work.

If Democrats' position helps anyone, it helps the cartels, the coyotes, and other criminals who prefer to act without risk of detection and apprehension. And I suspect that is why we haven't heard much from Democrats in recent weeks about the core of this legislation. Democrats haven't exactly demonstrated an eagerness to come to the floor and defend open borders, and I strongly suspect that is because at some level, they know their position is completely indefensible.

President Trump and Republicans have cleaned up Democrats' mess at the border. We have secured the southern border and put criminals on notice that they will no longer be living freely in our country. And we plan to keep it that way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the press reports that Trump says he will table his \$2 billion MAGA slush fund, but a promise from Trump is worthless. If Trump and Republicans are truly abandoning this corrupt scheme, they should have zero problem banning it in law.

This week, Senate Democrats will push legislation to ban this slush fund and ensure no President can ever do this again. Trump's word is nowhere near enough.

Donald Trump's attempt to establish this trust fund alone is one of the most glaring cases of corruption in American history. Trump's slush fund is the textbook definition of self-dealing. Trump sued himself, settled with himself, and then Trump gives himself and his family immunity to evade their taxes; and Trump makes you, the American taxpayer, pay for it all.

This slush fund could never have passed the smell test. At a time when Americans can barely afford to fill their tanks, to keep the lights on, put food on their table, Trump wants the American people to pay for handouts for MAGA billionaires, cop-beating January 6 insurrectionists, and his own family. He wanted no transparency, no oversight, no accountability. It is disgusting.

Now Trump is claiming that the slush fund is dead for now, but Democrats will not stop until it is well and truly buried and can never see the light of day. Democrats are going to make sure this slush fund is dead and cannot be revived just like we did with the ballroom.

Republicans can try to wriggle their way out of answering for this corruption, but it won't work. If Republicans try to force through their reconciliation bill again, the first amendment I will offer will be to ban the slush fund permanently and forever. If Republicans try to meddle with the appropriations process to do Trump's bidding, we will fight it there too. And if Republicans try to use toothless constraints to make the slush fund more palatable, we will press them to dismantle it entirely.

For something as inherently corrupt as this slush fund, half measures won't cut it. You don't fix a corrupt slush fund by relying on the word of the most untrustworthy President we have ever had; you ban it.

The slush fund is rotten to the core. Democrats will make sure Republicans vote on it no matter what. This is corruption in broad daylight, and Republicans are foolish to think they can hide in the shadows.