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No. 20

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM SHEEHY, a Senator from the State of Montana.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Answer us, O God, when we call. Be gracious to us and hear our prayers. Look on our Nation with favor for Your promises are sure. Lord, we thank You that so many of our Nation's Founders put their trust in You. Make us worthy of this Godly heritage. May Your presence on Capitol Hill today so influence our Senators that the thoughts they think, the words they speak, and the work they do will honor You. Lord, don't be far from us but continue to be our hope for the years to come. Help us also to remember how You have sustained us in the past as You continue to provide for our daily needs.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 28, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM SHEEHY, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SHEEHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 7148, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 302, H.R. 7148, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUTS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this past Monday was the start of tax filing season. Now, I know most Americans aren't usually excited about the start of tax season, but this year, there is less reason for dread because thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts, most Americans are going to see a lower tax bill. That means bigger tax refunds for a lot of Americans, as much as \$1,000 more than last year, according to some analysts.

The Working Families Tax Cuts is literally putting more money in Americans' pockets. As the American people file their tax returns this year, they will see the numerous ways the Working Families Tax Cuts benefit them.

Thanks to this legislation, Americans can count on more money in their pockets for the long term. For most Americans, tax relief starts with their tax rate and the standard deduction, which over 90 percent of taxpayers in this country claim.

In 2017, Republicans lowered tax rates across the board and just about doubled the standard deduction. In our landmark bill last year, Republicans made that relief permanent, and then we raised the standard deduction even further.

On top of that, we created a bonus deduction for seniors, an additional

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



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\$6,000 deduction to reduce the tax burden of more than 30 million Americans over the age of 65.

Then there is the significant tax relief we delivered for families. In 2017, Republicans doubled—doubled—the child tax credit. Last year, we raised it even further to \$2,200 per child. And then, we linked the child tax credit to inflation, which means its value will keep pace with families' actual costs, and again that is also permanent.

Parents will also have the opportunity to open new investment accounts for their newborns when they file their taxes this season. Those accounts provide another tax advantage option for parents to invest in their children's future. The money can be used after kids turn 18 for their education, to start a business, to buy their first home; in short, to take advantage of opportunities available to them and get a head start on their American dream.

Those are retroactive to 2025. So parents who had a baby last year can apply for one of these accounts when they file their taxes this season. Hard-working Americans are the ones who benefit from Republicans' landmark tax relief bill.

Perhaps the biggest boost goes to those Americans who earn tips and overtime pay. Waiters, busboys, hairstylists and barbers, Uber, Lyft, and taxi drivers are among the hard-working Americans who will be able to deduct their tips on their taxes this year. That will reduce their tax bills and let them keep a lot more of the money they earn.

The same is true of workers who put in overtime throughout the year. Police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and nurses work important jobs, and that often means they have to work extra hours during the week or come in on holidays. Well, thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts, they will be able to keep more of the overtime pay they earn for that extra time away from their loved ones.

I don't have to remind anybody about the inflation crisis started by Democrats 5 years ago. Higher prices have affected everybody. But relief is on the way. Affordability starts with more money in your pocket, and that is exactly what the Working Families Tax Cuts delivers.

Whether you are just getting started or you are raising a family or you are trying to enjoy your golden years, the Working Families Tax Cuts has something for you. Republicans wrote this bill with hard-working Americans in mind, and that is who is going to see the benefits this tax season and in the years to come.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has been 4 days since Alex Pretti was murdered in broad daylight by Federal agents in Minneapolis, and there has been zero accountability from Donald Trump for this horrendous act. Donald Trump said yesterday he wants to deescalate things in Minneapolis. But as of today, the Trump administration has taken zero meaningful action to make that happen—zero.

As of this morning, ICE is still roaming the streets in Minneapolis with little restraint. Operation Metro Surge, which is what ICE and Border Patrol call their surge in the city, is not slowing down at all. In fact, let me read a statement that came out yesterday from Acting Assistant Chief of the Border Patrol. Here is what the Acting Assistant Chief of the Border Patrol said:

As of this report, Metro Surge is steady-state and expected to continue as planned.

Translation: "Stand back and stand by."

Trump is not deescalating things in Minneapolis as he claims. On the contrary, his administration is telling ICE and Border Patrol to "stand back and stand by." That is dangerous. ICE needs to leave Minneapolis at once before another tragedy happens. It is the right thing to do, both for the residents of Minneapolis and for law enforcement. But that is just one step of many.

Donald Trump has likewise failed to call out the vicious lies that his own administration told in the aftermath of Alex Pretti's murder. Yesterday on FOX News, a DHS spokesperson refused to deny the characterizations that Alex Pretti was a domestic terrorist—refused to deny those characterizations. It is absurd. A simple answer for the DHS spokesman would have been: No, he is not a domestic terrorist. We were wrong, and it won't happen again.

That is what normal people with normal discourse—Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative—would do. But in this administration, where lying is their trademark and it spreads from the top down, lying is OK. It is too much to ask of this administration to reject and retract this vicious lie about the late Mr. Pretti. It is a disgrace.

And as for President Trump, it is not enough for Donald Trump to meekly suggest he disagrees with the words of Stephen Miller calling Pretti an assassin. Donald Trump is the President, and he needs to act like it. He needs to send a message and make an example of his deputies who deliberately lie to the country in moments of crisis.

But you can see, again, Donald Trump lies all the time. We see it every night on the news, and so all the people below him believe it is OK to lie, too, even vicious lies like the one

cast at Mr. Pretti. Instead of holding his own administration accountable for lying about Alex Pretti, Donald Trump continues to blame Alex Pretti for his own death. He said yesterday Pretti should not have been carrying a gun.

The President seems to have forgotten the words of the Second Amendment, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Apparently for Donald Trump, if you are a Trump supporter, it is OK to be a lawful gun owner, but if you are against Donald Trump, it is not. You don't have that right.

Finally, it is outrageous that Kristi Noem still has a job in the administration after Federal officers murdered two American citizens in just 2 weeks. And it is even more disgusting that on each occasion, Kristi Noem lied about what took place.

For the good of the country, Donald Trump needs to fire Kristi Noem at once. Noem is a liar. Noem is incompetent at her job, and she must go.

Many Republicans here in Congress agree that Kristi Noem has lost the trust of the American people. Donald Trump needs to recognize that the tide has turned against her and that her presence does far more harm than good at this point. Donald Trump needs to show Kristi Noem the door and send her packing.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now let's turn to the Senate. Tomorrow, the Senate is scheduled to take the first procedural vote on a six-bill funding package. The right way forward is simple: Five of these bills are ready to go, and the Senate should pass them as soon as possible. If Leader THUNE agrees to split these bills, just as JOHNSON did in the House, Senate Democrats are ready to join Republicans in passing them and funding 96 percent of the Federal Government.

But the DHS bill, the sixth bill, needs more work in the aftermath of Pretti's death, Good's death, and the awful abuses we have seen from ICE across the country.

Until ICE is properly reined in and overhauled, the DHS funding bill doesn't have the votes to pass the Senate. Let me say that again so the White House hears it. Until ICE is properly reined in and overhauled, legislatively, the DHS funding bill doesn't have the votes to pass the Senate.

Now, Leader THUNE knows that, and so I urge Leader THUNE not to put all six bills, including DHS, on the floor but rather split them so we can focus on what we can pass right now. Time is short. We shouldn't waste time on failed votes right now or else the government will shut down.

I know both sides recognize we need to act in response to the awful tragedies that have taken place in Minneapolis, and Senators—Democrat and Republican—are talking and sharing ideas.

But given how little time we have left before the funding deadline, the first right step for the Senate is for

Leader THUNE to split the funding bills and put the five bills on the floor—96 percent of Federal funding—that can pass. It is the right and expedient thing to do to ensure that most of the government is funded in time. And if THUNE doesn't do it, the shutdown of the government is on his back. If he does it, if he puts those five bills on the floor and leaves DHS out, then we can have the necessary negotiation to rework the DHS bill and add common-sense safeguards to rein in ICE's very real and very dangerous abuses.

The bottom line is simple: The American people support law enforcement. They support border security, but they did not support ICE terrorizing our streets and killing American citizens.

ICE needs to be held to the same basic standards that any law enforcement agency is asked to follow.

Republicans must work with Democrats on legislative fixes to ensure ICE is reined in and overhauled to protect public safety.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, all across the country, people are starting to fill out their tax returns. Usually, this is a time of the year that the American people dread but not this year. This year, it is different. It is different because of legislation that we passed and that was signed into law on the Fourth of July.

The reason it is different this year is the American people will be getting bigger and bigger tax refunds than they have in the past. This financial relief is the direct result of the Republicans' Working Families Tax Cuts law. The tax cuts are dramatic. Republicans pledged to cut taxes. We did it for middle-class families. These are people that need a much needed boost in the money in their pockets. We delivered.

The Tax Foundation estimates that the average refund this year will be about \$1,000 higher than it was last year—\$1,000 for each one of these refunds. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent believes that the refunds will be even larger than that. In total, American families will receive this year in refunds about \$100 billion more than last year. This is money going directly into the pockets of American families. Working families know best how to use that money. Families know what money they want to spend, they want to save, they want to invest. Let's let the American people make that decision, not the government.

Republicans' policies mean Americans keep more of the money they earned. That is what they have been telling us for years. And all of these policies were signed into law as part of the Working Families Tax Cuts law: a permanent lower tax rate on Americans; a permanent increase in the standard deduction; a permanent increase in the child tax credit—\$2,200 for each child each year; no taxes on tips

for waiters or barbers or bartenders or other tip workers; no tax on overtime for nurses and firefighters, police officers, coal miners, linemen; higher payments for millions of seniors living on Social Security.

Importantly, all the tax changes that I just mentioned apply retroactively. It is on last year's earnings, so the benefits are going to be realized in this year's tax returns. That means that Americans are paying lower taxes not just in the future but right now, today, and just about every single taxpayer in America is going to benefit.

Republicans' Working Families Tax Cuts law breaks Americans free of the punishing taxes of Joe Biden's unaffordable economy. That was an administration of high prices and high taxes. America hasn't experienced such a dramatic turnaround since Ronald Reagan reversed the failures of Jimmy Carter.

Moreover, last year, Republicans blocked the Democrats' goal to raise taxes by \$4 trillion. Every single Democrat in the U.S. Senate—every single Democrat in this Chamber—voted to increase taxes by \$4 trillion. Had Democrats succeeded, our Nation wouldn't see this largest tax cut; they would have seen the largest tax increase in American history—a \$4 trillion tax increase. Not a single American would say that a \$4 trillion tax increase was something they could afford, but the Democrats wanted to force-feed it down the American people's throats.

Democrats are proven to be the party of high taxes. It is getting worse. Last week in Virginia, they swore in a Democrat Governor. In the State of Virginia, Democrats now control the house, the senate, and the Governor's mansion, and they are determined to steer it hard to the left. Virginia is a roadmap to the radical policies that Democrats want to pursue nationwide.

So what do they want to do? They want taxpayers to fund in-state tuition for illegal immigrants. There they go again. The Democrats—the people that wanted to defund the police, the people that shut down the government to support illegal immigrants—now want to send in-state tuition to illegal immigrants.

Democrats want to raise taxes anywhere they can think of it. They are going to do it in barbershops, nail salons, drycleaners, and gyms.

Mr. President, in your home State of Montana, how do you think this would fly there?

Democrats want to raise sales tax by 11 percent on all firearms and ammunition. That is what the Democrats are doing now in their effort in Virginia. That is their model. That is where they are heading. They even want to introduce a backdoor carbon tax—a tax that would increase families' electric bills by over \$1,000 a year. That is going to wipe out the refund increases families are going to get. The State of Virginia wants it taken away from the benefits people are receiving.

It is astonishing. You can't believe this. They want to ban gas-powered leaf blowers because they don't want to use the gasoline. Don't use gasoline. At the same time, they want to tax the battery-powered lawn equipment. So you can't use gas, and you have to pay more taxes when using batteries.

These are far-left policies, and these things just prove the Democrat Party remains radical, extreme, dangerous, and scary. That is where they want to take the country. This is what their record reveals, whether they are the radicals now that have taken over the government in the State of Virginia, whether they are in New York City, whether they are in California, or the Democrats right here in this Congress.

Fortunately, for the pockets and purses and paychecks of Americans, Republicans are focused on making our country more prosperous. We promised to deliver prosperity for all Americans. That is exactly what we are doing. And the bigger refunds that Americans are going to see this year prove it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, for the Trump administration to stomp to death the 1st, the 2nd, the 4th, the 5th, and the 10th Amendments to the Constitution is not immigration enforcement. It is a totally lawless abuse of Federal power.

The First Amendment guarantees Americans the right to make their voices heard and to document lawlessness by the Federal Government. It guarantees the right to peacefully assemble and protest against those abuses.

The Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms. Regardless of what you think about current gun law, there is no justification for murdering a man who was lawfully carrying a firearm.

The Fourth Amendment protects the American people against illegal search and seizure of their property. That includes private data and information. I will touch more on that in a minute.

The Fifth Amendment guarantees the right to due process. Instead, Trump's masked agents are now stopping people across the country and saying: Papers, please.

Then they get thrown into unmarked vehicles, herded into detention centers, and deported to dangerous conditions without due process.

The 10th Amendment limits Federal Government overreach, and it protects States' rights. The recent events in Minneapolis—the murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti—demonstrate exactly how the Trump administration is breaking the law and trashing the Constitution.

Mr. Pretti was exercising his First Amendment rights to peacefully observe and record abuses—abuses by ICE agents. He was exercising his Second Amendment right to lawfully carry a

firearm, and he had a permit. He was murdered by the CBP agents.

Renee Good was sitting in her car, exercising her First Amendment right to peaceably observe the actions of Federal agents. She was shot and killed in broad daylight.

In both instances, there is ample video evidence to disprove the Trump administration's idea that these Americans were domestic terrorists who were covering up lawful killings.

I warned, when Trump began deploying Federal agents to our cities, that lives would be at risk. That is now the reality. So our country needs appropriate Federal law enforcement to identify and remove those who committed violent crimes. What is not needed is an American Gestapo rousting tourists, immigrants, and naturalized and native-born Americans, alike, with guns to their head.

Shooting unarmed Americans on the street is not immigration enforcement. It is intimidation. It is a blatant attempt to suppress free speech and anybody who tries to stand up to Trump's abuse of Federal power.

Trump's ICE and CBP agents have clearly been trained in fear tactics, instead of in legitimate law enforcement.

I have said it before, and I want to say it again before the Senate: Kristi Noem and the political appointees at DHS have got to go.

So I am calling on ICE and CBP agents in our streets to get out of our communities. I am pushing for legislation to get them out of schools and hospitals, places of worship, childcare centers, courthouses, and additional public spaces.

I am also calling for the end of ICE locking people up who don't need to be, including the end of family detention and privately run immigration detention centers. And I call on the Border Patrol to go back to ports of entry and get out of the business of terrorizing our communities miles away from duty stations.

If an individual has committed a local crime, then local law enforcement can step up.

It is far past time that these armed agents who have now murdered two American citizens and shot more under disturbing circumstances are sidelined.

ICE and CBP agents certainly have proven they can't be trusted in our communities with weapons and firearms, as we have seen. If you listen to Trump and his crowd, they seem to think it is the American people who ought to be disarmed.

I think most people around our country understand we need to overhaul immigration to continue the rich history of welcoming immigrants and refugees as we secure our border and enforce immigration laws, but that is not what Trump's lawless activities are about. Right now, ICE is destroying the rule of law, not protecting it.

I have made it clear that I cannot and will not support more Federal funding for Trump's ICE unless there is

an end to these killings and abuses and accountability for everybody involved. In its current form, ICE is no longer an immigration enforcement Agency; it is Trump and the administration's personal Gestapo. There can be no more funding for ICE when it kills people on the streets, incites violence, and defies the law.

When Democrats have the opportunity, we will investigate and publicly prosecute anybody complicit in these murders, from Kristi Noem to Mr. Bovino, all the way down to the ICE and CBP agents who pulled the trigger on Renee Good and Alex Pretti. It is also important to investigate the agents who have subjected immigrants, including children, to extraordinary cruelty.

Before wrapping up, I want to touch on something else that has been missed with regard to the abuses, and that is data privacy.

For years, I have come to this floor to sound the alarm on the growing appetite of ICE to exploit legal loopholes that allow the Federal Government to buy up troves of Americans' most private information, including geolocation data. We now see exactly how the Trump administration is abusing that information. ICE is using Palantir apps to collect biometric data and run protesters through facial recognition systems. This amounts to labeling people as domestic terrorists just for exercising their First Amendment right to peaceably protest and report on Federal agents. It is a clear threat to the constitutional rights of Americans, and I am working with Senator MARKEY and others to stop these abuses.

Second, ICE is buying Americans' private location data from sleazy data brokers through a legal loophole that allows the government to get around the Fourth Amendment. This isn't a red issue or a blue issue; it is a constitutional issue. The American Government has no business in purchasing the location data of American citizens. So I have proposed the Fourth Amendment Is Not For Sale Act. That would put a stop to the government being able to buy up troves of Americans' personal data from anybody who has got a credit card. We ought to be pushing to get it passed into black-letter law as soon as possible so that Agencies like ICE don't have access to the personal information of millions of Americans.

Finally, my investigators exposed that ICE is using government data from State motor vehicle departments and other Federal Agencies. It has refused to answer questions as to how that data is being used. So we are leading a fight here in the Senate to rein them in.

I have warned States that care about their residents: They had better stop sharing DMV data and enabling ICE abuses. ICE is using this information to target Americans on our streets.

My view is that it is important for the Senate to recognize that data pri-

vacy is now a life-and-death issue in America. As long as Trump's agents are shooting American citizens dead on the street, this administration having access to our private location data and other information is a threat to everybody's safety.

I will close with this. My parents fled the Nazis during the very real threat of growing authoritarianism in Germany. What the Trump administration is offering us is, indeed, the authoritarian playbook: Attack the weakest in order to cow the rest of us.

My family knows a thing or two about watching a democracy slide toward authoritarian rule. I know a little bit about what comes next.

The American people have a right to feel and be safe. No one should be forced to live in a country where they are terrified that Federal agents might bust their door open in the middle of the night. I hope that all Americans who have a chance to follow this discussion and learn about it, in the days ahead, will speak out and that all Americans will never, never, never yield their liberties.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has certainly been an eventful several days. Of course, across the country, people are still shoveling out roads and sidewalks from the dramatic snowfall we had, and, of course, many of us have struggled to get back to work because of disrupted flights. Some parts of Texas, believe it or not, had as much as 10 inches of snow. I know that is not a big deal in the great State of Nebraska, but it is a big deal in Texas because Texans cannot drive on the snow and ice. Anybody who has seen some of the videos of people trying to drive on the ice in Texas knows we are not used to that.

But a severe snowstorm was not the only thing to hit our country over the last weekend. As we all know too well, an ICU nurse for the VA named Alex Pretti was killed in an interaction with Border Patrol agents in Minneapolis. We are still learning more about what transpired that day, but, unfortunately, what we see too often when tragic events like this occur is that people jump to conclusions early without knowing all the facts.

Regardless of what we don't yet know, what we do know is that it is always a tragedy when a human life has ended.

I applaud President Trump for taking the steps to review this and for sending Tom Homan to Minneapolis to try to deescalate and restore law and order in that State. The President has also indicated that he has talked to Governor Walz and that they are working toward a productive solution to what has become an untenable state of affairs in Minneapolis.

One thing is absolutely clear: We need better collaboration and cooperation—maybe a little more cooperation

than collaboration—between Federal and local law enforcement in order to ensure that our laws are being followed while preventing further loss of life in our country.

When State and local officials, like the Governor of Minnesota and the mayor of Minneapolis, use their positions of authority to vilify Federal law enforcement officials, bad things can happen. The Governor of Minnesota has compared Federal agents to a modern-day Gestapo. How reprehensible and irresponsible is that, particularly coming from a guy who wanted to be the Vice President of the United States. Obviously, Governor Newsom in California has used similar language. Governor Walz has described his State as fighting a war against the Federal Government, and he called the Trump administration's enforcement operations "dangerous" and "sensationalized."

I will tell you what makes situations like those that happened in Minneapolis two times now where American citizens have lost their lives—what makes that more likely to happen is when Governors and mayors, people who are supposedly in positions of responsibility, actually encourage people to interfere with law enforcement operations. And we know that now, on at least two occasions, they can end with tragic results. This is completely unacceptable conduct by a Governor and a mayor. What they should do is stop their sanctuary policies. We don't see the same sort of law enforcement operations in Texas or in Nebraska; we see it in sanctuary States and sanctuary cities, where local and State law enforcement are denied the chance to collaborate and cooperate with Federal law enforcement authorities. What happens in States like Texas, which does cooperate with law enforcement, is when somebody is detained, let's say, by the police in the local jail and if they find out they are wanted by ICE, they will simply transfer them from the local jurisdiction to the custody of ICE so that ICE doesn't have to go out on the street and conduct raids in order to detain people who are not lawfully here in the United States.

All this may seem like fun and games to blue State Governors and sanctuary city mayors until somebody gets hurt, but now, as I said, two people have tragically lost their lives. We have the Governor and the mayor cheering people on to do more of the same.

This has to deescalate, and I am optimistic that Tom Homan, given his long career as a professional law enforcement officer, somebody applauded by President Obama for his work but obviously who also has the confidence of President Trump—I am glad he is there in Minneapolis, talking to the mayor, talking to the Governor, and hopefully trying to get them to tone down their rhetoric and not encourage more actions which could also result in tragedy.

While we are waiting to learn more details—yes, still waiting to learn

more details—about what exactly happened, I believe State and local officials have an obligation to tone down their rhetoric because what they are doing is they are vilifying the brave men and women who actually are enforcing the laws that Congress has passed. They are calling them Nazis or the Gestapo.

Of course, maybe you should expect this from the same crowd that called for defunding the police—how did that work out?—or for abolishing ICE. Abolish ICE? Are these people who want no enforcement of our immigration laws? Well, apparently so.

ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—and Customs and Border Protection officers whom I know personally and know well by reputation have an incredibly difficult and dangerous job to do, especially in the face of well-organized and paid-off leftwing agitators.

But again, underlying all of this, are the sanctuary city policies implemented by Governor Walz and others that have prevented law enforcement officials from conducting their work in a safe and orderly fashion.

We have seen what happens when the local police are instructed not to protect ICE officers and Border Patrol agents doing their job as happened in Chicago. Ordinary citizens have been encouraged to interfere with law enforcement operations. The incendiary rhetoric from the Governor encouraged ordinary citizens to put themselves into harm's way.

Ultimately, the confrontations between citizens and law enforcement culminated in last week's incident that ended in tragedy, and I sincerely hope—I know we all do—that this does not happen again. None of us want to see lives lost, whether at the hands of law enforcement or at the hands of criminals.

What happened to Alex Pretti was tragic, but we also need to remind people what happened to Laken Riley, Kayla Hamilton, and Jocelyn Nungaray, that what happened to them was also tragic and could have been prevented. Their deaths could have been prevented if the immigration laws currently on the books had simply been enforced. Each of them were killed by people who had no business being in this country illegally and committed these murders because of the Biden administration's open border policies that just opened the door to anybody and everybody who wanted to come to the United States.

That is what sensible enforcement of our immigration laws is designed to prevent, to allow people into the country who play by the books, play by the rules, and follow the law whom we welcome into this country.

The United States still is the most generous country in the world when it comes to welcoming immigrants. We naturalize roughly 1 million people a year who raise their hand and pledge allegiance to the United States and

their willingness to support the Constitution and laws of this great country.

Legal immigration is a great boon and great advantage the United States has, but illegal immigration has been an unmitigated disaster.

As I think back on the Biden era of open borders, what breaks my heart is the fact that 500,000 children were welcomed into the United States, so-called unaccompanied minors, placed with sponsors, frequently unvetted and without adequate supervision or followup, and were simply lost. We don't know whether they were recruited into gangs, used for sex trafficking, or forced into involuntary labor.

Those half-a-million children were victims of this open border, lawless immigration policy of the Biden administration. President Trump was elected based on a promise to secure the border, which he has done, but we also need to make sure that people who have exhausted all of their legal remedies or have criminal records need to be prioritized and removed from the country.

Right now, there are roughly 280,000 people who are in that category. But to have the Governor and the mayor encourage people to interfere in a lawful enforcement operation can result in tragedy, as we have seen.

We now know that these two tragedies are being exploited by Democrats in the Senate who refuse to pass the normal appropriations bills that have now passed the House and have come here in order to pay the bills, keep the lights on, and keep the government operational. They are using these incidents to threaten another closure, another shutdown of the Federal Government like they did a short time ago—the longest shutdown in American history.

Democrats are using this tragedy as a scapegoat to try to force changes to government funding that they know cannot be done in the time we have left before the current continuing resolution expires.

This is nothing but an excuse—a lame excuse—by Senate Democrats to delay and disrupt the work that the American people elected us to do. We know that Senate Democrats have used this playbook recently, and the American people have seen how it ends.

It solves nothing. When the government reopens, you have the same problems you had beforehand that you just are ignoring or kicking the can down the road, and it imposes an unnecessary burden on so many Americans who don't get paid, who get furloughed.

It created not only financial hardship for millions of Americans, but this was all for what? To simply make a political statement. But I hope for the sake of the Texans I represent, the 32 million Texans, that Democrats have learned something from their recent lesson. We are using their livelihoods—holding their livelihoods as a hostage for political purposes. This is not the

time for another government shutdown.

In order for President Trump to continue the work he started to restore trust between local and Federal officials in Minnesota, the Department of Homeland Security—and, yes, that includes ICE and Border Patrol—must be funded.

We can have conversations about what additional oversight is required, what additional laws we should consider, but not at the expense of shutting down the government.

Again, what happened over the weekend was a tragedy, but it is not a reason to punish 330 million Americans by shutting down the government as a political stunt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled recess; myself for up to 10 minutes, Senator KELLY for up to 5 minutes, Senator MURRAY for up to 10 minutes.

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

#### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today to remind us of what we commemorated yesterday: Holocaust Remembrance Day.

During the Holocaust, the Nazi regime and its collaborators systematically murdered 6 million Jewish men, women, and children. Two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population was killed in concentration camps, death camps, ghettos, and mass shootings. Entire communities were wiped out, centuries of Jewish life and culture erased.

On Holocaust Remembrance Day, we remember not just the numbers but the individuals. Each one represents a world of possibilities that were destroyed. And yet, we are living in a day and age where Holocaust deniers are growing in number, and anti-Semitism is on the rise.

In 2024, the FBI recorded its highest number ever of anti-Jewish crimes, nearly 2,000 crimes accounting for nearly 70 percent all religiously motivated hate crimes.

This is unthinkable and totally unacceptable. Jews make up only 2 percent of our U.S. population. Yet they bear the brunt of religiously motivated violence.

The United States-Israel relationship serves vital American interests. Israel is our most reliable democratic ally in the Middle East and shares intelligence that has prevented terrorist attacks on Americans here on our soil and against American interests worldwide.

Our military cooperation advances technology that protects American servicemembers. Israel's Iron Dome and other defensive innovations were developed with U.S. partnership and now inform our own defense systems.

A strong Israel helps counter Iranian influence and terrorism that threatens

not just the region but American citizens at home and abroad. This relationship is built on shared values, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in a region where these principles are rare. Supporting Israel's security is supporting American security.

You can visit Civil War cemeteries, Revolutionary War cemeteries, World War I and II cemeteries in Europe, Vietnam war cemeteries clear up until today and see the Star of David on some of those gravestones. You can see them out at our famous cemetery here in Washington, DC, where people who served our Nation and gave their last measure of devotion—and there are Stars of David among all of them.

This is an important American value that we must acknowledge and make sure never happens again.

Finally, I want to say a few words about responsibility. "Never again" must be more than words. It must be a commitment backed by action. We must speak up when anti-Semitism rears its head on our campuses, our streets, and online.

We must distinguish between legitimate political discourse and hate disguised as activism. And we must protect Jewish students who should feel safe pursuing their education. We must stand with the Jewish people—both here and in their ancient homeland—when they face existential threats.

History will judge us not by our words today but by our actions tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, like every American, over the past few weeks, I have watched the videos of Americans being shoved and beaten and pepper-sprayed and shot and killed by Federal immigration agents.

Over the weekend, Americans watched what happened to Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, a U.S. citizen, an ICU nurse at the VA who took care of veterans. He was shot and killed by Federal agents for no good reason. His family lost someone they loved, and it all happened in the blink of an eye.

Before that, it was Renee Good. Renee was a mother and a wife. She was shot and killed in her car, and her family will never see her again.

Two Americans are dead at the hands of their government. That should demand the highest levels of accountability. It is that simple. Instead, this administration has lied to the American people. They have slandered these Americans as terrorists. They have told us not to believe what we see with our own eyes.

They blamed Alex Pretti because he was in lawful possession of a firearm. They have tried to block the investigations into what happened. We also know that these are not isolated incidents.

Just the other day, ICE conducted a series of workplace raids at a sports

bar in Phoenix, places where families go to just have some wings and watch a game.

The agents wore masks and tactical gear, and I watched a video of ICE officers doing a driveby, spraying a woman in the face who was just standing on the sidewalk.

They sprayed her with mace. She was not doing anything wrong. They violated her constitutional rights. These are the actions of a rogue Agency that is storming cities, violating the constitutional rights of Americans, and creating volatile situations where tragedies happen.

This is not making Americans safer. It is clearly doing the opposite thing, and it has to stop. I am the son of two police officers. From a very young age, I learned that law enforcement should exist to serve and protect people.

We can enforce our laws without this chaos. We can enforce our laws without Federal agents killing people—killing people in the streets of American cities.

We should demand that, as Senators, as Republicans and Democrats, as Americans. We should all demand better. And we should use our power to make that happen. That is why I will not vote for the Department of Homeland Security budget this week, because that Agency needs an overhaul from the top down and the bottom up.

That is why the head of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, and the guy who everybody knows is actually making the decisions and calling the shots and running the show, Stephen Miller—both of them should be out of jobs because they have lost the trust of the American people.

And that is why I introduced the Stop Excessive Force in Immigration Act to rein in and stop this abuse of power. This bill sets limits on the use of force and the use of firearms by immigration agents.

It restricts the use of tear gas, flashbang grenades, and pepper balls. It requires body cameras to be used, and it restricts the use of face masks. It requires accountability and transparency so that when somebody is hurt or killed, the American people will get some answers. This is pretty basic stuff. It should be what all Americans expect from law enforcement, and it should be something that both Republicans and Democrats alike can support, because I believe that we are better than this. I believe we can keep communities safe without this chaos. But that depends on all of us stepping up right now, at this moment, before another American ends up dead in the streets.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, there are two simple truths here: One, there is absolutely no reason for a shutdown. Five of the bills before us, covering 95 percent of the remaining budget, everyone agrees we can pass. And, two, after

the horrific killing of Alex Pretti last weekend, after so many vile, shameless lies from Trump officials, and after the flagrant abuses we are seeing from ICE and CBP agents, it is painfully and brutally clear this out-of-control Department must be reined in, and Congress must take action to make that happen.

What we have seen happening in Minnesota and all across the country is simply un-American. Trump and Noem sent ICE and Border Patrol into Minneapolis, not on a targeted mission to retrieve actual criminals but to go door to door terrorizing communities and asking to see the papers of anyone who doesn't fit their idea of what an American looks like.

Secretary Noem and her masked agents are haphazardly dragging off people with no criminal record, people who are here legally, people who are citizens. And, of course, they are even dragging off children.

No one has to take my word for it. We all saw them march a man—a citizen—out of his house in the freezing cold in nothing but his underwear. We all saw them cart away a 5-year-old with his Spiderman backpack and a bunny hat on. And when people protested peacefully, the Trump administration cracked down with a level of force as brutal as it was unjustified.

Again, no one needs to take my word for it. We all heard about the family who had their car tear-gassed on their way back from a basketball game, and their baby stopped breathing and needed emergency care. We all watched the woman who was dragged out of her car on the way to a doctor's appointment. We all saw that unforgettable photo of an unarmed man pinned on the ground with one of Trump's Federal officers pepper-spraying him directly in the face.

We all bore witness to the murder of Renee Good, and then, last weekend, we all saw the horrific killing of Alex Pretti, a lawful observer, exercising his rights, murdered in cold blood by Federal agents.

And how did Trump's team respond? They lied about what we all saw with our own eyes. They slandered Alex as a domestic terrorist. This man was a VA nurse. He was beloved by his patients.

They falsely claimed that he wanted to massacre law enforcement when he was simply exercising his constitutional First Amendment rights.

They said he attacked law enforcement when he was only helping a woman who law enforcement had assaulted. They said he brandished a gun when he never touched it. In fact, he was already disarmed when they shot him in the back.

And yet, right now, the only Department they will let investigate this tragedy is the Department that was responsible for it.

That cannot be how things work in this country, not if we are going to keep the democracy that we all cherish. We need real, independent investigation. We need real accountability,

and we need real reforms. And until that happens, until we begin reining in this out-of-control Department, we cannot pass the DHS bill as it stands.

The DHS bill needs to be split off from this larger package, and that needs to happen so we can prevent other parts of the government from shutting down while we work to reform the DHS bill.

Now, I want to be straight with everyone: Not passing the Homeland bill will not stop ICE right now. Why? Because Republicans already gave ICE tens of billions of dollars without a single Democratic vote when they passed their "Big Ugly Bill."

As the junior Senator from Kentucky has pointed out, even without the DHS bill, ICE will have many times its annual budget because of the bill the Republicans passed last summer.

But splitting off the Homeland bill does ensure that Congress is forced to reckon with this issue. It does give us the opportunity to take much needed action to protect Americans from this out-of-control Department. And to be clear, this is not just what Democrats are demanding; it is what the vast majority of Americans are demanding.

People in this country are absolutely horrified. They are outraged that our government is gunning down U.S. citizens on the street with impunity. And this just cannot continue.

With each hour that goes by, we are seeing more and more Republicans agree that the status quo is unacceptable, that there must be change, and that Congress must do something. We, Congress, must do something, and there is a very reasonable and straightforward path here now.

There is a legislative package of six funding bills at the desk right now, right up here. Five of the funding bills in this package we all overwhelmingly agree on. We all agree on cancer research. We all agree on childcare funding. We all agree on funding roads and bridges and housing. We agree on paying our troops and supporting small businesses and so much else that is in those bills. And, by the way, the House, in fact, passed those five bills overwhelmingly.

So let's just remove Homeland Security and pass the remaining five bills without delay. There is no reason to wait, and we can get to work right away to negotiate a Homeland bill that includes the reforms and the accountability everyone knows is needed.

I am here. I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work with Chair COLLINS and our colleagues to craft a bill with serious oversight and accountability so we can simply rein in the abuses that we are seeing.

But if the Republicans refuse to work with us on DHS and refuse to put up the remaining five bills for a vote in the meantime, they will be choosing to shut down the government across all of the Agencies impacted, cutting off funding for lifesaving clinical trials; paychecks for troops, air traffic controllers, and so much more.

We should not let that happen. So let's pass the five bills ahead of the Friday deadline. Let's focus separately on DHS, where it is clear that accountability and reform cannot wait.

We do this all the time—move forward on the areas where we have an agreement and keep negotiating on the other. That is what needs to happen here and now.

And, look, if the House has to come back to prevent a shutdown, so be it. That is part of the job they have.

Back in 2018, after the Senate cleared a spending bill and we went home for the holidays, President Trump did a 180 and had the House change the bill and send it back to us.

Do you know what we did? We came back, and we voted.

That is it. That is our job. That is what the House can do. So there is no need for a shutdown. There is no need for a delay. And there is every need for serious reforms.

Let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:42 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BANKS).

#### CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on January 23, people from all over our country came to Washington, DC, to celebrate the 53rd annual March for Life. These peaceful movements are exercising their free speech, their free association, and their right to petition government for redress of grievances—all First Amendment constitutional rights. They exercise this through using the Constitution to express their views.

This year's theme of the March for Life was "Life is a Gift," so they were inviting folks to embrace the joy of innocent human life in the womb. They marched in solidarity with mothers who deserve better than abortion; who deserve life, love, support, and encouragement. They marched, hoping for a day when all people see babies as the blessings these babies are, for a day when the word "abortion" is unthinkable.

So I say to this group of marchers: Thank you. You came to Washington on January 23 for the 53rd year in a row to call attention to the value of life. Thank you for your faithful example of what it means to be pro-life.

In Congress, we must do all we can to support mothers and their babies, and I