

Whereas the gender wage gap for Black women has narrowed by only 4 cents in the last 2 decades;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gendered and racial injustices that Black women face daily; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated July 21, 2026, as Black Women's Equal Pay Day to recognize the persistent and detrimental wage gap Black women face: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Black women and its impact on women, families, and the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay for equal work and narrowing the gender wage gap.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR A CEREMONY TO HONOR THE LATE SENATOR LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

Mr. THUNE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 37

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF ROTUNDA FOR A TRIBUTE HONORING LINDSEY O. GRAHAM.

The rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on July 28, 2026, for a tribute to honor the late Senator Lindsey O. Graham. Physical preparations for the event shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6704. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6705. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4748, to establish the Foreign Investment Review Authority to determine whether foreign countries that have made investment commitments to the United States have complied with those commitments, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6704. Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____ DESIGNATION OF OSWALDO PAYÁ WAY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the revolution led by Fidel Castro in Cuba in 1959 started 64 years of an ongoing dictatorship, systemic human rights abuses, and a lack of basic freedom of press, religion, assembly, and association that continue to this day under the Communist rule of Raúl Castro and his successor, Miguel Díaz-Canel;

(2) Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas was a Cuban political dissident and activist dedicated to promoting democratic freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

(3) the Communist Party of Cuba has always viewed individuals with a commitment to democracy and freedom as a threat to the existence of the Communist Party of Cuba;

(4) on July 22, 2012, a violent car crash, widely believed to have been carried out by the Castro regime, took the lives of Oswaldo Payá and Harold Cepero, another democratic activist;

(5) the official investigation conducted by the Cuban regime into the crash has been demonstrated to be compromised, and the Cuban regime has blocked all efforts to conduct a credible and independent investigation into the crash, leaving the circumstances of the death of Oswaldo Payá unknown;

(6) opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the Communist Party of Cuba began at a young age, when he refused to become a member of the Young Communist League as a primary school student, and continued through high school, when he publicly criticized the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union;

(7) the Communist Party of Cuba responded to the opposition by Oswaldo Payá to the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union by sending Oswaldo Payá to a labor camp for 3 years;

(8) Oswaldo Payá forewent a chance to escape Cuba in the 1980 Mariel boatlift, deciding instead to continue the fight for democracy in Cuba, saying, “This is what I am supposed to be, this is what I have to do.”;

(9) by creating the Varela Project in 1998, Oswaldo Payá demonstrated his staunch commitment to peacefully advocating for freedom of speech and freedom of assembly for his fellow Cubans;

(10) in recognition of his determination for political reforms through peaceful protests, Oswaldo Payá was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament in 2002 and the W. Averell Harriman Democracy Award from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in 2003 and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by former Czech President Václav Havel in 2005;

(11) on April 11, 2018, the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 224, recognizing the sixth anniversary of the death of Oswaldo Payá Sardiñas, commemorating his legacy and commitment to democratic values and principles, and calling on the Cuban Government to allow an impartial, third-party investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death; and

(12) renaming the street in front of the Embassy of Cuba in the District of Columbia after Oswaldo Payá serves as an expression of solidarity between the people of the United States and the people of Cuba, who are engaged in a long, nonviolent struggle for fundamental human rights.

(b) DESIGNATION.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF WAY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The area between the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, shall be

known and designated as “Oswaldo Payá Way”.

(B) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the area referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be deemed to be a reference to Oswaldo Payá Way.

(2) DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.—

(A) DESIGNATION.—The address of 2630 16th Street, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, shall be redesignated as 2630 Oswaldo Payá Way.

(B) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the address referred to in subparagraph (A) shall be deemed to be a reference to 2630 Oswaldo Payá Way.

(3) SIGNS.—The District of Columbia shall construct 2 street signs that shall—

(A) contain the phrase “Oswaldo Payá Way”;

(B) be placed immediately above existing signs at the intersections of 16th Street, Northwest and Fuller Street, Northwest and 16th Street, Northwest and Euclid Street, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia; and

(C) be similar in design to the signs used by the District of Columbia to designate the location of Metro stations.

SA 6705. Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4748, to establish the Foreign Investment Review Authority to determine whether foreign countries that have made investment commitments to the United States have complied with those commitments, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XV, add the following:

SEC. 1510A. PROMOTING COMPETITION AND INDUSTRIAL BASE RESILIENCE FOR PROLIFERATED SPACE ARCHITECTURES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States requires a resilient, survivable, and rapidly scalable space architecture to support joint all-domain operations against peer adversaries.

(2) Competition among multiple qualified domestic providers is essential to maintaining innovation, reducing costs, increasing production capacity, and mitigating risks associated with single-source dependencies.

(3) Excessive reliance on a single contractor or limited supplier base for proliferated space architectures creates strategic risks to the defense industrial base, supply chain resilience, production surge capacity, and operational continuity.

(4) Congress is concerned that recent acquisition strategies for certain proliferated space capabilities may not adequately sustain multiple viable domestic suppliers capable of supporting future national security requirements.

(5) Maintaining multiple competitive providers for space vehicles, mission payloads, tactical data transport, and supporting ground infrastructure is in the national security interest of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of the Air Force and the National Reconnaissance Office should maintain robust competition across proliferated national security space acquisition programs;

(2) acquisition strategies should preserve multiple domestic sources capable of designing, manufacturing, integrating, and sustaining proliferated satellite constellations;

(3) competition should be sustained throughout production and follow-on capability development whenever practicable; and

(4) long-term acquisition strategies should strengthen the United States industrial base rather than create unnecessary single-source dependencies.

(c) REQUIREMENT FOR COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Space Acquisition and Integration, in coordination with the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a strategy to maintain competition for the development, procurement, and maintenance of proliferated national security space architectures, including—

(A) the proliferated architecture of the National Reconnaissance Office;

(B) space-based tactical data transport capabilities;

(C) space-based advanced moving-target indication capabilities;

(D) Space Data Network capabilities; and

(E) any successor proliferated low-Earth orbit operational architecture that supports a mission of the Department of Defense.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an assessment of the risks associated with single-source procurement of any such architecture;

(B) an evaluation of industrial base capacity, workforce, supply chain resilience, and surge production capability with respect to such architectures;

(C) recommendations to sustain not fewer than two viable domestic providers for each major capability area relating to such architectures; and

(D) a plan for preserving meaningful competition in future production of, and capability upgrades to, such architectures.

(d) MINIMUM COMPETITIVE INVESTMENT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2028, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Director of the National Reconnaissance Office shall, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with mission requirements—

(1) maintain not fewer than two qualified domestic providers for each major proliferated space acquisition program relating to the architectures described in subsection (c)(1); and

(2) ensure that not less than 25 percent of annual production quantities, contract value, or program funding for each such program is competitively awarded to a qualified provider other than the incumbent provider, unless the Secretary of the Air Force submits to the congressional defense committees—

(A) a certification that—

(i) only one responsible source exists for such program;

(ii) mission assurance requirements cannot reasonably be met through competitive procurement; or

(iii) such allocation would substantially increase program risk or cost without corresponding operational benefit; and

(B) a detailed justification and an assessment of the impact on competition and the defense industrial base of awarding a greater such percentage to the incumbent provider.

(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of the Air Force and the Direc-

tor of the National Reconnaissance Office shall jointly submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing—

(1) the number of qualified providers supporting each major proliferated space acquisition program relating to the architectures described in subsection (c)(1);

(2) annual funding allocated among such providers; and

(3) with respect to such proliferated space architectures—

(A) industrial base health indicators;

(B) supply chain vulnerabilities;

(C) actions taken to promote sustained competition among providers; and

(D) recommendations for any additional legislative authorities required to strengthen competition and resilience.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I have three 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

Mr. HUSTED. 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:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the following interns in my office to be granted floor privileges until July 22, 2026: Petra Cernicek, Spencer Killpack, Elise Newton, Megan Terrell, Aaron Bujan, and Isabel Young.

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

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the following interns in my office to be granted floor privileges until July 22, 2026: Mark Schoeppel and Maggie Ralston.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 118-144, announces the appointment of the following individuals to be members of the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution: Tevi Troy of Maryland, Dara Horn of New Jersey.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR PATIENTS ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, as regards Calendar No. 44, S. 1041, the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 44, S. 1041.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1041) to amend title 35, United States Code, to address the infringement of patents that claim biological products, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with amendments as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are in boldfaced brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are in italic.)

S. 1041

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 “Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act”.

SEC. 2. PATENT INFRINGEMENT; [MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND].

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 271(e) of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2) [(C)], in the flush text following [clause] subparagraph (C)(ii), by adding at the end the following: “With respect to a submission described in [clause] subparagraph (C)(ii), the act of infringement shall extend to any patent that claims the biological product, a method of using the biological product, or a method or product used to manufacture the biological product.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(7)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E), if the sponsor of an approved application for a reference product, as defined in section 351(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(i)) (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘reference product sponsor’), brings an action for infringement under this section against an applicant for approval of a biological product under section 351(k) of