



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 172

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

No. 23

Senate

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.

O God of divine love, help our Senators today to rise to the challenges facing our Nation and world. Lord, inspire them to do this by making new commitments to You, followed by faithful service. Make them strong in Your strength that they will not become weary in doing Your will. Empower them to understand that the riches of our lives and this great land have been given to us by Your prevailing providence. Remind them also that to whom much is given, much is expected and that they are accountable to You. Strengthen our lawmakers to use their considerable abilities, compassion, and faith to serve You and humanity.

We pray in Your powerful 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. Under the previous order, 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.

TRIBUTE TO CARA MILLER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to congratulate an Iowan, Cara Miller, on her retirement.

For the last decade, Cara has led Silos & Smokestacks National Heritage Area in the State of Iowa as its president.

For those who don't know, Silos & Smokestacks is a 37-county, congressionally designated heritage area that shares a rich history of American agriculture.

Mr. President, I am going to put a short list of some of the historical things that are in Silos & Smokestacks in the RECORD. I just would like to name a couple of these because there are dozens of them, and I am only going to submit a list of about 10.

One is the childhood home and birthplace farm of Dr. Norman Borlaug, famous for the Green Revolution because of the research that he did to take disease out of wheat and rice that increased production very much.

Another one is the home of Carrie Lane Chapman, one of the original suffragists. Her home was in Iowa, and that is one of these sites as well.

Another one would be the REA Power Plant Museum because the first rural electric cooperative plant west of the Mississippi was in Iowa.

Other examples, people can read in the RECORD.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this list be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Silos & Smokestacks was designated a National Heritage Area in 1996 and is the only heritage area that tells the story of agriculture. To do this, some attractions, programs, and activities that are offered include:

ATTRACTIVEIONS

Dr. Norman Borlaug's childhood home and birthplace farms. Visitors can experience Dr.

Borlaug's early beginnings and walk in his footsteps as they learn about how he became known as the "Father of the Green Revolution."

Carrie Lane Chapman Catt Girlhood Home: The home of Carrie Lane Chapman, a suffragist and founder of the League of Women Voters is included in the heritage area. The 10-acre site has a museum and interpretive education center.

Plume Grove Historic Home: From 1844-1853, Plume Grove was home to Iowa's first territorial governor, Robert Lucas and his wife (Friendly). The site is furnished to the period when Mr. Lucas lived there and includes archaeology exhibits.

REA Power Plant Museum: First rural electric cooperative plant built west of the Mississippi River. Depicts "before and after" eras of electricity in rural areas. The plant became operational in 1938 and provided electricity until 1951.

1876 Coralville Schoolhouse. A two-room red brick schoolhouse that now has interactive exhibits to relive the life of rural students up until 1951.

Fossil & Prairie Park Preserve & Center. Native prairie where visitors can collect fossils, view the beehive kilns that were used by the Rockford Brick & Tile Company (manufactured agricultural drain tile).

Bennington No. 4 School: One-room school built in 1911 and is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Located at its original site, the preserved schoolhouse stands amid active farms in rural Bennington Township.

University of Northern Iowa Marshall Center School: Restored to how it was in the early 1920s, the Marshall Center School is a one-room museum located on the campus of the University of Northern Iowa that shares how rural schools helped shape 19th century America.

Ackley Heritage Center: Preserves, interprets and exhibits the history of Ackley, Iowa.

Amana Heritage Society Museums: A German religious group settled the seven villages of the Amana Colonies in the 1850s. Established there was a communal village-based agricultural system that is significantly different than traditional Midwest family farms.

Total of 110 sites (Effigy Mounds National Monument, Barn Quilts of Black Hawk County, Hawkeye Buffalo Ranch, etc.).

PROGRAMS

Junior Ranger Program: Participants travel across the heritage area learning about

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



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rural life, food production, and the cultural roots of American agriculture. They complete hands on activities and earn a badge as they “become a proud steward of our farming heritage.”

Monthly “remember and reminisce” program: Hosted at the Traer Historical Museum which highlights the life of “Tama Jim” Wilson, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1913.

AG Adventure tour loops: Provide itineraries and maps for “ag adventure” tours to visit numerous sites.

Iowa Eats Food & Drink Festival: Event in Waterloo that connects farmers, producers, and culinary professionals to the public.

Partnerships with local historical societies and museums for other events.

Mr. GRASSLEY. As a lifelong family farmer, I think it is important that we celebrate this history that—there is a lot of history, but Silos & Smokestacks exemplifies in Iowa all connected with American rural and American agriculture.

The fuel you put in your car and the meals on your table are everyday commodities that are made possible by the hard work of family farmers. I always like to remind people that 2 percent of the people in this country produce the food for the other 98 percent and that one-third of that production is exported just to show you how a small group of people lead to the social cohesion of the United States because we don’t have food riots and because food is the backbone of our national security.

From the beginning of our Nation, when farms were where most Americans lived and worked, and through the Green Revolution of Dr. Norman Borlaug and the development of modern agriculture practices, Silos & Smokestacks preserves and displays Iowa’s rich agricultural heritage.

For the last decade, Cara has been dedicated to advancing the missions of Silos & Smokestacks. Once again, I want to thank Cara for her hard work and wish her very well in retirement.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7147

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7147) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Friday, the Senate passed five of the remaining six appropriations bills: Defense appropriations; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; Financial Services and General Government; Labor-Health and Human Services; Education; and National Security and Department of State—in all, five appropriations bills that fund all of those various programs and Agencies.

It has been a long road to get here, with the process most notably interrupted by the Democrats’ 43-day shutdown in the fall. But I am proud to be able to say that the Senate has passed 11 full-year appropriations bills.

When I became leader, I made it very clear that I wanted a return to regular order consideration of appropriations bills.

Too many times the Senate has resorted to long-term continuing resolutions in omnibus bills written behind closed doors. That is not how I wanted to do things, and I am proud that, despite some hiccups along the way, we have returned the lead to the committees and have now considered 11 of the 12 individual bills on the Senate floor.

The advantages of a Member-driven process are myriad. First and foremost, it empowers Senators of both parties to make their voices and the voices of their constituents heard, and it provides for genuinely serious consideration of spending priorities.

This year’s appropriations bills together spend less than if we had simply extended current spending levels under a continuing resolution. We are saving taxpayer dollars by doing full-year appropriations bills.

We are also supporting our national defense. Endless continuing resolutions aren’t good for any part of the government, but they are especially dangerous for our military readiness.

Under CRs—or continuing resolutions—the military can be prevented from starting essential new projects. Current projects can face delays and cost overruns, and the appropriate resources may not always be available for operations.

Funding the military through the yearly Defense appropriation bill instead of through CRs is essential, and I am very pleased that we passed the full-year bill on Friday.

Before I close, I want to extend my gratitude to Appropriations Committee Chair COLLINS and Vice Chair MURRAY and all the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee for their tireless work this year.

Appropriations work is demanding, and I appreciate all they have done to make it possible for us to pass 11 of the 12 fiscal year 2026 bills.

Now, on that 12th bill, we had a bipartisan agreement on the Homeland

Security appropriations bill that included funding for deescalation training for Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as body cams for ICE officers.

Nevertheless, Republicans agreed to Democrats’ request for additional time to allow for additional consideration of this bill before final passage, but any conversation—any conversation—has to include a discussion of how to make it safer for our Federal law enforcement agents to effectively carry out their duties.

We need to address not only issues like increased training for ICE officers but things like preventing the constant harassment—and worse—that officers have faced for simply trying to do their jobs.

The President’s border czar Tom Homan recently traveled to Minneapolis at the President’s request, and his efforts have gone a long way to restoring order in that city and ensuring immigration operations can be carried out safely.

One thing he is trying to accomplish is increased cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE. That is another thing the Democrats should be willing to address in the coming days.

It is notable how much more peaceful things have been in cities where local law enforcement has been authorized to cooperate with ICE. It is time to bring an end to the dangerous practice of local jurisdictions refusing to cooperate with Federal law enforcement.

So I hope there will be a set of issues like those that Senate Democrats and the administration can find consensus around. But one thing is clear, if the Democrats’ goal is simply to make it harder to detain and deport dangerous illegal aliens, then they will find no interest on this side of the aisle. I hope that is not the case because the stakes are high.

Republicans provided for ICE enforcement in the Working Families Tax Cuts, but the Homeland Security bill funds a number of other critical Agencies, including the TSA, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Agencies that we cannot leave behind. We need to give these Agencies the security of a full-year funding bill without delay.

I, once again, thank Senate appropriators for helping us to get to this point, and I look forward to finishing our 2026 appropriations work in the coming days.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior 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.