

minions, and there are vacancies in meteorological, hydrological, and weather forecasting positions as a result. That is just another fact.

And, last of all, my colleague from Wisconsin's view of what is happening with climate change is certainly entertaining in certain circles. But if you want to take a look at what is real, you might want to consider going to the universities in Wisconsin—like the quite renown University of Wisconsin—to see that legitimate climate science is what is taught in Wisconsin's own universities, not the entertaining version that we just heard here on the Senate floor, but the real stuff, taught by the people who really know to students who want to know what the truth is. That is the choice Wisconsin made in its universities. They teach the real stuff, and there is no way you can reconcile the real stuff with the entertaining version of climate that we just heard from the distinguished Senator from Wisconsin.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

WASHINGTON WILDFIRES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today with a very heavy heart because, right now, huge swaths of my State are being confronted by some of the worst fires that we have ever seen. This weekend, three fast-moving wildfires exploded across Spokane County.

In a matter of hours, entire neighborhoods were told: Leave now. This may be your only notice. Over 65,000 people I represent have been forced to evacuate their homes. At least 700 homes, businesses, and buildings have been destroyed already.

Families are sleeping in the Spokane Convention Center tonight, not knowing whether they even still have a home to go back to. And as of this morning, these fires are still not contained.

The photos and videos tell the story: Houses reduced to ash, families embracing outside the burned remains of what they once called home. It is heartbreaking. Smoke so thick over Spokane that the air itself has now become a health hazard.

To every family in Spokane and across eastern Washington who has lost a home or a business or a lifetime of memories, hear me: I promise you I am with you today, tomorrow, and for as long as it takes to rebuild.

And amid this devastation, I also want this Chamber to hear about the extraordinary courage on display in my State right now. Within hours of the evacuation orders, neighbors were opening their doors to strangers. Families who had room to spare simply said: Come stay with us. Volunteers worked through the night at the convention center, handing out blankets, serving hot meals, sitting with frightened kids. Local restaurants showed up with food for evacuees and for the fire crews who are coming off the line. Churches and community groups collected clothes

and diapers, pet food. Whatever people needed, someone in Spokane found a way to provide it.

Firefighters have been on the lines around the clock in brutal heat against dangerous winds. Local fire crews, crews from across the State, the Washington National Guard—all mobilized within hours. Incident management teams and firefighters who actually came from out of State all the way from Florida to Alaska—there are even firefighters from Australia and New Zealand—because of them, because of the sheriff's deputies and police officers who went door to door to get people out, because of the emergency managers and dispatchers and shelter volunteers, tens of thousands of people got to safety. These are real-life heroes, and, on behalf of the people of Washington State, "Thank you."

But gratitude is not enough. The people of Spokane need action, and they deserve to know their government has their back.

So here is where things stand as I see them: Our firefighters must have every resource they need to contain these fires—every aircraft, every bit of equipment, every dollar. So far our State has gotten the resources we need from the Federal Government, and I deeply appreciate that. That is how it should be.

Yesterday, I led our congressional delegation in urging the President to approve the Governor's request for an expedited emergency declaration. The President has approved part of that request; that is good, and I will be watching closely to ensure the full request is approved.

The next few days will no doubt be difficult as local fire crews do their best to try and contain these fires.

Looking ahead, it is important to say: Spokane's recovery will not be measured in days or weeks; it will be measured in months and years. Rebuilding homes, rebuilding businesses—it will take a long time, and it will not be easy.

But as vice chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I want the people of eastern Washington to know they have a voice in the U.S. Senate who will speak up for Spokane. I am not someone who will simply write letters to this administration asking for support. I help write the bills that fund the government across every Department and every Federal program, and I will make sure Spokane's recovery is a priority at every opportunity. There is not a single dollar I won't pursue if it means helping Spokane and communities across the State as they rebuild from these devastating fires. Whatever it takes, for as long as it takes.

Spokane has been hurt and is being badly hurt by these fires, but Spokane is not broken. A community that takes care of each other in the way we have seen cannot be broken. Spokane will rebuild; Eastern Washington will recover; and I will be standing with them every single step of the way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. LUMMIS assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, in accordance with Public Law 99-498, Section 1505(a)(1)(B)(ii), appoints the following Senator to the Board of Trustees of the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development: The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan of New Mexico.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 830, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 830) recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Fulbright Program.

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 830) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CRITICAL THERAPIES FOR ALS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2026

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 461, S. 4472.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4472) to amend the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act to reauthorize the provisions of such Act through fiscal year 2031, and for other purposes.

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

had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CRITICAL THERAPIES FOR ALS ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (Public Law 117–79) is amended by striking “2022 through 2026” and inserting “2027 through 2031”.

(b) GRANTS FOR ALS RESEARCH.—Section 2(f) of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee note) is amended by striking “2026” and inserting “2031”.

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROGRAM FOR GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON THERAPIES FOR ALS.

Section 2 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360ee note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(referred to in this section as ‘expanded access grants’)” before the period at the end of the first sentence;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) APPLICATION—” and all that follows through “A participating” in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(b) APPLICATION.—A participating”;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2) respectively;

(C) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “including—”;

(D) by amending paragraph (1), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(1) a description of how data generated through the proposed expanded access grant will be used to support research or development related to the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, or cure of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;”;

(E) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “NONINTERFERENCE WITH CLINICAL TRIALS—” and all that follows through “shall include”;

(ii) by striking “program” and inserting “grant”;

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

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) an assurance that such entity will promptly report to the Secretary available safety data from any ongoing clinical trial of the investigational drug as set forth in the terms and conditions of the grant.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking “this section, confirm that—” and inserting the following: “this section—

“(1) confirm that—”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) in the case of a renewal of such a grant, request from the sponsor of the investigational new drug application involved, and assess, the enrollment, safety, and any available efficacy data of the drug related to the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, or cure of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.”;

(4) in subsection (d)(1), by striking “request described in subsection (a)” and inserting “grant”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, and that begins enrollment within a timeframe as determined by the Secretary through the terms and conditions of the grant” before the period at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) The term ‘phase 3 clinical trial’ includes a phase 2/3 combined trial and a planned phase 3 clinical trial that is not yet enrolling participants.”.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON ALS AND OTHER RARE NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ACTION PLANS.

Section 4 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (21 U.S.C. 360aa note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “ALS AND OTHER” and inserting “FDA”;

(2) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “and not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026 and every 5 years thereafter,” after “this Act,”; and

(B) by inserting “develop, or update, as applicable, and” before “publish on”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “initial”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “of relevant investigational new drug applications” after “sponsors”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C) by inserting “for the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, or cure of rare neurodegenerative diseases” before the semicolon; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) for each action plan published after the date of enactment of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026, include a description of—

“(A) previous actions taken by the Food and Drug Administration to implement the previous action plan published under subsection (a);

“(B) any other planned actions to implement such action plan; and

“(C) any barriers to implementing such action plan and related recommendations, which may include an estimate of resources necessary to address such barriers.”.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

Section 6 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (Public Law 117–79) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “GAO REPORT” and inserting “REPORTS”;

(2) by striking “Not later than” and inserting the following:

“(a) GAO REPORT.—Not later than”;

(3) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (a), as so designated, by striking “this Act” and inserting “the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) HHS REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Reauthorization Act of 2026, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in a manner that does not duplicate the information described in the action plan published pursuant to section 4, submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report assessing the effectiveness of the activities carried out under sections 2, 3, and 5 and making recommendations to improve such activities.”.

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 3 of the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–7b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “amyotrophic” and inserting “amyotrophic”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(A)(iii), by striking “rational”.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 4472), as amended, was passed.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

NATIONAL PLAN FOR EPILEPSY ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 526, S. 494.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 494) to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*, as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Plan for Epilepsy Act”.

SEC. 2. REVIEW TO IMPROVE EPILEPSY PROGRAMS, RESEARCH, PREVENTION, AND CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall review and, as necessary and appropriate, provide recommendations to Congress regarding, and update existing Federal programs, activities, and strategic plans related to, epilepsy research, prevention, early identification, diagnosis, and treatment for purposes of identifying and addressing knowledge gaps and improving health outcomes related to epilepsy.

(b) CONTENT.—The review under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a review of findings from evidence-based research on epilepsy, the status of ongoing, federally-funded research on epilepsy, knowledge gaps related to epilepsy, and disparities in populations with epilepsy;

(2) a review of Federal programs related to epilepsy research, prevention, early identification, diagnosis, and treatment, which shall include consideration of—