

that goes beyond what can be achieved on the battlefield. It will cut off the flow of cash that powers Putin's war machine.

I have worked with my colleagues on this bill for more than a year, including my friend from New Hampshire; with Senator BLUMENTHAL; and, of course, with Senator Lindsey Graham, who was very focused on this bill; and with the President.

I have worked particularly to include sanctions in this bill against Russia's illicit shadow fleet that it uses to evade these sanctions and prop up its energy sector.

These ships and the oil sales they facilitate directly fuel Russia's war machine and threaten American and European security. They enrich Russia, China, and Iran. This bill will go a long way to stopping that shadow fleet.

I have also worked to include provisions taking aim at Russia's defense supply chains and a number of key energy projects, causing real pain to Putin and those who keep him in power. They will do that.

These tools will give the United States and our allies the leverage we need to force Russia back to the negotiating table and end this conflict.

I would be remiss if I didn't note that this bill was a culmination of many, many hours of work from my staff, Senator SHAHEEN's staff, Senator BLUMENTHAL's staff, Senator Lindsey Graham's staff, all of them and other staffs worked on this. And we usually don't thank them here on the floor, but they really need thanks on this because this went on so long and was so technical.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't note that this bill was a passion project for our friend Lindsey Graham, and it is fitting that we will see it move through the Senate today.

I hope to, once again, see a strong majority of my colleagues join us in this bill—in passing this bill right here and right now.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SUPPORTING EARLY-CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS' DEDUCTIONS ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and resume consideration of H.R. 5334, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5334) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow early childhood educators to take the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 6711

(Purpose: To impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation.)

Ms. GRAHAM. I call up amendment No. 6711 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Ms. GRAHAM], for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL, proposes an amendment numbered 6711.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 29, 2026, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 6715 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6711

(Purpose: To strike the provision relating to duties on countries that purchase Russian-origin crude oil or natural gas or facilitate sanctions evasion.)

Mr. PAUL. I call up amendment No. 6715 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL], for himself and others, proposes an amendment numbered 6715 to amendment No. 6711.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 29, 2026, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the bill before us contains the largest tax increase ever passed by a Republican Congress. Worse yet, the bill transfers the taxing authority from the legislature to the executive branch, an unconstitutional delegation of power.

The Constitution clearly states that "Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, duties . . . and Excises."

Madison believed the Republic would survive only if the Constitution divided the power and pitted the executive ambition against legislative ambition. Madison would be horrified by the clamor of so many in Congress to cede the taxing authority.

My amendment strips the transfer of the taxing authority from the bill. My amendment—if it passes—will demonstrate that Congress still has a spine, still has ambition, and still supports the separation and limitation of power.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I ask for 2 minutes to be equally divided between myself and the Senator from Connecticut.

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

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, the Senate has a spine. That is exactly what we are doing here today is standing with a steel spine. We are standing against Putin's aggression.

You saw, this week, him actually attack innocent Ukrainians. Ballistic drones go, hit breweries. They hit innocent civilians working in warehouses. This is enough. Today, we stand together to say: We are going to cut off the flow of money to Putin.

Senator Lindsey Graham said that this part, the part that our colleague from Kentucky wants to rip out, was

actually the heart of this bill; that this was the way to hit Putin where it hurt most.

Section 113 was carefully negotiated, and these authorities expire and are not permanent.

Today, we send a message to Vladimir Putin, and we give President Trump the tools he needs to end this war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague from Alabama's strong support of this bill. She has been instrumental in our reaching this point, and I thank her and Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina.

To state it really bluntly, Mr. President, this amendment kills the bill. It decimates the purpose of the bill, which has been the result of painstaking—sometimes painful—negotiations over months with the White House, with our colleagues here, with the U.S. Trade Representative, whom I also thank for his cooperation and assistance.

It would eliminate tariff provisions that have been narrowly constrained to the five largest purchasers of Russian oil and gas. It is not a broad, blunderbuss provision. It is narrowly targeted. And no secret, the two largest purchasers? Ninety percent, China and Russia.

So let's be real here. This narrowly targeted tariff provision is essential to the bill. The choice isn't between this bill with tariffs and a bill without tariffs. The choice is between this bill or no bill.

I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to vote no.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 6715

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on adoption of the amendment.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 32, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Leg.]

YEAS—32

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Paul
Bennet	Kaine	Peters
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Reed
Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cantwell	Lujan	Schiff
Cassidy	Markey	Schumer
Gallego	Murray	Slotkin
Hassan	Ossoff	Smith
Hickenlooper	Padilla	

Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren

Welch
Wyden

NAYS—64

Armstrong
Baldwin
Banks
Barrasso
Blumenthal
Boozman
Britt
Budd
Capito
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Curtis
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst

Fetterman
Fischer
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Heinrich
Hoeven
Husted
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Justice
Kennedy
King
Lankford
Lee
Marshall
McCormick
Merkley
Moody
Moran

Moreno
Murkowski
Murphy
Ricketts
Risch
Rosen
Rounds
Schatz
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Sheehy
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Tuberville
Whitehouse
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—4

Blackburn
Kelly

Lummis

McConnell

The amendment (No. 6715) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Graham-Blumenthal amendment No. 6711 is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 6711) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators SHAHEEN, BLUMENTHAL, and SCHUMER be recognized for up to 1 minute each.

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

H.R. 5334

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, colleagues, every day that Russia earns billions from energy exports, it has more resources to finance this war. Every day that Putin has those resources, he gains more time. Every day that Putin gains more time, more Ukrainians are killed.

This legislation is what President Zelenskyy asked us to do. This is what Senator Graham worked so hard to achieve. I hope we can give it an overwhelming vote.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Mr. FETTERMAN and I appreciate the work being done to advance the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, H.R.5334, in the Senate. This bill will honor Senator Graham's legacy, help dismantle Putin's war machine, and strengthen the U.S. national security.

This legislation aims to shut down various revenue streams Russia uses to continue its unprovoked war against Ukraine, and we must consider how it can be most effectively implemented. Helium is a byproduct of natural gas and has largely been produced in the

United States, Qatar, and Algeria. However, Russia has been catching up. Russia has doubled its helium production since the beginning of the war and is now the third largest producer of helium in the world. Despite the limited need for helium in Russia, reports indicate that Russia is still increasing its helium production at multiple plants. This increase in production contributes to Russia's long-term strategy to export helium, which will help to continue financing Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Helium is a vital industrial gas used in superconducting magnets, advanced lasers for medical technology, rocket fuel and missile guidance systems, and manufacturing for critical parts of our information infrastructure such as fiber optics and semiconductors. We must ensure these critical industries do not rely on Russian helium and unwittingly provide financial lifelines to Putin.

Section 102(b)(3) of the legislation subjects to potential sanctions "any foreign vessel the President determines, based on credible information, is used by the Government of the Russian Federation or Russian persons to move crude oil, uranium, natural gas, liquefied natural gas, petroleum, petroleum products, petrochemical products, coal, coal products, arms or other goods for the purposes of circumventing sanctions imposed by the United States or other countries."

Section 112(a) of the legislation further provides for "duty for all goods, including oil, natural gas, liquefied natural gas, petroleum, petroleum products, petrochemical products, coal, and coal products imported into the United States from the Russian Federation."

The "other goods" language in section 102(b) and the "all goods" language in section 112(a) is sufficiently broad that helium and other natural gas byproducts should qualify as a "good" under this legislation. Should this bill be enacted into law, the President should consider using authorities under the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, H.R.5334, to weaken Russia's production of natural gas byproducts, including helium.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues in advance for their overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill that shows we can still work together for the right causes to accomplish the right results.

I want to particularly thank Senator Lindsey Graham and his courageous, effective sister DARLINE for their immensely important, even historic contribution to this bill.

Today, we say to Vladimir Putin: You will not conquer Ukraine.

We stand with the brave, free people of Ukraine. We need to provide them military assistance. We can't do that today, but we are providing the eco-

nomic tools that are necessary to stop the major purchases of Russian oil and gas from fueling Putin's war machine.

President Zelenskyy has said to us from the beginning: Give us the tools; we will do the job.

Today, we give him an essential tool.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today, and I am honored to reiterate my full support for the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026.

My late brother Lindsey was a foreign policy and national security expert. He was also a peacemaker who was determined to bring an end to the conflict in Ukraine. He worked tirelessly to achieve that goal. Lindsey traveled to Ukraine on 10 separate occasions seeking an end to this war.

Despite the Ukrainian people's unwavering resolve to fight back, Russia has refused to stop.

On his last trip to Ukraine, Lindsey continued his work to achieve peace. He understood that providing President Trump the tools contained in this legislation would help push Russia to the negotiating table. That had been his goal since day one.

We are all aware of the tremendous bloodshed. For more than 4 years, Putin has wreaked havoc on the lives of everyday people, kidnapping tens of thousands of Ukrainian children and committing unspeakable acts. The war against Ukraine is primarily funded by the revenue Russia rakes in from energy sales. Without these profits, the ability to fund the war would be crippled.

This legislation hits Putin where it hurts. It contains provisions that specifically target those who are supporting Russia's war in Ukraine. This bill forces those primary countries keeping Russia's economy afloat to make a simple yet critical choice—a choice between doing business with America or buying cheap Russian energy. This legislation tells Russia's customers that the United States of America will not sit by while they fund Putin's assault.

The Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 would end Russia's network of aggression and criminal leadership.

History tells us that when an ambitious dictator goes after one nation, he typically doesn't stop there. My brother knew this well, and I am honored to continue his work of advancing this historic legislation.

I would especially like to thank President Trump; my colleagues Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator BRITT, Senator SHAHEEN, and Senator WICKER for their leadership in moving this forward

with me. I would also like to thank all the staff who have worked so very hard.

In closing, over the past 2½ centuries, America has stood as a beacon of hope to the free world.

Just as the backers of this war will soon be forced to make a choice, each Member of this body must also make a choice: whether we have the courage to stand up to evil or whether we will continue on with the status quo.

It is time for a show of strength. It is time for action. It is time for the Senate to pass the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026.

I yield the floor.
(Applause.)

VOTE ON H.R. 5334

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Leg.]

YEAS—86

Alsobrooks	Gallego	Murphy
Armstrong	Gillibrand	Murray
Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Banks	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeben	Schatz
Britt	Husted	Schiff
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kelly	Shaheen
Coons	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cornyn	Kim	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	King	Smith
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Luján	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Van Hollen
Daines	McCormick	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Moody	Whitehouse
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fetterman	Moreno	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—11

Blunt Rochester	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Hirono	Paul	Wyden
Markey	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Blackburn	Lummis	McConnell
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(Mr. HAGERTY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. GRAHAM). On this vote, the yeas are 86, the nays are 11.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 5334), as amended, was passed.

(Applause.)

AMENDMENT NO. 6712

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Graham Amendment No. 6712 to the title is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 6712) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: "An Act to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation, as championed by the late Senator Lindsey O. Graham, and for other purposes."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The title, as amended, is agreed to, and the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session in consideration of nominations en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 817.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 817?

Mr. PADILLA. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 225 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Armstrong	Ernst	Moran
Banks	Fischer	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Gallego	Markey
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Merkley
Bennet	Hassan	Murphy
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Murray
Blunt Rochester	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Booker	Hirono	Padilla
Cantwell	Kaine	Peters
Coons	Kelly	Reed
Cortez Masto	Kim	Rosen
Duckworth	King	Sanders
Durbin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Fetterman	Luján	Schiff

Schumer	Van Hollen	Welch
Shaheen	Warner	Whitehouse
Slotkin	Warnock	Wyden
Smith	Warren	

NOT VOTING—2

Lummis	McConnell
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The en bloc nominations were confirmed as follows:

Calendar Number 729: John Breslow, of Arizona, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Calendar Number 730: Todd Steggerda, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Calendar Number 731: Adam Cassidy, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy.

Calendar Number 732: Preston Wells Griffith III, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Calendar Number 733: Preston Wells Griffith III, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador.

Calendar Number 734: Fleet White, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs).

Calendar Number 739: Kenneth Sorenson, of Hawaii, to be United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 740: Johnson TeeHee II, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 746: Timothy VerHey, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 747: James Arnott, of Missouri, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 748: Jack Chambers, of West Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 749: Jason Holt, of Oklahoma, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 757: Michael Kavoukjian, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Norway.

Calendar Number 759: William Trachman, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Republic of Tanzania.

Calendar Number 761: Eric Wendt, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the