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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Lord, who shall abide in Your tabernacle? You have given us the answers. Those who walk upright and work righteousness, who speak the truth in their hearts, will abide in Your presence.

Today, prepare the women and men of this body to dwell with You. Lord, give them the integrity to be true to their duties, always striving to please You. Fix their hearts on You, O God, that everything they think, say, and do will be under Your Lordship. Send out Your light and Your truth that they may rule in this Chamber, and guide our Senators in these challenging times. Join our lawmakers to You with an inseparable bond of love.

We pray in Your marvelous 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. MORENO). 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the majority leader, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

IRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on December 28, last year, merchants in Tehran's Grand Bazaar took to the streets, protesting high inflation, protesting currency devaluation, and protesting a worsening economy in Iran. Accompanied by frustrations of constant political repression, then thousands of Iranian citizens have gone to the streets to protest.

So what would you think is the normal thing in an authoritarian government? These Iranian government authorities responded with more repression and violence against their own people—their own Iranian people.

On January 8, 2026, the regime also implemented a complete internet blackout. That made it, obviously, harder for Iranians to communicate with one another and to share evidence of the regime's abuses with the outside world.

The same internet blackout has made it also more difficult to confirm how many protesters have been injured or killed. These reports suggest that thousands of protesters have been killed, and more than 41,000 have been

arrested. And that happens to be more than double the number arrested in previous protests. The latest were in 2022, when Mahsa Amini was murdered, and the protests that followed that murder.

The violence and lethal force used against Iranian citizens is alarming, and if you saw it on the streets on our own television, you would say it is outrageous. That is why I was glad to see President Trump out in front, speaking out against this violence and supporting the Iranian citizens who were doing nothing more than fighting for their freedom and liberty.

It was also encouraging to see the Department of Treasury and the Department of State announce sanctioning of Iranian individuals who are involved in the violence against their own people.

So it is obvious the United States is not an enemy of the Iranian people. I stand with the protesters in Iran and will continue to support their fight for freedom, for dignity, and for a future free from fear and repression.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the clock is ticking for Republicans to sit down with Democrats in a serious way to rein in ICE and end the violence.

Last Saturday, we sent Republican leadership and the White House a detailed proposal of legislative text for how Congress can put necessary guardrails on ICE that America, from one end of the country to the other, is demanding. We got the Republican response last night, but it included neither details nor legislative text. We need to see more from Republicans very soon.

As I have said, what Democrats proposed is the definition of common sense. We simply want ICE to follow

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



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the same standards that most law enforcement agencies across America already follow. We must end roving patrols. We must have a code of conduct. We must end secret police who are not identified.

I want to be very clear about something else. These guardrails on ICE must apply across the board, including to operations funded through the Republicans' so-called One Big Beautiful Bill. We can't have ICE agents claiming they don't need to follow the law because they are being funded by this pot of money instead of that pot of money. That would be absurd. Our reforms must apply to all ICE operations.

The American people proudly support law enforcement, but most agree the status quo with ICE cannot continue. What ICE has been doing in Minneapolis and other cities is the antithesis of law enforcement. It is intimidation, coercion, and puts people in danger.

Later today, the heads of ICE, Border Patrol, and other enforcement Agencies will testify in the House for the first time since the killing of Alex Pretti and Renee Good. Today's testimony will make one thing very clear: For all the administration's talk of lowering the temperature, little meaningful change has happened in Minneapolis. Thousands of agents are still roaming the streets. People are still being assaulted by Federal law enforcement. And it is only a matter of time before someone else gets seriously hurt or, God forbid, killed.

If heads of ICE and Border Patrol are genuine about lowering the temperature, they should tell Congress that the only real answer is commonsense bipartisan legislation. Nothing else will suffice.

In the meantime, here in the Senate, Democrats await the next answer from our Republican counterparts. We hope they bring us legislative text very soon, just as we sent legislative text to them on Saturday.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Mr. President, in terms of the permit announcement, this week the Trump administration is set to take one of its most nakedly corrupt steps since Donald Trump returned to office—and that is saying a lot—a wholesale reversal of essentially all greenhouse gas regulations. Specifically, the administration is set to repeal the EPA's endangerment finding, basically the bedrock scientific determination that says greenhouse gas emissions pose a threat to our public health and, therefore, should be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

Trump is making a radical move that will send shock waves across the economy—uncertainty for manufacturers, States, regulators everywhere—and it flies in the face, of course, of basic science.

Let's be very clear what this announcement represents. It is a corrupt giveaway to Big Oil, plain and simple. When Big Oil calls a tune, the Repub-

lican Senators dance. They are just in their pockets, as we have seen over and over again with clean energy regulations and so much else. Big Oil has worked tirelessly for decades to undermine rules that protect against emissions. And now that they have their guy in the White House, they are taking the biggest swing yet.

Remember, in the spring of 2024, Donald Trump invited top oil executives to Mar-a-Lago and told them, if you raise me \$1 billion to get elected, I will cut regulations so you can make more money. That Devil's bargain is now coming true.

I never thought it would be this way in America, in this bald, disgusting way that so hurts people's health. But there it is.

Who will pay the price for Donald Trump's corruption? Quite literally, every single community in this country. The repeal will hurt kids with asthma. The repeal will hurt homeowners and destabilize insurance markets as extreme weather gets worse and worse.

The blast radius of this reckless decision will span from San Diego to Portland, ME, and from Seattle to Miami. Never in American history have we had a President who promised to fight for everyday Americans so boldly only to betray so nakedly that promise in broad daylight time and time and time again.

This is quite literally one of the biggest giveaways to Big Oil that you could come up with. The economic and health consequences for everyone else will be severe.

Americans are tired of Donald Trump's limitless corruption, and they will bring a reckoning to all Republicans who stand with Donald Trump when they go to the ballot box later this fall.

(The remarks of Mr. SCHUMER pertaining to the introduction of S. 3815 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3805, H.R. 6500, and H.R. 1834

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the titles of the bills for a second time en bloc.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3805) to amend chapter 93 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit obstruction of immigration laws by official interference.

A bill (H.R. 1834) to advance policy priorities that will break the gridlock.

A bill (H.R. 6500) to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUTS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tax filing season is no one's favorite season, but thanks to the working families tax cuts, things are looking up this year. Americans filing their taxes are looking at a host of new tax relief.

Taxpayers can take advantage of this relief for the 2025 tax year, which means a lot of Americans are going to be seeing bigger refunds this spring. That starts with the newly enhanced child tax credit. Back in 2017, Republicans doubled the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child. With the working families tax cuts, we made that relief permanent and not just permanent, we boosted the tax credit again by hundreds of dollars, and we linked it to inflation so its value will never go down. Parents filing their taxes this year can take advantage of this additional relief.

Then there is the new tax relief for older Americans—\$6,000 bonus deduction for low- and middle-income seniors. Seniors will be able to save hundreds and, in some cases, even more on their taxes. Again, that applies to the 2025 tax year as well, which means seniors will start seeing that relief this spring.

Tax filers of all ages will be taking advantage of the enhanced standard deduction this year.

Back in 2017, Republicans nearly doubled the standard deduction, which is claimed by 90 percent of taxpayers in this country, and with the Working Families Tax Cuts, we boosted that deduction still further. Once again, the effects of that will be showing up in Americans' tax refunds this spring.

And the good news doesn't end there.

I said that parents will be able to take advantage of the enhanced child tax credit this season. They will also have the opportunity to open up new investment accounts for their children and to opt in to an initial, free \$1,000 contribution from the Federal Government for newborn accounts. These accounts will provide another tax advantage option for parents to invest in