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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BERNIE MORENO, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of mercy, we trust Your power and will not be afraid. In these best and worst of times, give us the peace that comes from confidence in Your providential powers. Bless our lawmakers. When they feel pessimistic, remind them that You are able to keep them from stumbling or slipping. You are their gracious and merciful God—slow to anger, quick to hear, and ready to rescue. Provide them with shelter for life's storms.

And, Lord, be a refuge for our military servicemembers and a comfort for the families of the fallen.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BERNIE MORENO, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MORENO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 6644, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6644) to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Scott (SC)/Warren amendment No. 4308, in the nature of a substitute.

Thune (for Scott (SC)/Warren) amendment No. 4307 (to amendment No. 4308), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress studies on workforce housing, housing for persons who are elderly or disabled, proximity of housing to Superfund sites, and residential heirs property.

Thune amendment No. 4310 (to amendment No. 4307), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 4311 (to the text proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 4308), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 4312 (to amendment No. 4311), of a perfecting nature.

Thune motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with instructions, amendment No. 4313, to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 4314 (to the instructions of the motion to commit), of a perfecting nature.

Thune amendment No. 4315 (to amendment No. 4314), of a perfecting nature.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump's war with Iran grows more confusing and more contradictory by the day.

Yesterday, Trump suggested without any explanation that:

I think the war is very complete, pretty much.

But, this morning, Pete Hegseth stood before the camera and announced that today will be the most intense day of strikes yet. He said that today's activity will involve the "most fighters, the most bombers, the most strikes."

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



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Well, which is it? Is the war ending, or are we on the brink of the worst fighting yet? How is it possible that Trump and his cronies can't make it 12 hours without contradicting themselves about this war?

It is incredible. I have never seen anything like it—a war—serious—putting our soldiers in harm's way, costing billions, which should be spent on reducing our costs here overseas, and they don't even have a rationale. They keep contradicting each other and contradicting themselves.

Yesterday, President Trump was also asked whether the war is "very complete," as he said, or is it just at the beginning, as Hegseth says. Well, do you care to guess the President's answer?

He said:

I think you could say [it is] both.

He said it is both.

He said:

It is the beginning of building a new country.

Those words, by the way, sound a lot like regime change to me, which Trump and others have denied is their goal.

Donald Trump is clueless. He has no earthly clue what he is talking about. If something pops into his head, he says it. The next day, if something pops into his head that is contradictory, he says it even though the two things are totally at odds with each other. He doesn't care about the truth. He doesn't care about the soldiers he has put in harm's way. He doesn't care about the billions of dollars we are spending here while people are demanding that he spend them on lowering costs.

He can't articulate a plan for a vision because he has no plan or vision; and the statistics show that this is the least popular war, at the beginning of it, of any war this country has engaged in. Donald Trump doesn't even seem to know whether or not the country is at war. It is as if he wakes up in the morning and decides right then and there what the plan is going to be.

Donald Trump is risking the lives of our troops, the safety of the American people, and the stability of the world economy based on whims, based on feelings, based on contradictions. It is dangerous. It is incompetent. It is sort of like a second grader running this war.

Donald Trump is also a liar. He claims that Iranian Tomahawk missiles were responsible for the bombing of an all-girls' school that killed 170 people, including many children.

Iran doesn't have Tomahawk missiles, Donald Trump. The claim is beyond asinine.

Again, he says whatever pops into his head no matter what the truth is, and we all know he lies, but on something as horrible as this, it is appalling. No other leader in the administration—not even Pete Hegseth, who does whatever Trump wants—is claiming Iranian mis-

siles did this. Trump is lying through his teeth.

So, this morning, I will be demanding a full, independent, and transparent investigation to get to the bottom of what happened at this school and why so many innocent civilians were tragically killed. There needs to be accountability.

Meanwhile, Trump's addiction to chaos is coming back to haunt the United States. The most formidable weapon Iran has right now is the Strait of Hormuz which, today, is effectively shut down; and now, thanks to Donald Trump's lack of foresight, Iran has a new, even more radical, even more hostile extreme leader, who will not be inclined to give up leverage over the strait. That is the one weapon that Iran has where it can be, unfortunately, successful.

The result?

Oil and gas prices are soaring across the world, including here in America. A barrel of Brent crude shot over \$100 a barrel yesterday. That got Trump to say his contradictory things to try to bring the price down. It came down a little but not much. The average price of 1 gallon in the United States is \$3.54. That is a 17-percent increase since the start of the war.

Yet Donald Trump says: If it rises, it rises. He says: It doesn't really affect us.

What a clueless thing to say. Has Donald Trump ever filled his own tank in his life? Has he any clue of what people go through when the price of gas goes up? Maybe billionaires like him don't have to worry, but for the rest of us, his war with Iran means more inflation in America—and not just in gasoline. Airline tickets will go up because of the price of fuel for the airlines. Food prices will go up because of the price of fertilizer. It will cut across the board, as we have seen before, when oil prices go up. Donald Trump is causing chaos in our economy.

Finally, Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth, and Marco Rubio owe the American people some answers. The administration needs to come before Congress and testify in public hearings, under oath, as to why our troops are fighting and dying in the Middle East.

This morning, I am joining with a group of my colleagues to demand just that, that they come before Congress and testify in public so they can see what the administration is up to and not up to, and I believe they will see the mass confusion as they engage in this war.

The story from the administration changes by the hour, so what we need are public hearings where the administration testifies under oath. When it comes to sending our servicemembers into harm's way, the American people need to understand why, but right now, they don't even have a "why." That needs to change. We need testimony. We are demanding it today. We need accountability.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

H.R. 6644

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, home ownership—that quintessential part of the American dream—has become increasingly unattainable for a lot of Americans and for younger Americans in particular.

The New York Times reports that home prices have surged roughly 50 percent since the pandemic, and mortgage rates have also risen. A December 2025 article from the New York Post notes:

A new Bankrate analysis has found that more than 75% of listings nationwide are out of financial reach for a median-income family, despite annual earnings hovering just under \$80,000.

To swing a median-priced home in 2025, buyers now need to earn roughly \$113,000 a year, which is a gap that's turning the starter-home dream into a math problem few can solve.

Let me just repeat that.

. . . a gap that's turning the starter-home dream into a math problem few can solve.

With these kinds of numbers, it is no surprise that the typical age of first-time home buyers has reached an all-time high of age 40 or that in a recent New York Times poll 25 percent of registered voters listed housing as their biggest financial worry—the only category to get more than 20 percent.

That number was even worse for young people, with more than 50 percent of registered voters between the ages of 18 and 29 putting housing at the top of their financial worry list.

Well, this week, we are taking action. On the floor this week is the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, a package of bills targeted at making housing more affordable and accessible for hard-working Americans. This bill isn't some new government program that will drive up costs to taxpayers while doing little or nothing to solve housing problems for everyday Americans. No. This bill offers real solutions that will unlock new home construction, drive down prices, and increase the supply of affordable homes.

One problem driving up the cost of housing is regulation. Regulations account for roughly 25 percent of the cost of constructing a new single-family dwelling, and, of course, these costs are passed on to the consumer in the form of higher selling prices for new homes. That is why the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act takes aim at unnecessary regulation by removing, streamlining, or updating regulations that act as a drag on the supply of affordable housing.

Along with removing regulatory barriers, the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act focuses on unleashing private sector investment.

And this entire bill has been put together with an emphasis on allowing States and local communities to pursue the housing solutions that work for them.

Look at the great diversity of circumstances across rural, suburban, and urban communities, and it should be clear to everyone that one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington are not the solution. Instead, we need to empower States and localities to create the solutions that fit their particular communities.

There is a lot more in this bill, from support for veterans and rural communities to increased oversight and accountability for Federal housing programs. It is the product of good ideas from both parties and from both Houses of Congress. And it is no surprise that it is supported by everyone from the National League of Cities to the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders and the National Association of REALTORS.

The inflation crisis that defined the Biden administration is still weighing down a lot of American families. And since taking office last January, Republicans have been focused on making life easier for the American people. We prevented a massive tax hike and put more money in American's pockets with the working families tax cuts, took aim this January at high prices at the pharmacy counter, and now we are continuing our work on affordability with the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act to open the door for affordable homes for hard-working Americans around the country. And we are going to continue to do everything we can to ease the burdens facing Americans and to make life better for the American people.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, in just a moment, I am going to move to proceed to a piece of legislation that we have voted on a number of times already, and that is a bill that would fund the Department of Homeland Security.

This is now the 25th day of the shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. It follows the Democrat shutdown last fall that went for 43 days of virtually the entire government. This applies to the Department of Homeland Security.

And so here we are, 25 days into another government shutdown instigated by Democrats because they want, I guess, changes made to the bill—although it is very hard to know what that is because, at this point, they refuse even to meet to talk about this.

Now, remember how this all began. The Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill was negotiated by both the House and the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, and it passed out of the House of Representatives. So it comes over here to the Senate, a bill

negotiated by Democrats in the Senate along with our Republican colleagues on our side and our colleagues in the House of Representatives and the White House. So we had an agreed-upon Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill.

And then what happened? Well, the Democrats decided they didn't like that bill anymore and decided to walk away from it, wanted to renegotiate it, after all that negotiation, which included, I might add, reforms that they had requested specifically as they apply to ICE, including body cameras—\$20 million in there for body cameras—deescalation training, additional oversight of ICE activities. A whole range of things were included in the base bill. It is the bill that we will be voting on later this week, again, unless there is some—unless they decide to actually come to the table and negotiate.

So it had all that input from Republicans, Democrats. Reforms requested by Democrats, passed out of the House, comes over here to be picked up and passed by the Senate. Senate Democrats say: Whoops, sorry. We are not for this anymore. We want to renegotiate.

So in that context, the White House and Senate Republicans have made good-faith efforts to submit proposals, additional ideas that the Democrats have put on their long wish list—which was about 15 items, some of which were not doable.

I mean, there are certain things on there—obviously, anytime you are trying to negotiate a deal, you are not going to get everything you want, right? Well, the Democrats had a long list of things, demands that they had wanted.

Republicans agreed to sit down. The White House, to their credit, has submitted now multiple efforts. The most recent one has not been responded to by the Senate Democrats.

But what makes this even more stark is you have now Agencies of government with employees who aren't going to get paid that perform important national security functions, cyber security. You think that is not a problem in a dangerous world? Border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection—Border Patrol—they are not getting paid. TSA—people are starting to travel. The airport, the lines are getting longer and longer and longer. Coast Guard, FEMA—FEMA, the Agency that responds to disasters around this country and has virtually run out of money—is also part of the bill that the Democrats are holding up.

Now, all that is bad enough and, frankly, shameful, if you think about it, given what is at stake for this country and for our national security, for our border security, for security in our communities, for disaster assistance, for our cyber security. Those are all things that aren't being funded because of the Democrat shutdown, which is bad in and of itself.

But what makes it even worse is they are now saying they don't even want to

sit down and talk. Overtures were made yesterday to the ranking Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Countless overtures have been made to the Democrat leadership, and they have basically said: Sorry, we don't want to talk.

So here we are, in the 25th day now of the government shutdown instigated by Democrats, after they had agreed to the very bill that they are now opposing, and are now opposing even sitting down and talking and negotiating on the things they say they want. Explain that one.

This is borderline obnoxious. This is indefensible; it is unjustifiable; and there are American people who are going to hurt as a result of this and those already who work at these Agencies—some 120,000 at 1 Agency alone—that aren't going to get paid, who perform critical security missions for this country to keep the American people safe.

I don't get it. I really don't. You want reforms? Our side, the White House have been willing to sit down, have given a number of the suggestions the Democrats had, in addition to the things that were in the original bill that they had negotiated and agreed to, which included reforms, like I said: \$20 million for body cameras, deescalation training, oversight of ICE. There have been a number of additional things the White House has been willing to work with the Democrats on.

Tom Homan, who has been sort of in the lead in terms of what is going on out there as far as the enforcement issue is concerned, has offered up himself and been willing to talk about some of these requests that Democrats have, but, frankly, it is hard to get to a solution when you have one party that refuses to even sit down and talk. This is kind of a new low, really.

There are certain things the American people, I think, expect of their elected officials, one of which is to continue the basic functioning of the government: funding government Agencies, especially government Agencies that have critical national security missions.

What makes it even worse is, we have tried now on countless occasions to buy additional time to allow for negotiations to continue and to fund those Agencies, at least temporarily, until there is a permanent solution in place. We have now twice come down here on the floor and asked for a continuing resolution—a continuing resolution, meaning a funding mechanism that will allow these Agencies to function and these employees to get paid until such time as there actually is an agreement, and they have objected to that both times.

So we are going to try again. I am going to move to reconsider, and we will have another opportunity to vote on that proposal—the original proposal negotiated by House and Senate Democrats and Republicans, unless between now and the time we vote on this, they

decide to engage in conversations and discussions and we do arrive at some agreement that will enable us to actually fund the government and perhaps include some of the things that the Democrats want included, but you can't do that if you are not at the table. You can't do that if it is a one-sided negotiation, and it is pretty clear, at this point, that is what we are talking about here.

There is no question about—you know, sometimes there is some "Who is shutting down the government?" My impression, in this case at least, is that the Democrats view this as a political issue and some sort of a political winner for them; otherwise, I can't explain why—they won't even sit down at the table and negotiate. It is not about politics. These are people's lives we are talking about. These are jobs. These are livelihoods. These are families.

And the mission, which is protecting the American people, keeping this country safe and secure—there is no higher one. You want to shut down the Department of Homeland Security, the Department that is tasked with defending the homeland? Those people aren't getting paid; those programs aren't getting funded; and those functions aren't being performed by the people that we ask to do that job.

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

Mr. THUNE. So, Mr. President, I am going to move to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the 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.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Marsha Blackburn, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Roger F. Wicker, Susan M. Collins, Todd Young, Jim Banks, Bernie Moreno, Jon A. Husted, Eric Schmitt, John Hoeven, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, Roger Marshall, Katie Boyd Britt.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call in relation to sub-

stitute amendment No. 4308 to Calendar No. 343, H.R. 6644.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I recognize the majority whip.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAR POWERS ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today having just heard the minority leader talk about the fact that the Democrats have now filed five new War Powers Acts. Let's talk about that act and what it all means and what the Democrats are trying to do here.

The War Powers Act was enacted in 1973. It was first used by the Democrats. They first used it in 2018. So it sat for 45 years not being used, and then they used it against President Trump in his first term. There have been a total of 11 times that War Powers Resolutions have been offered, 8 of them were from Senator KAINE and Senator SANDERS, all aimed at President Trump. We defeated one of these last week.

So now they have come out, and they have introduced five more, and one of the Senate Democrats' loudest complainers about everything said that it is basically symbolic. It is just symbolic what they are doing. These are show votes. We know the record of the Democrats. Do you know how many they introduced when Obama was President? Zero. Do you know how many they introduced when Biden was President? Zero. Because when a Democrat is President, Democrats forget about the War Powers Act—ignore it completely.

So what is behind this charade of what the Democrats are doing? Well, let me quote Senator TIM KAINE the Senator from Virginia, who was the Vice Presidential nominee when Hillary Clinton ran for President, because it is all about trying to control the Senate floor time. This is what Senator KAINE said earlier this year. He said: Flood the Senate calendar with privileged motions where I am taking the floor time away from the Republican Party.

That is what this is all about. This isn't about advancing the needs of the Nation. This isn't about helping people. It is not about protecting Americans. None of that is true. It is about slowing down the Senate, throwing instruments into the gears, all to try to create theater—not to help protect our troops, not to help protect our people, not to make the world safer. Not at all.

That is what this is all about. Their hand has been shown.

IRAN

Mr. President, after 47 years of terrorism and torture and tyranny, what we are seeing today that is Iran's murderous leadership, they are dead. Their missiles, their launchers, their production sites—they have been severely damaged. Since the start of the operation, missile attacks from Iran have gone down by 90 percent. Over 50 of Iran's warships have been sunk. This is a sign of success on the part of our brave men and women in uniform.

For decades, American Presidents have pledged Iran would never acquire a nuclear weapon. Thank goodness we have a President now in the United States—President Donald J. Trump—who kept that promise. The President has acted boldly; he has acted decisively; and this is where so many others have hesitated.

What we see is Presidential courage and commitment to ensure that Iran will not obtain nuclear weapons. What we have seen is American peace through strength.

Iran is a terrorist regime, and that is why, today, Iran is still terrorizing the world by trying to hold the world's energy supply hostage. This regime is attempting to choke off the shipping of oil through the Strait of Hormuz. In recent days, Iran has attacked oil and gas facilities across the region and has targeted oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. Remember, 20 percent of the world's oil supply goes through the Strait of Hormuz.

Now, I understand why families are worried about the price of energy. I agree absolutely with these families that I talked to this weekend in Wyoming. This weekend I met with a group of ranchers. We were at the Green River Valley Stockgrowers Association meeting. It was in Big Piney.

Now, when the price of gasoline goes up, it is a concern to everyone, and not just because of the cost of gas but also the cost of food because it costs more to produce the food when energy prices are higher. So we need to do everything we can to make sure we can get down the price of energy for people who are not only having to just drive but who produce in this Nation. And that is why Republicans are taking action now to lessen the pain.

Fortunately, America is once again energy-dominant. It wasn't that way in the past when American energy producers were being attacked by the Democrats.

Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket, and we are no longer utterly dependent on the Middle East for energy. We were in the past but not anymore. And that is because of Republican policies that unleashed American energy, and we have it in abundance.

America is now the No. 1 producer of oil in the world. We are setting record numbers for production—almost 14 million barrels of oil every day. That is more than double where we were 15 years ago.