

public reports that it had resumed this dangerous practice, and ICE is currently stonewalling congressional oversight on it.

Location data is not the only sensitive information on Americans that the government is purchasing without a warrant. Web browsing information—what websites Americans visit—is obviously very private. Just imagine the government looking over your shoulder all the time when you are using your phone. It is almost equivalent to spying on your thoughts. That is what happens when the government gets together with these sleazy data brokers. And it is not just ICE; the Pentagon, the IRS, Customs and Border Protection, the FBI, the Secret Service—all of them have purchased Americans' location information or web browsing information.

The government's purchase of all of this private information ought to be enough, but I want to wrap up by talking about how artificial intelligence could be used on these records.

Artificial intelligence tools are designed to comb through enormous datasets, find patterns, and identify behaviors of interest to the government. A few years ago, Americans may have believed that their personal information would be overlooked in an ocean of data. Now we know AI can be looking at everybody.

I have been warning for nearly a decade that data available for purchase from companies was just as sensitive as information the government collects directly. Creating AI profiles of Americans based on that data represents a chilling expansion of mass surveillance that must not be allowed.

As my colleagues are aware, the Trump administration decided to single out one company over the weekend for punishment because the company didn't want its artificial intelligence tool used for the mass surveillance of Americans. The company's CEO said that if the government's purchase of Americans' locations, web browsing, and other sensitive data is currently legal, it is only because the law has not yet caught up with the rapidly growing capabilities of AI.

That in a nutshell is the problem our bipartisan legislation will fix—update the law to current realities and stop the government from buying data on Americans from sleazy data brokers. It has to be addressed in a section 702 reauthorization bill which Congress will actually consider, because if legislators don't seize this opportunity, technology will just get further and further ahead of the law, and Americans will rightly have little faith that Congress is interested in protecting their privacy.

Now, with this thought, I am going to close. We are considering a nominee to be the Director of the NSA who refused to answer whether the government needs a warrant to spy on people in the United States. He would not commit to maintaining the NSA's pol-

icy of not purchasing location data without a warrant. He wouldn't commit to telling the American people if the NSA violates the policies and guardrails of successive administrations that were made public. This nominee wouldn't even promise to tell the Senate Intelligence Committee about these matters.

I am urging my colleagues to oppose this nomination. Regardless, I am urging that the issues related to privacy and the rule of law raised by this nomination are considered in comprehensive surveillance reform legislation.

I am part of a bipartisan coalition, and our bipartisan, bicameral bill, the Government Surveillance Reform Act, is going to be introduced shortly. I would be glad to talk to colleagues, regardless of their party and philosophy, about it, and I urge them to support the legislation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to suspend the quorum.

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote begin immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to Executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination.

The bill clerk reported the nomination of the following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601: to be General, Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd.

NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. JOSHUA M. RUDD

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, with regards to the promotion of LTG Joshua Rudd to general, I do not oppose his promotion, but I have concerns about the administration's intent for him to serve as the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and the Director of the National Security Agency. Both of these national security institutions are based in Maryland and they need a leader who has experience in the work they do for our Nation. While Lieutenant General Rudd has served the United States in many important roles, including his current role as deputy commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, he does not have a background or expertise in cyber operations or signals intelligence. Moreover, during his

confirmation process, he did not assuage my concerns about his commitment to constitutional and legal guardrails on spying on Americans. For these reasons, I am opposing his nomination.

VOTE ON RUDD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rudd nomination?

Mr. MCCORMICK. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 71, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 49 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Baldwin	Grassley	Murkowski
Banks	Hagerty	Paul
Barrasso	Hassan	Peters
Blackburn	Hawley	Reed
Boozman	Heinrich	Ricketts
Britt	Hirono	Risch
Budd	Hoeben	Rosen
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Coons	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	King	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Slotkin
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Warner
Fetterman	Moody	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Gillibrand	Moreno	Young
Graham	Mullin	

NAYS—29

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kim	Schatz
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gallego	Ossoff	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Padilla	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:42 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CURTIS).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 substitute amendment No. 4308 to Calendar No. 343, H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Jim Justice, Lindsey Graham, Eric Schmitt, Chuck Grassley, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Roger Marshall, Tim Sheehy, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Jim Banks, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 4308, offered by the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT, to H.R. 6644, a bill to increase the supply of housing in America and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 50 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Alsobrooks	Graham	Murkowski
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Banks	Hagerty	Ossoff
Barrasso	Hassan	Padilla
Bennet	Hawley	Peters
Blackburn	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Blunt Rochester	Hirono	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Rosen
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Capito	Justice	Schiff
Cassidy	Kaine	Schmitt
Collins	Kelly	Schumer
Coons	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kim	Sheehy
Cortez Masto	King	Slotkin
Cotton	Klobuchar	Smith
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lujan	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Markey	Van Hollen
Daines	Marshall	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warnock
Durbin	McCormick	Warren
Ernst	Merkley	Welch
Fetterman	Moody	Whitehouse
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Gallego	Moreno	Wyden
Gillibrand	Mullin	

NAYS—9

Budd	Murphy	Scott (FL)
Johnson	Paul	Tuberville
Lee	Schatz	Young

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Booker

NOT VOTING—1

Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 9, and one Senator responded "present."

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, with the change of our clocks in recent days, the Sun seems to shine later in the day and days are getting longer. We are even starting to feel signs of spring in the air here in Washington, DC. But along with the longer days and the budding flowers, something else is rapidly approaching that Americans find far less palatable, and that, of course, is tax season.

Americans have long had a distaste for taxes in this country, going back to the Boston Tea Party—a protest over seemingly minor taxes imposed by the British Empire that helped spark the American Revolution. While we may not find ourselves clamoring for a revolution on April 15, it remains, nevertheless, a hapless ritual of forking over a good percentage of our hard-earned wages to the Federal Government—something none of us looks forward to.

Fortunately for the American people, Senate Republicans have delivered a series of important victories through the Working Families Tax Cut Act that will set them up for a far less painful tax season than they would have experienced if the Democrats had been in charge. In fact, our Democratic colleagues uniformly voted against any of these tax cuts.

With the 2017 Trump tax cuts set to expire, Americans would have experienced the largest increase in history if it weren't for this new legislation—and again, our Democratic colleagues were OK with that. We saved the average Texas family more than \$3,000, and we prevented 62 percent of Americans from seeing a tax increase. Small business owners alone would have seen their Federal tax rates increase by nearly 50 percent, and American households would have faced a more than \$4 trillion tax hike. Democrats, as I said, were OK with that.

By now, at least most of my colleagues have become familiar with some of these top-line numbers, but today, I want to highlight a few provisions that have seen a little less daylight even though they will serve as a boon to working families all across our Nation.

As we all know, 56 percent of American voters have said that affordability is their top concern. I am actually surprised it is that low, but 56 is no small number. Parents of small children in particular are feeling the affordability crunch even more than their childless peers as they try to stretch their paychecks to meet the increasing costs of housing, groceries, and childcare each month.

While there is no silver bullet that can magically make the cost of raising

a family go away, Republicans have delivered provisions through the Working Families Tax Cut Act that will attempt to lessen that burden. For example, back in 2017, Republicans doubled the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. In 2025, that was scheduled to go back to \$1,000, but Senate Republicans built on their prior success and permanently increased the child tax credit to \$2,200 per child. We ensured that this was not via temporary provision, and we provided that it would not be eaten up by inflation by making sure that it was permanent and tied to inflation so that the child tax credit can keep pace with the increasing costs of raising a child over time. Parents who are married and filing jointly can earn up to \$400,000 and still be able to claim this credit.

In addition to expanding the child tax credit, Republicans took steps to alleviate what is perhaps one of the most commonly cited concerns that parents face, and that is the increasing cost of childcare.

Some families are spending as much as \$15,000 or more per year for each child in full-time childcare—higher than the annual median cost of rent in the United States, with even higher costs for the very young. This marks a more than 50-percent increase over the past decade—far outpacing inflation.

These skyrocketing costs leave many families with two working parents in a very difficult dilemma: They can either eat this cost or choose to have one or the other parent give up their income entirely in order to provide full-time childcare. This choice can bring with it a great deal of mixed emotions, with the tradeoffs involved being much more complex than simply the dollars and cents on either side of the ledger. And this isn't to mention the situation of single parents, who often have even fewer options on the table.

Once again, there is no single legislative fix to this dilemma, but Republicans have taken important steps toward addressing the struggles that working families face in the Working Families Tax Cut Act by enhancing the paid family and medical leave credit and the employer-provided childcare credit.

The paid family and medical leave credit is a general business credit that is now offered to employers who provide paid family and medical leave to qualifying employees. That makes it a lot easier for these businesses—often small businesses—to offer this childcare support for their employees. Our 2025 legislation strengthened this credit, broadened the eligibility to make it more widely available, and made it permanent.

This provision will reward businesses that offer these valuable benefits to their employees, allowing mothers to recover from childbirth and allowing both mothers and fathers the time they want to bond with their newborns in the first important months of their lives.

We also built on these successes by bolstering the employer-provided child tax credit. This credit rewards businesses that provide childcare to their employees, whether by constructing an onsite daycare center or by assisting employees with subsidies or other options that help them afford childcare.

By incentivizing onsite childcare options, which can make the dropoffs and pickups less logistically challenging, and offsetting the high costs, this tax credit is another step toward a less stressful experience of parenting in America—and if there is anybody who needs a little less stress, it is parents.

But this isn't the end of the pro-family provisions in the Working Families Tax Cut Act. We also bolstered the adoption tax credit by making it partially refundable—up to \$5,000—in order to support those who have decided to build their families through the heroic path of adoption. We increased the dependent care assistance exclusion—up to \$7,500 from \$5,000—and we increased the child and dependent care tax credit, which will help millions of families offset the cost of childcare by nearly \$1,000, on average.

There is no doubt that raising a family in today's world is a rewarding but challenging experience, but thanks to the historic inflation that the Biden administration imposed on the American people, this already daunting journey became much harder. While, again, we don't have a silver bullet or a magic wand that can make all of these rising costs go away overnight, I hope that the pro-family reforms that we champion in the Working Families Tax Cut Act can make this journey easier on the millions of parents around the country.

So while none of us are looking forward to filing our income tax returns come April 15, I hope that working parents will see a little bit of well-deserved relief in their pocketbooks as a result of these provisions that Republicans provided in the Working Families Tax Cut Act and which President Trump signed into law.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HINDERING OPPRESSIVE NATIONS FROM OBTAINING REVENUE ACT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 327.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 327) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny any foreign tax credit or deduction with respect to taxes paid or accrued to the Russian Federation.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 327) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 327

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hindering Oppressive Nations from Obtaining Revenue Act" or "HONOR Act".

SEC. 2. DENIAL OF FOREIGN TAX CREDIT WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 901(j)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR RUSSIA.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall apply to the Russian Federation during the period described in clause (ii).

“(ii) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—The period described in this clause with respect to any country is the period—

“(I) beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and

“(II) ending on the date on which the resumption of the application of the rates of duty set forth in column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to products of that country takes effect pursuant to section 4(b) of the Suspending Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus Act.”.

(b) DEDUCTION DENIED.—Section 901(j)(3) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The preceding sentence shall not apply to any tax of any country to which paragraph (2)(C) applies.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DEDUCTION LIMITATION.—The amendment made by subsection (b) shall apply to taxes paid or accrued (or deemed paid or accrued under section 960 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) NONAPPLICATION OF TREATY RULES.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall be applied without regard to any treaty obligation of the United States.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, the bill that we just passed today through unanimous consent is a bipartisan bill to make sure that American families are not on the hook for taxes being paid to Vladimir Putin's war machine.

Last week, we received disturbing reports that Russia is providing Iran with intelligence to target United

States forces. They are passing along critical information, like the locations of our military assets, including warships and aircraft. That is just unacceptable—not just to me. Ask most Americans, and they will say the same thing: Putin is actively aiding our enemy. Our tax dollars shouldn't be supporting his efforts to harm American troops. That is why we passed the bill today.

Let me talk a little bit more about it.

Currently, U.S. law allows businesses that are paying taxes in foreign countries to claim a tax credit or a deduction in the United States so they don't get taxed twice. Normally, this makes sense. It promotes international investment and cooperation, and it simplifies our Tax Code. Importantly, this tax credit doesn't apply to hostile nations like North Korea and Iran that use these funds to support terrorism and harm our military.

The bill I passed today, S. 327, the HONOR Act, would add Russia to that list alongside our other adversaries.

It is just common sense that we should disincentivize funding our adversaries in Russia when they are helping Iran target United States servicemembers, several of whom have tragically lost their lives to this conflict already.

Russia had been our enemy long before now, and Putin's illegal war in Ukraine made that even more apparent. That is why Senator JOHN CORNYN and I introduced this bill over a year ago. Passing this bill is urgent now more than ever because we know Russia is acting against us by aiding Iran.

Now, I want to make it clear: I don't agree with President Trump's war in Iran. This administration slashed Medicaid for millions of American families, then turned around and launched a multibillion-dollar war without congressional approval. It puts America last. But no matter what you think about this war, we cannot continue to allow Vladimir Putin's regime to financially benefit while they are attacking and killing our servicemembers. It is that simple.

We passed the HONOR Act and have now adjusted it with the unanimous bipartisan support of the Senators in this Chamber. I look forward to this bill's passing out of the House as well.

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.

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

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

HOUSING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.