

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 310 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 43) was rejected.

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. BUTLER assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we reached an agreement here, which I will get to in a second. I just want to say a brief word about the vote that just happened.

I am very glad that this CRA was defeated. There are millions of students—poor, working class, some middle class, almost none wealthy—who benefit from what the President has done. The very poor people, they don't have to pay student loans. For most of the rest who are working class and middle class, they pay about half of what they did. It really is a change to help our young people. It is a good thing. It is a good thing.

I want to say that I am very glad that this Chamber had the good sense to defeat it, because I don't understand my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who believe in "we can cut taxes for the very wealthy and decrease the deficit, but not help students with the big loan burdens on their shoulders." But that is how it is.

President Biden has been really careful about doing this. I believe it will be approved in the courts.

And, now, the 25.5 million students who have benefited from this and millions more will continue. So this is a real victory for our young people and for the future of America, so kids can afford to go to college and then have decent lives, not burdened by huge amounts of student debt after they graduate.

Now, the good news is—that was good news, at least in my opinion. This is probably good news in many of our opinions, on both sides of the aisle, that we have an agreement.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6363

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 248, H.R. 6363, be withdrawn and that the motion to proceed be agreed to; further, that the only amendment in order to H.R. 6363 be the Paul amendment, No. 1366; that there be up to 15 minutes for debate equally divided; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate vote on or in relation to the amendment; that upon disposition of the amendment, there be up to 30 minutes for debate equally divided; that upon the use or yielding back of the time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage, without further intervening action or debate, and with 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 2670

Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of H.R. 6363, the Chair lay before the Senate the message with respect to H.R. 2670, the National Defense Authorization Act, which was received from the House; that the leader or his designee then be recognized to make the compound motion under rule XXVIII; that the Senate insist upon its amendment, agree to the conference with the House, authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees with the ratio of conferees being 13 to 12; further, that if the compound motion is agreed to, it be in order for the following Senators or their designees to offer motions to instruct, which are at the desk: KLOBUCHAR, RUBIO, HICKENLOOPER, BLACKBURN, LANKFORD, LUMMIS, CRAMER, MORAN, ERNST, HAGERTY, BRAUN, and MANCHIN; finally, that the Democratic conferees be Senators REED, SHAHEEN, GILLIBRAND, BLUMENTHAL, HIRONO, KAINE, KING, WARREN, PETERS, Manchin, DUCKWORTH, ROSEN, and KELLY; and that the Republican conferees be Senators WICKER, FISCHER, COTTON, ROUNDS, ERNST, SULLIVAN, CRAMER, SCOTT of FLORIDA, TUBERVILLE, MULLIN, BUDD, and SCHMITT.

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

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT, 2024

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to proceed is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6363) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 1366

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, to continue spending money at the current levels will inevitably lead to the bankruptcy of our great Nation. My amendment, in order to stave off such a terrible fiscal outcome, would cut approximately 1 percent of our budgetary spending and help to put us on the path toward fiscal responsibility.

In June of this year, the national debt surpassed \$32 trillion. Then, in September, the national debt surpassed \$33 trillion. You heard that right. It took Congress 90 short days to add \$1 trillion in debt. Unless we change course, the debt will consume us.

America's future as a nation is not threatened from without but from within. Our mounting debt will ultimately force a day of reckoning. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that we will add an average of \$2 trillion in debt every year for the next decade. Using Congressional Budget Office projections, the U.S. Government will add over \$5 billion to its debt pile every single day for the next 10 years.

We borrow over \$176 million every hour. We borrow \$3 million every minute, and we borrow \$50,000 every second. It is only a matter of time before the world wakes up and refuses to buy our debt.

This reckless level of borrowing and spending is patently unsustainable. The ever-increasing heights of our debt mean a weak economy, high inflation, and confiscatory tax rates. In other words, today's spending threatens tomorrow's prosperity.

According to William McBride of the Tax Foundation, "outside of the pandemic years, this year's federal deficit is the highest in U.S. history."

McBride continues:

Figures from the Congressional Budget Office for fiscal year 2023 indicate that the federal deficit grew by about \$2 trillion.

McBride also states that "while tax revenue has increased 28 percent since the prepandemic year of 2019, spending has increased about 46 percent and the deficit has more than doubled. Annual deficits are headed toward [even] \$3 trillion" a year if we don't wake up and do something about it.

McBride concludes:

In sum, the federal budget continues on a perilous course. . . . Now would be a good time for our political leaders to present a coherent plan for dealing with the debt problem before it becomes an urgent crisis.

That is why I am here on the floor today. Americans are starved for a voice of fiscal sanity. Americans understand far better than the Nation's elites that time is running out. Americans will pay dearly for Congress's inability to say no to every cause, every line item, every pinstripe lobbyist. We will pay more to Uncle Sam in the form of taxes. We will pay more for groceries because of high levels of inflation that will destroy our purchasing power. And we will find a generation of kids who won't leave their parents' homes because businesses cannot afford to hire them.

It doesn't have to be this way. America can once again be a rising nation, and we can take that first step toward a brighter future today. My amendment will make across-the-board reductions except for defense and veterans' benefits. Additionally, the amendment would cut \$30 billion from the Biden administration's attempt to sic the IRS on American taxpayers to squeeze even more money out of those who earned their hard-earned dollars.

All told, my amendment would save taxpayers \$60 billion, which is only about 1 percent of all budgetary spending. It is a small and modest reduction in spending, but it is a step in the right direction.

This is not the first time I have offered an amendment to save the taxpayers money. Throughout my time in the Senate, I have, time and time again, offered balanced budgets and plans that would shave pennies—mere pennies—from every budgetary program to restore our fiscal health, and, every time, these proposals are rejected by the Senate. The result of failing to act then is that, today, we now vote in the shadow of a mountain of debt.

It is time that we rise up. Rise up and tell your Members of Congress that enough is enough. It is time to take a stand while the restoration of American prosperity is still within our grasp. By the time this continuing resolution expires, the people who ask for your vote next year will have added another \$1 trillion to the debt. It is time to take a stand.

I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment and call up amendment No. 1366 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 1366.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To reduce continuing funding by 15 percent, except for the Department of Defense, military construction, and the Department of Veterans Affairs and to rescind \$30,000,000,000 from enforcement funds provided to the Internal Revenue Service)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____ FIFTEEN PERCENT REDUCTION IN CONTINUING FUNDING EXCEPT FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RESCISSION OF IRS ENFORCEMENT FUNDS.

Division A of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 118-15), as amended by section 101 of this division, is further amended by inserting after section 146 the following:

"SEC. 147. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the rate for operations provided by section 101 of this division is hereby reduced by 15.0 percent.

"(b) The rate for operations shall not be reduced under subsection (a) with respect to the appropriation Act described in section 101(3) (relating to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023) or the appropriation Act described in section 101(10) (relating to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023).

"SEC. 148. Of the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for enforcement activities of the Internal Revenue Service by section 10301(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the "Inflation Reduction Act of 2022") as of the date of enactment of this Act, \$30,000,000,000 are hereby rescinded."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, there is a lot we need to get done. As soon as we prevent a shutdown by passing this continuing resolution, we need to come together in a bipartisan way to keep working on things like the comprehensive supplemental funding package for Ukraine and Israel, for humanitarian assistance, and more. And, of course, we have to pass our full-year spending bills that live up to the agreement this Congress passed in a bipartisan way and meet the needs of our communities. These are real issues that we need to take seriously and move on quickly.

And then there is this amendment, which—let's all be honest—is just not serious but would be absolutely devastating. This amendment would slash huge swaths of discretionary spending by a whopping and totally arbitrary 15 percent, not to mention the cut to the IRS of \$30 billion. We are talking across the board cuts with no rhyme or reason that would devastate our families, our economy, our competitive edge, and our national security.

That is not a solution. It is not serious. It is a gift to our adversaries, who want us to fall behind. And it is a slap in the face to families across the country who are counting on the critical investments Congress makes in their communities.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1366

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I yield back my time, and I call for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment?

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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 32, nays 65, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 311 Leg.]

YEAS—32

Barrasso	Ernst	Marshall
Blackburn	Fischer	Mullin
Braun	Grassley	Paul
Britt	Hagerty	Ricketts
Budd	Hawley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Schmitt
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	

NAYS—65

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boozman	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Butler	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Capito	Manchin	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Carper	McConnell	Tillis
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Collins	Merkley	Vance
Coons	Moran	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young
Heinrich	Romney	

NOT VOTING—3

Cornyn	Risch	Scott (SC)
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The amendment (No. 1366) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be up to 30 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have good news for the American people: This Friday night, there will be no government shutdown. Because of bipartisan cooperation, we are keeping the government open without any poison pills or harmful cuts to vital programs—a great outcome for the American people.

I am pleased that Speaker JOHNSON realized he needed Democratic votes to avoid a shutdown. If the Speaker is willing to work with Democrats and resist the siren's song of the hard right in the House, then we can avoid shutdowns in the future and finish the work of funding the government.

Today's CR is a good first step and a very good omen for the future. I hope we see more bipartisanship down the line.

Every time I have gotten on the phone with the Speaker, I have stressed we need bipartisanship if we want to finish the appropriations process. I hope the new Speaker continues to choose the bipartisan approach as he commendably has in his first foray.

Now, keeping the government open is a good outcome, but we have a lot more to do after Thanksgiving. We must finish passing President Biden's emergency supplemental with aid to Israel, Ukraine, humanitarian assistance for innocent civilians in Gaza, and funds for the Indo-Pacific. We will keep working with Leader MCCONNELL on a way forward.

I know that both sides genuinely care about providing aid to Israel and Ukraine and helping innocent civilians in Gaza, so I hope we can come to an agreement, even if neither side gets everything they insist on.

We will also complete our work on the National Defense Authorization Act before the end of the year. For now, I thank my colleagues for voting to keep the government open. I thank Leader MCCONNELL, Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, and all of the appropriators. Again, no government shutdown, no cuts to vital programs, no poison pills. This is a great outcome for the American people.

Now, my colleagues, after this vote on the CR, we have one more vote, to vote a conference on the NDAA. I urge everyone to stay here so we can finish the next vote quickly, and then do the third vote without further delay.

I yield the floor to the wonderful chair of the Appropriations Committee who did so much to get us here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I will vote for this bill to avoid a senseless shutdown although I do not care for this idea of two funding deadlines and double the shutdown risk. But the big picture I am focused on right now is what happens next, because avoiding a shutdown is so very far from mission accomplished. We have a lot of work to do after the dust settles and before the next shutdown deadline comes up. Now is not the time to pat ourselves on the back. It is time to roll up our sleeves and pass supplemental funding to address urgent global challenges and critical priorities here at home.

Our leadership is on the line and with it, the security of our allies and our Nation. We cannot do half of our job here. We need a supplemental that fully addresses the challenges to Ukraine, Israel, humanitarian aid, and the Indo-Pacific.

And we are not pitting American families against America's global leadership. We have got to tackle the childcare crisis and other urgent domestic priorities just as we address our urgent national security priorities. We are the United States of America. We can and must do both.

And, on that note, let me just say this: Failing to fully fund WIC for the first time ever is not an acceptable outcome to me under any circumstances.

Now, turning to the year ahead, if we don't want to be right back here in a few weeks facing a one-two-punch shutdown threat, we need all of us to get serious about 1-year postpending bills.

So I have an important message for Speaker JOHNSON and the House Republicans. We can only get these spending bills done if we are all on the same page when it comes to the topline numbers. The good news is, that is already a settled matter, because we actually passed bipartisan topline in the debt limit deal that House Republicans and the President negotiated—a deal that Speaker JOHNSON voted for, along with so many other Members on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers.

So let's be clear: The negotiating has already happened. House Republicans just need to stick to their word and what they helped pass into law.

I am glad to see the Speaker abandon tying cuts or extreme policies to this CR. He will also need to do that to our annual bills if we are going to be able to conference any of them, because if we can't get back to those topline numbers that this Congress has already agreed to, we are not going to get anywhere. It is that simple.

We have to work together; we have to keep our word; and we have to compromise. That means listening to the other side, making some tough decisions, leaving out partisan nonstarters, and writing a bill that can actually pass into law. That is going to make a difference for the people we represent at home. That is exactly how Vice Chair COLLINS and I have been able to work with Members across the political spectrum to craft 12 bipartisan spending bills.

So let's get to work. Let's end this threat of a government shutdown. Then let's get that full-year funding our Nation needs signed into law.

I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Under the previous order, the bill is considered read a third time.

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

VOTE ON H.R. 6363

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

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 87, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 312 Leg.]

YEAS—87

Baldwin	Budd	Cassidy
Barrasso	Butler	Collins
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Coons
Booker	Capito	Cortez Masto
Boozman	Cardin	Cotton
Britt	Carper	Cramer
Brown	Casey	Cruz

Daines	Klobuchar	Rounds
Duckworth	Lankford	Rubio
Durbin	Lujan	Sanders
Ernst	Lummis	Schatz
Fetterman	Manchin	Schumer
Fischer	Markey	Shaheen
Gillibrand	Marshall	Sinema
Graham	McConnell	Smith
Grassley	Menendez	Stabenow
Hagerty	Merkley	Sullivan
Hassan	Moran	Tester
Hawley	Mullin	Thune
Heinrich	Murkowski	Tillis
Hickenlooper	Murphy	Van Hollen
Hirono	Murray	Warner
Hoeben	Ossoff	Warnock
Hyde-Smith	Padilla	Warren
Johnson	Peters	Welch
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
Kelly	Ricketts	Wicker
Kennedy	Romney	Wyden
King	Rosen	Young

NAYS—11

Bennet	Lee	Scott (FL)
Blackburn	Paul	Tuberville
Braun	Risch	Vance
Crapo	Schmitt	

NOT VOTING—2

Cornyn Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). On this vote, the yeas are 87, the nays are 11.

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

The bill (H.R. 6363) was agreed to.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk lays before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2670) entitled "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes", and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

COMPOUND MOTION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendment, agree to the conference with the House, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees, as provided under the previous order.

I know of no further debate on the compound motion, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

VOTE ON COMPOUND MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The question is on agreeing to the compound motion.

The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator