

lack of resources. The additional funding in this bill will help to surge support to meet emergent personnel, equipment, and logistical needs. It will also allow for the Department of Defense to be reimbursed for the activities that it provides and will now resume for former President Trump.

The continuing resolution also allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, immediate access to more than \$20 billion for its Disaster Relief Fund to sustain disaster assistance during the period covered by this CR.

This funding resolution is the product of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations. It is essential that it be adopted in order to prevent a government shutdown, and I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am very pleased that we now have a straightforward, bipartisan compromise to fund the government and avoid a pointless, devastating shutdown. I hope every single one of my colleagues will join us in voting to pass this bill.

Our work does not end here. My hope is that now we can get going in earnest on hammering out bipartisan full-year funding bills, including providing long overdue disaster assistance.

It is time for Democrats and Republicans to negotiate those bills together instead of House Republicans just following the loudest voices on the far right, because it is getting a little exhausting to watch some House Republicans push again and again for the most extreme, partisan cuts and policies—stuff that is not realistic at all—before learning the same lessons the hard way yet again.

You cannot strike a deal to govern with people who do not really want to govern. You can't avoid a shutdown trying to placate the people who want a shutdown. But here is the important thing: You do not have to waste time trying. If you are serious about governing, you do not have to let a few extreme House Republicans set the agenda or let Donald Trump call the shots.

There is a better way, and I know because it is the path that we have been following here in the Senate. Vice Chair COLLINS and I passed 11 funding bills out of our committee with overwhelming bipartisan support. We negotiated strong bills that could actually be signed into law and would make a real difference for folks back at home.

We did it by listening to each other, by listening to folks back home, rejecting partisan policies, and focusing on how we set our Nation and families up for success. That is the same approach I hope we can now take now that this CR gives us the time we need to negotiate bipartisan, bicameral full-year bills.

I know compromise takes time, and it takes a lot of hard work. I have hammered out with my colleague many tough deals here in my time, but I

think we have proven in this Congress, many times over, that the path to bipartisanship is far easier and far more productive than the dead-end MAGA extremism House Republicans keep making their very first priority.

So let's all vote to pass this CR, and then let's get to work, in a serious bipartisan way, on our full-year funding bills and on meeting the long overdue disaster relief needs of so many of our States and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I do think it is important to point out that the House passed this bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand the Senate has received H.R. 9747 from the House, and I ask the Chair to execute the order of September 24 with respect to the bill.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to legislative session.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9747) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight, the American people can sleep easier knowing we have avoided an unnecessary government shutdown at the end of the month. It is a relief for the country that, once again, bipartisanship prevailed to stop another shutdown threat. It took much longer than it should have, but because House Republicans finally, finally chose to work with us in the end, Congress is getting the job done tonight.

Because bipartisanship ultimately prevailed, the government will stay open. Vital government services will not be halted. Appropriators will have more time to fully fund the government before the end of the year. This bipartisanship is a good outcome for America, and I hope it sets the tone for more constructive bipartisan work when we return later in the fall.

Thanks to Speaker Johnson for working with me on the agreement, and thanks to Leader MCCONNELL and Leader JEFFRIES for helping make it happen—and a special thanks to our appropriators, particularly Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS, for setting an excellent example of bipartisanship.

I urge everyone to vote yes, and I urge us to vote now.

I yield back all time.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeben	Sanders
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Lujan	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Lee	Schmitt
Crapo	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Fischer	Mullin	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 78, the nays are 18.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this bill, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 9747) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session and resume consideration of the Perry nomination.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HERRLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for 2 weeks now, I have come to the floor to continue thanking my staff in the Republican leader office publicly for their outstanding and ongoing work.

Over the years, I have been very fortunate to have so many tremendously talented individuals helping me tend to the duties of the leader. But just as I am grateful that so many have decided to join our team, I am even more gratified by how few have decided to leave.

Since I became leader, my office here in the Capitol has been steered by just two chiefs of staff. We have had just two communication directors, two national security advisers, three legal counsels—just to name a few examples. It has been a bit like managing a baseball team with a franchise player in every single position—every one of them marked by loyalty, professionalism, and genuine expertise.

So, today, I would like to single out members of this all-star team of policy advisers. I will begin with my senior adviser on appropriations, Cindy Herrle.

My entire team misses Cindy around the office, but the wealth of institutional expertise she lent to our efforts more than earned her the right to close out a distinguished chapter on Capitol Hill. She retired earlier this year.

Cindy joined my team with about the most impressive resume in senior congressional leadership you could possibly have: House committee work, two Speakers of the House, and a Senate whip. Suffice it to say: She knows her stuff.

Cindy's experience gave her a sixth sense of spotting issues along the way or anticipating pitfalls and helping us all avoid them.

She knows the arcane mechanics of budgets and appropriations. She knows the people who write them, edit them, and pass them. And her understanding of both Chambers gives her and anyone fortunate to have her in their corner a macro view of the process of funding the government.

I know my team was especially grateful for Cindy's skills as a "House whisperer," so to speak. She was our forecaster for legislative prospects across the Capitol, a trusted liaison with the lower Chamber, whenever it came time to get important bicameral efforts across the finish line.

And even in the most stressful moments, Cindy knew how to cut the tension, donning her trusty "good luck" sunglasses or inviting colleagues to enjoy her annual Dolly Parton Advent calendar.

Cindy can look back with pride both for delivering excellence in difficult circumstances and for making so many friends all along the way.

But I am confident that Cindy's dearest relationship on the Hill was the parallel service of her brother Patrick, who is in the Capitol Police.

I am grateful to each of them for their decades of devoted service. Thank you, Cindy.

TRIBUTE TO JIM NEILL

Mr. President, I have found humor in what my good friend Lamar Alexander used to say about the job of being leader of the Senate. He said:

It is a little bit like being a groundskeeper at a cemetery. Everyone is under you, but no one is listening.

Truth is, in a place like the Senate, we can only be effective by rowing in the same direction with folks who share our principles. And for 7 years, the senior adviser helping me build and maintain conservative coalitions has been the youngest son of a big Irish-Catholic family from Detroit.

Jim Neill's roots taught him what is worth standing for and how to get a noisy room to listen to him. In meetings of my staff, all Jim has to do to get our attention is simply stand up.

But his engagements further afield draw on Jim's other strengths: authenticity, candor, a political weather vane with a dead read on gathering changes, and a principled compass that points true north.

I can't begin to tell you how many times important Senate accomplishments have nearly died on the launch pad but for Jim's deft and diplomatic touch.

Like many of our fellow travelers, Jim credits President Reagan with an outsized role in forming both his interest in politics and his conservative principles.

But I suspect that fewer conservatives of Jim's generation would use the next breath to credit legendary Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards with forming his style and good taste.

Around the office, my team's resident rock and roll historian doles out wicked humor and curmudgeonly quips in equal measure. But Jim's colleagues know him most of all as a trusted friend, a big brother, whose advice and perspective ring true.

Of course, credit for Jim's ability to wrestle thorny issues on a daily basis goes to his wife Erin, who keeps him grounded, and to his kids Maggie and Patrick, who I know make him extraordinarily proud. So thank you, Jim, so much.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE PARKS

Mr. President, now the space Jim shares with several colleagues is among the liveliest in my office, and that is due in no small part to my senior advisor on healthcare policy, Stephanie Parks. We just call her "Sparks."

Sparks is responsible for a portfolio that few people in Washington fully understand but which none of us can afford to get wrong. It is a lot like playing left tackle, and I always want the best covering my back.

As it turns out, identifying the best wasn't that difficult. In the world of healthcare policy, Sparks's reputation is unmatched. She is among the most highly regarded policy professionals in Washington.

She can sew up a tough deal like no other. And when the job requires dashing hopes or breaking china, she is somehow able to do that with a smile and with her universal admiration still intact.

Needless to say, everyone in Washington would be eager to bring Sparks's talent on board. Fortunately for me, I wasn't the only one who was eager to make sure she landed here. In fact, no less a former boss than Speaker of the House Ryan made frequent calls to my office to make sure we hired her.

Well, the Speaker was right, and I have been so grateful for Sparks's knack for making sense of complex policy developments, keeping me apprised of the ever-shifting tides of important debates.

I know the rest of my team, for their part, are grateful for the office's foremost authority on developments in true crime, Formula 1 racing, and Notre Dame football.

And I know that Sparks's professional excellence makes her beloved family, especially her mom Barbara and her many friends, rightly proud.

But since my Louisville Cardinals are headed to South Bend this weekend, I have to close my otherwise unqualified praise with just two words: "Go Cards!"

Sparks, thank you for everything.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE DONALDSON

Mr. President, now, as one of so many lawyers in the Senate, I have always been quick to admit to colleagues I wouldn't go to me for a simple will. But I have been fortunate to have counsel on my team who can handle that and a whole lot more.

The first such person I need to thank might very well be a victim of fate. My senior advisor and counsel Steve Donaldson is a proud native Kentuckian, a sharp lawyer, and one of the few experts out there on the intricacies of campaign finance.

Frankly, it is nearly impossible to imagine a situation in which Steve didn't wind up working for me someday. I needed somebody who could keep up on this niche issue that I have been immersed in through my entire time in the Senate. In that regard, Steve was an obvious choice.

But over the years, I have come to rely on Steve as so much more than a trusted sounding board on our shared interest in the First Amendment. He is also our resident whiz on the nuances of employment law. It is an important issue to begin with, but it took on massive new importance with the onset of the pandemic a few years ago.

Steve became my team's trusted navigator through the serious public health concerns and rapidly evolving official guidance. At the most consequential time in the unemployment