

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight, the Senate finally corrects a 50-year mistake by passing the Social Security Fairness Act. Millions of retired teachers and firefighters and letter carriers and State and local workers have waited decades for this moment. No longer will public retirees see their hard-earned Social Security benefits robbed from them, thanks to this bill. It is a very good thing that one of the final acts of the 118th Congress is delivering a huge win for working Americans.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their outstanding work, particularly Senators BROWN, COLLINS, and CASSIDY, who led the way, and all those who relentlessly, across the country, called their Senators and got this done.

AMERICAN RELIEF ACT OF 2025

Madam President, tonight, the Senate delivers more good news for America. Tonight, the Senate delivers good news for America. There will be no government shutdown right before Christmas.

(Applause.)

This is a good bill. It will keep the government open and funded, and it helps Americans affected by hurricanes and natural disasters. It helps our farmers and avoids harmful cuts. After a chaotic few days in the House, it is good news that the bipartisan approach, in the end, prevailed. It is a good lesson for next year. Both sides have to work together.

By dealing with people who have had trouble with disasters, by helping our farmers, and avoiding harmful cuts, this is a good bill, and I am glad we are passing it.

I thank my Republican colleagues for working with us to move this bill quickly through the Senate. It is a good outcome for America and the American people.

I yield the floor.

AMERICAN RELIEF ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 10545, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 10545) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

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

The senior Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I will not use 15 minutes, but I do want to just let our colleagues know that I am very pleased that we are on the verge of passing long overdue relief desperately needed by communities that are recovering from disaster, as well as avoiding a damaging shutdown.

The only reason it took so long and this much chaos to get here is that

House Republicans chose chaos and chose to follow the whims of the richest man in the world. Needless to say, that is not how this should work.

But I am glad that at the end of the day, we will avoid a shutdown and get disaster relief out to families and communities that are struggling after being hit by hurricanes and fires and floods and so much more.

I worked hard with Members on both sides of the aisle to finally get this aid across the line and to make sure we did so in a comprehensive way that meets the wide range of critical needs in the country, because it is painfully clear there are so many communities that are still reeling from hurricanes, wildfires, tornadoes, flooding, and more that really do need this support.

So, despite all the unnecessary chaos and delay, I am glad we are finally here, getting this done. This relief will make a critical difference for folks who have lost it all and are simply working to get their feet back underneath them.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this package so we can get this over the line and avoid a needless shutdown as we head into the holidays.

Finally, one last important thing. I want to recognize my colleagues who helped pull this relief package together, especially my vice chair on Appropriations, Senator COLLINS, who has been a critical partner, and our House counterparts, Congresswoman DELAURO and Congressman COLE, who have pushed so hard to get this disaster relief done.

Of course, I want to thank all of our staff, especially Evan Schatz, our staff director, who worked so hard around the clock to pull together not just the disaster relief in this package but so many other critical funding packages and proposals over the last 2 years I have been chair of the Appropriations Committee. The work is never easy, and I am incredibly grateful to our entire team and to all of our colleagues who have been working so hard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise to urge the passage of the American Relief Act. This bill will avert a costly government shutdown. Although it is after 12 midnight, we are going to avert it. It will deliver much needed assistance to individuals, small businesses, and communities working to rebuild and repair in the wake of natural disasters. It provides much needed aid to our farmers across the country, who have been hit by a tidal wave of harmful economic conditions.

I want to thank the many Senators who have contributed to this legislation. In particular, I want to recognize Chair MURRAY for her leadership of the Appropriations Committee during this Congress.

I hope that in the next Congress, we can bring appropriations bills to the Senate floor in a timely fashion to

avoid this kind of end-of-the-year pile-up.

I do urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I, too, want to recognize and thank my outstanding staff for their hard work.

SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Finally, Madam President, I do want to say that it is a great accomplishment that tonight the Senate passed the Social Security Fairness Act, which will be sent to the President for his signature. This is long overdue.

I want to share with my colleagues one really important fact, and that is that 83 percent of those who are affected by the government pension offset, which we repealed tonight, are lower income women. So this is a great accomplishment to eliminate these two inequitable, unfair provisions of the Social Security Act. It is going to make a big difference.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is the last vote not only of this evening but of the 118th Congress.

We yield back all time.

(Applause.)

VOTE ON H.R. 10545

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

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 is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Cramer	King
Barrasso	Cruz	Klobuchar
Bennet	Daines	Lankford
Blackburn	Duckworth	Lujan
Blumenthal	Durbin	Lummis
Booker	Ernst	Markey
Boozman	Fetterman	Marshall
Britt	Fischer	McConnell
Brown	Gillibrand	Merkley
Budd	Graham	Moran
Cantwell	Grassley	Mullin
Capito	Hagerty	Murkowski
Cardin	Hassan	Murphy
Carper	Heinrich	Murray
Casey	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cassidy	Hirono	Padilla
Collins	Hoeven	Peters
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Cornyn	Kaine	Ricketts
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Rosen
Cotton	Kim	Rounds

Schatz	Sullivan	Warren
Schumer	Tester	Welch
Scott (FL)	Thune	Whitehouse
Scott (SC)	Tillis	Wicker
Shaheen	Tuberville	Wyden
Sinema	Van Hollen	Young
Smith	Warner	
Stabenow	Warnock	

NAYS—11

Braun	Kennedy	Romney
Crapo	Lee	Sanders
Hawley	Paul	Schmitt
Johnson	Risch	

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Schiff
Rubio	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 11.

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

The bill (H.R. 10545) was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session to consider the following nominations, en bloc: Calendar Nos. 851, 853, 854, and 857.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years (New Position); Ronald L. Batory, of New Mexico, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years; Elaine Marie Clegg, of Idaho, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years; and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years?

The nominations are confirmed en bloc.

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 actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3433

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, in a moment, I will ask for unanimous consent to pass H.R. 3433, the bipartisan Give Kids a Chance Act. I would like to highlight how important this legislation is for children with cancer all across this country.

The Give Kids a Chance Act finally authorizes the FDA to direct companies who are conducting research for adult cancer drugs to study those drugs in combination with others to see whether they also can work well for kids who have cancer.

The bill continues the work that Senator RUBIO and I started in 2017, when we worked together to pass the RACE for Children Act, which required sponsors of certain adult cancer drugs to study the benefits or the effects and their use in children.

Since then, Senator RUBIO and I have both learned that combination thera-

pies can be effective treatments and reduce the risk of side effects significantly, both for adults and for kids. That is why this legislation is so important.

This bill can help save the lives of children all over our country who have the most aggressive forms of cancer. It would ensure that pharmaceutical companies are being held accountable to study how their drugs affect children who may have the same kind of cancer as adults but who need more tailored treatment in combination with other drugs.

I know Senator RUBIO and I have both heard numerous stories from patients who have asked for themselves and parents who have asked on behalf of their children and who have advocated on behalf of children who have passed away.

This bill also authorizes the FDA to take enforcement action against companies that do not conduct the pediatric trials that are required under the Pediatric Research Equity Act and requires the FDA to report on enforcement of this act.

Additionally, the bill reauthorizes the FDA rare pediatric disease priority review voucher program through fiscal year 2029, which incentivizes drug development for rare pediatric diseases.

This bill has the support of dozens and dozens of organizations that represent kids and parents all across our country. I ask unanimous consent that their names be printed in the RECORD. In the interest of time this evening, I won't read them on the floor, although I want to say how deeply I appreciate their efforts.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Kids v Cancer, Arms Wide Open, Christina Renna Foundation Inc, Curing Kids Cancer, DADA2 Foundation, Elevate Childhood Cancer, End Kids Cancer, EVAN Foundation, Gabriella's Smile Foundation, Give Kids The World, just to name a few.

Mr. BENNET. I would also like to highlight the bipartisan nature of this work—Senator RUBIO, as a cosponsor, with Senators CASEY and MULLIN, who cosponsored provisions of this House bill as well.

This bill has passed unanimously out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It has passed the House by voice vote.

Now is the time to pass this bill. If we pass it tonight, it will go to the President for his signature.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of and that the Senate proceed to H.R. 3433; further, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I just want to say how deeply I regret the objection of the Senator from Kentucky. That is, of course, his right. I gather that he is objecting because he objects to the lateness of the hour and the time with which this request was made. At least, that is what I was told earlier tonight.

I think after we have been held here in place for hours and hours and hours, the idea that we are not going to be able to pass this legislation is deeply, deeply disappointing to the people who have advocated for this for all of these years. It is a reflection, I think, of how broken this place is in the way that it puts its own interests ahead of the interests of the people who we represent. But we will be back to fight another day.

Mr. President, I wish you and the staff here in the Senate at this late hour, and my colleagues who are here as well, happy holidays and Merry Christmas. We will see you in the new year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4531

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass into law lifesaving, bipartisan legislation that will enable us to keep fighting the opioid and fentanyl epidemic that has destroyed families and devastated communities across our country.

New data from just this week found that drug overdose deaths dropped 17 percent from last summer to this summer. We now have a much better sense of what works to prevent and treat addiction, the resources we need to do so, and the light that exists on the other end of this terrible, terrible tunnel. But we can only get there if we keep up the fight.

The SUPPORT Act of 2018 established vital addiction treatment infrastructure. Reauthorizing this law is essential to our addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. Just two of many examples include funding addiction treatment for pregnant women and supporting first responders.

The original SUPPORT Act passed the Senate with 98 votes, and the bipartisan reauthorization passed the House with 386 votes. Now the Senate must send it to the President's desk before we adjourn for the year. This is not the time for complacency, nor is it time for despair. Nothing less than people's lives depend on us acting.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4531 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and