

Sheehy  
Sullivan

Thune  
Tuberville

Wicker  
Young

# NAYS—45

Alsobrooks  
Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Blunt Rochester  
Booker  
Cantwell  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Fetterman  
Gallago  
Gillibrand  
Hassan

Heinrich  
Hickenlooper  
Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
Kim  
King  
Klobuchar  
Luján  
Markey  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters

Reed  
Rosen  
Schatz  
Schiff  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Slotkin  
Smith  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

# NOT VOTING—5

Boozman  
Hoeven

Murray  
Sanders

Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

## RUSSIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, anyone here remember how Donald Trump promised to end Russia's war on Ukraine in 1 day if he was elected? That is right: 1 day. Well, we are 73 days into his term, with Russia still raining death and destruction upon the people of Ukraine. Instead of ending the war, Donald Trump has alienated and bullied our allies around the world—our allies.

He insulted and blackmailed Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, who has led Ukrainians fighting bravely for more than 3 years, and 46,000 Ukrainians have died in defense of their country. He has decimated low-cost soft power by gutting USAID and Voice of America, giving away our influence and leadership to China and Russia—a move the head of Russian state TV called—get this quote—“an awesome decision by Trump! We couldn't shut them down, unfortunately, but America did so itself.”

By turning our backs on the rest of the world, Donald Trump is undermining the promise of America as a beacon of democracy, freedom, and human rights. All the while, Russian President Putin is laughing at us, watching with glee as America destroys its own leadership and credibility—something he could only have dreamed of in his former KGB days.

If you don't believe me, read New York Times columnist Tom Friedman. His recent column's title tells the story: “I Don't Believe a Single Word Trump and Putin Say About Ukraine.”

Washington Post columnist Max Boot wrote “Putin is playing Trump and Witkoff like a Stradivarius,” ask-

ing dismayingly what the rest of us are pondering as well: “Does Trump seriously believe Putin is negotiating in good faith to end the war in Ukraine?”

Or listen to the senior Republican Senator from Kentucky. Here is what he said:

Unless we change course, the outcome we're heading for today is one we can least afford: a headline that reads “Russia wins, America loses”. . . . An illusory peace that shreds America's credibility, leaves Ukraine under threat, weakens our alliances, and emboldens our enemies.

I agree.

Consider the last few months of negotiations between Trump and Putin that led almost nowhere and emboldened Russia. The supposed cease-fire was supposed to narrowly limit Russian attacks, and here we have them bombing hospitals.

A supposed deal to stop fighting in the Black Sea was a giveaway to the Russians that undermined the Ukrainians.

Or consider President Trump's special peace envoy Steve Witkoff, a real estate tycoon from New York who is in competition with Neville Chamberlain for the world's most naive appeaser. Witkoff recently told another Putin apologist, Tucker Carlson, that he liked Putin and didn't regard him as a bad guy.

The same Witkoff groveled over Putin's obviously manipulative portrait gift to Trump, and he said those forced at gunpoint in occupied eastern Ukraine to vote in a sham referendum actually really wanted to be part of Russia. He is buying the Kremlin talking points and the long list in total.

But as the President negotiates away Ukraine's freedom and America's credibility, Congress has an obligation and a constitutional responsibility to act. So I am glad this week that dozens of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle introduced legislation to make it clear to Russia that broad sanctions will be imposed if Russia does not negotiate in good faith and end this war soon. We owe Ukraine, and we certainly owe our own country nothing less.

## TARIFFS

Mr. President, on another topic of global importance, President Trump once again announced an escalation of trade wars with many of our closest allies and trade partners. He proclaimed it “Liberation Day” yesterday. “Liberation Day” is what he called it, but don't expect any ticker-tape parades or flag displays in the windows of American homes to celebrate this “Liberation Day.” The American public has been clear: They want to see prices come down, not go up. Americans are sick of paying too much for eggs and gas and for the everyday necessities they need to provide for their families, to commute to work, to pay the mortgage.

Trump's tariffs—or what I call Trump's national sales tax—Trump's national sales tax will do exactly the opposite. The 10-percent tariffs the

President announced will result in an increase of thousands of dollars in costs for the households of everyday Americans. Experts estimate that Trump's national sales tax—these tariffs—will cost the average family \$100 a week. That is \$5,000 annually. That is a lot of eggs.

Trump is pushing our economy in the wrong direction. During a time when many Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, this trade war is senseless, frivolous, and dangerous to American families' budgets.

Who in the world ever dreamed that the last election was about whether we want a trade war with Canada?

These tariffs are a tax hike on Americans and will cost businesses, consumers, farmers, and workers.

If Trump were less focused on annexing Canada and Greenland and Panama—and God knows who else—and raising revenue to pay for billionaire tax cuts, he would clearly see that the American people ardently disagree with his so-called “Liberation Day.” In fact, a recent poll found that 60 percent of Americans oppose the tariffs, and that is before they actually kicked in.

Look at the stock market today. How are you doing with that retirement account? Most Americans are not doing very well.

While the President claims that foreign countries will pay the tariffs, Americans know better. That burden of tariffs is carried by our companies and paid for by our consumers. Rest assured, the uncertainty and fear these tariffs will create will impact our Nation's workers and our economy.

America knows the economy is going the wrong way under Donald Trump. They won't be fooled. Witness what happened in Wisconsin just a few days ago. Even Trump's Rasputin, Elon Musk, cannot buy his way out of this mess. In fact, the only thing these tariffs are liberating is money from the wallets of hard-working Americans into the bank accounts of billionaires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

## UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 154

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on a matter that should not require clarification.

In the United States of America, no President, Republican or Democrat, serves more than two terms. That is not a suggestion; that is not a tradition; that is the law of the United States, enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. Yet, once again, President Donald Trump is openly suggesting that he should have a third term.

In an interview with NBC News, he was asked directly about his repeated comments on seeking a third term. This time, he left no room for doubt. He said he was “not joking” about a third term—“not joking.”

So let's be clear. This is not the first time Donald Trump has toyed with the idea of clinging to power beyond what the Constitution allows. He has mused

about serving 10 or 12 or even 16 years. He has floated the notion of repealing the 22nd Amendment. His supporters have worn T-shirts reading "Trump 2028." His allies have spread the baseless notion that he was "owed" extra years because of supposed injustices against him.

Each time, when confronted, his defenders—Members of this very body—have dismissed it as a big joke. But the man himself has now made it clear: He was not joking. So why are congressional Republicans still pretending that he was joking?

Let's review what the Constitution actually says. The 22nd Amendment, ratified in 1951, states unequivocally:

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice.

No exceptions. No loopholes.

The 12th Amendment makes clear that no one who is constitutionally ineligible to serve as President may be elected as Vice President, closing the door on any scheme where a President resigns to elevate an unelected successor. The law is settled. The case is closed.

The reason we have these protections is simple: America is a republic, not a monarchy. The people's power is enshrined in the peaceful transition of leadership.

George Washington set the precedent of serving only two terms, and after Franklin Roosevelt's unprecedented four terms, both parties, Democrat and Republican, came together to enshrine term limits into law—the George Washington tradition into law. Every President since, Democrats and Republicans alike, has respected this safeguard until right now.

What we are witnessing is the continued erosion of constitutional order, met not with outrage from Republicans but with shrugs and chuckles and excuses. And those who claimed he was joking before now claim he is joking still after he says he is not. That is in violation of his own explicit statement that he is telling the truth. They are not just enabling a man's delusions of infinite power; they are setting the stage for something far more dangerous: The normalization of sedition.

Let me say this plainly: There is nothing funny about sedition. There is nothing amusing about a former President who incited an attack on this Capitol now openly fantasizing about defying the Constitution to remain in office. There is nothing humorous about Members of Congress excusing, enabling, and covering for a man who has already demonstrated his willingness to subvert democracy for his own personal gain.

So, at this moment, I will ask the Senate to take up and pass by unanimous consent my resolution making clear what should already be obvious: That under the 22nd and 12th Amendments to the Constitution, Donald Trump is ineligible in any future election to be elected as Vice President or President of the United States or to

serve as President beyond the conclusion of his current term.

This resolution is incredibly simple. It says that "the Twelfth amendment to the Constitution States that 'No person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States'. . . . [T]he Twenty-second amendment . . . states that 'No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once.'"

So, therefore, President "Trump is ineligible in any future elections to be elected Vice-President or President, or to serve as President beyond the conclusion of his current term."

That is it. That is the totality of what it says.

This is not a partisan statement; it is a constitutional one. Every Member of this Chamber, regardless of party, should be able to agree: No President is above the law. No President is entitled to more than two terms.

If my colleagues truly believe that it is all in jest, then let's put this to the test. Let's pass the resolution now because if they won't, the cost will be nothing less than the future of our Republic. And that is not a joke.

With that, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 154, which is at the desk; further I ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### NOMINATION OF MEHMET OZ

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, ahead of the Senate's final vote on the nomination of Dr. Mehmet Oz to head up the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, I want to take a couple minutes to describe what is at stake with this vote.

Dr. Oz is the second Trump nominee to pass through the Senate Finance Committee with a record of dodging Medicare and Social Security taxes. That means, if confirmed, the person running the Medicare Program thinks it is acceptable to not pay the taxes he owes into the programs he is running.

Let me repeat that: If confirmed, the person running the Medicare Program thinks it is acceptable to not pay the taxes he owes into the program he is running.

Now, in addition, during the consideration of this nominee, I pressed Dr. Oz on whether he believes nursing

homes ought to be staffed with a registered nurse 24/7. Once again, Dr. Oz refused to answer my question. He claimed it was a complicated question.

Not really, I told him. An AI chatbot paid for by private equity isn't going to take your mom to the bathroom or bring your grandpa his meals every day. I don't think it is at all complicated whether there ought to be a nurse on staff at every single nursing home.

Dr. Oz is certainly very able on television, but he seems to have no understanding that technology is no replacement for real nurses and real medical staff. That attitude is going to have a real impact as Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress pursue nearly \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts to achieve their billionaire tax breaks, which House Republicans have already passed.

Several weeks ago, Senate Republicans confirmed one of Trump's most unqualified and dangerous nominees to date, RFK Jr., who will be heading up America's healthcare at HHS. He was confirmed as well.

Now our country is facing the biggest measles outbreak in decades, while the Trump administration touts the benefits of cod liver oil and convinces parents not to vaccinate their kids.

The country has heard tragic tales of families following RFK Jr.'s advice on unproven alternative treatments for measles that end up sending kids to hospitals.

Just this week, he abruptly fired more than 10,000 public health workers, many of whom reportedly helped seniors navigate insurance claims when they were denied care or provided oversight over nursing homes.

Everything this administration is doing is an effort to make you and your family less safe.

Dr. Oz, unfortunately, has been out there peddling, over the years, unproven cures and treatments and encouraging people to ignore proven facts and science.

The dangers of promoting unqualified wellness grifters to be in charge of healthcare in our country is not just a talking point. These are real and deadly matters.

This week, Donald Trump and Senate Republicans are gearing up to pass their massive tax giveaway to billionaires and corporations. They are paying for it by gutting Medicaid and cutting off the services that millions of Americans rely on. Food stamps, Meals on Wheels, and Head Start are all on the chopping block, just so billionaires can go out and buy things like more yachts. These cuts to Medicaid are going to be devastating for kids and people with disabilities. It can destroy care in nursing homes as we know it. It will rip basic care away from seniors and kids.

Dr. Oz will be responsible for executing the destruction brought down on the Medicaid Program by the cuts Republicans are preparing to make.