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# **OUTLOOK: GOP lawmakers nominate Trump for Nobel Prize amid debate over destruction of Iranian facilities**

Plus: Taxpayer advocate raises red flags about next year; senators try a little bit of everything on rural hospitals.



Jimmy Carter's Nobel Peace Prize, seen at the Carter Library. Sen. Bernie Moreno has nominated President Trump for the prize.

## Savannah Behrmann, Amelia Monroe and Nancy Vu

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**R**epublican Sen. Bernie Moreno of Ohio announced Wednesday he would [nominate](https://www.moreno.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Sen-Moreno-Nobel-Peace-Prize-Resolution.pdf) [President Trump](https://www.moreno.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Sen-Moreno-Nobel-Peace-Prize-Resolution.pdf) for a Nobel Peace Prize for the strikes against Iran’s nuclear program and the ensuing “ceasefire between Israel and Iran.”

“President Trump just pulled off what neocons and Democrat globalists have failed to do for decades: peace in the Middle East with Iran’s nuclear arsenal decimated—all with no American boots on the

ground, American casualties, or injuries,” Moreno said in a statement. “President Trump is delivering exactly what he promised, the era of regime change and Forever wars abroad is over.

“Now it’s time for the world to recognize the obvious truth and award him the Nobel Peace Prize,” he said.

A ceasefire between the two countries, first announced by Trump on Monday, appeared to be holding Wednesday, though the situation remains incredibly fluid, and questions are rising about how much damage the Iranian nuclear facilities actually sustained.

[Reports](https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/24/politics/intel-assessment-us-strikes-iran-nuclear-sites) (<https://www.cnn.com/2025/06/24/politics/intel-assessment-us-strikes-iran-nuclear-sites>), on [Tuesday](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/24/us/politics/iran-nuclear-sites.html) (<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/24/us/politics/iran-nuclear-sites.html>), indicated that damage to Iran’s nuclear facilities possibly only set the nation’s nuclear program back by months, rather than completely obliterating it, as the administration has been [boasting](https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/06/irans-nuclear-facilities-have-been-obliterated-and-suggestions-otherwise-are-fake-news/) (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/06/irans-nuclear-facilities-have-been-obliterated-and-suggestions-otherwise-are-fake-news/>).

At the NATO summit in the Netherlands, Trump slammed the reports questioning the strikes’ impact. He said that because of the strikes, he doesn’t believe coming to a deal with Iran over its nuclear program is now “necessary.”

“The way I look at it, they fought, the war is done,” he said. “And you know, I could get a statement that they’re not going to go nuclear. We’re probably going to ask for that. But they’re not going to be doing it.

“We’re going to talk to them next week, with Iran; we may sign an agreement. To me, I don’t think it’s necessary.”

Moreno's effort has some support in the House, where Rep. Buddy Carter [nominated](https://buddycarter.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=15733) (https://buddycarter.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=15733), Trump on Tuesday for the Peace Prize “in recognition of his historic role in brokering a ceasefire between Israel and Iran.”

In a curious diplomatic footnote, the government of [Pakistan](https://x.com/GovtofPakistan/status/1936159807326900577) (https://x.com/GovtofPakistan/status/1936159807326900577), last week also nominated Trump for the prize for his “decisive diplomatic intervention” between the country and India earlier this year. Yet on Sunday, Pakistan [condemned the president](https://x.com/GovtofPakistan/status/1936722182324793408) (https://x.com/GovtofPakistan/status/1936722182324793408), for the very strikes Moreno had nominated him for, saying they “violate all norms of international law.”

Trump has been nominated several times in the past for the award, but has not won. The winner will be announced in October.

—[Savannah Behrmann](/search/?a=Savannah%20Behrmann) (/search/?a=Savannah%20Behrmann).





## **IRS midyear filing report raises red flags about the 2026 season**

Workforce reductions at the Internal Revenue Service and proposed tax-law changes could combine to make for a rocky 2026 filing season, according to National Taxpayer Advocate Erin Collins.

On Wednesday, Collins issued her 2025 midyear report to Congress, which showed some successes in tax filings. But the report raised red flags about persistent refund and processing delays that could get worse in 2026 if the IRS does not prepare.

“With the 2026 filing season on the horizon amid potential legislation changes and continuing staffing constraints ... early preparation is essential to ensure the IRS can deliver both effective taxpayer service and secure operations,” Collins wrote.

Some delays involve cases referred to the Identify Theft Victim Assistance unit. According to the report, the IDTVA had over 387,000 cases that took, on average, about 20 months to resolve.

“These delays disproportionately affect vulnerable populations dependent on their refunds to meet basic living expenses,” the report said. At the end of 2023, about 69 percent of affected taxpayers had adjusted gross incomes at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty rate.

Collins blamed many of the setbacks on technology systems that, despite efforts made by the IRS, have yet to be updated fully. The IRS has collaborated with the Treasury Department and the Department of Government Efficiency to establish technology projects to meet customer needs, including unified application programming interfaces, digitalization, and improved system interoperability.

—[\*Amelia Monroe\*](#) (</search/?a=Amelia%20Monroe>).

## **Senators throw topline for rural hospital fund at the wall, hoping one sticks**

Senate leadership is racing the clock to figure out a compromise for Republican holdouts on the party’s massive reconciliation bill, with a number of proposals floating around the conference on a rural hospital fund, which would aim to help mitigate the impacts of lowering provider taxes.

First, the big one: The Senate Finance Committee is sending a proposal to GOP offices that would make \$15 billion over five years available to rural hospitals, [\*according to a memo National Journal has obtained\*](#) ([/media/media/2025/06/25/file\\_2553\\_ysOmXLt.pdf](/media/media/2025/06/25/file_2553_ysOmXLt.pdf)). States would

use this fund to help cushion the impacts of lowering provider taxes down from 6 percent to 3.5 percent incrementally until 2031.

However, some of the holdouts aren't happy with that number.

Sen. Susan Collins has said to leadership that she wants \$100 billion for the fund, but she's been told that the number is too high. She told reporters Wednesday that it "does not look like that's where we're going to end up."

Fiscal hawks are all but certain to balk at the \$100 billion price tag. Sen. Rick Scott has floated an alternative with only \$6 billion for the fund—a number that sings a sweet tune to conservatives focused on cutting the nation's debt.

"We saw how states used COVID funds," Sen. Ron Johnson said of the Senate Finance proposal. "Go back and use Rick's proposal. It's a businesslike proposal. It's fiscally conservative."

While the topline number isn't likely to be as high as Collins's proposal, it needs to be higher than Scott's to appease the holdouts.

Sen. Josh Hawley, one of the loudest critics of the Senate bill's impacts on rural hospitals, wouldn't commit to a specific number, but he said Scott's proposal would be a "no-go." The Missouri Republican said the way the fund is structured is also important to him. He advocated for the Senate to go back to the House framework.

"If they succeed in getting this provider tax framework enacted in law, we'll have to fix it later," Hawley said. "It would just be devastating to rural hospitals."

—[Nancy Vu](#) ([/search/?a=Nancy%20Vu](#)).