



Committee: Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee

Event: [Business Meeting](#)

Date: August 6, 2026

Executive Summary:

On Thursday, August 6, 2026, the Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee held a business meeting to consider [55 bills](#). Debate centered around the contempt resolution against Dr. **Anthony Fauci**, with Democrats condemning partisan attacks. Republicans spoke in favor of advancing many partisan bills, arguing they would protect Congressional order and strengthen national security. This readout focuses on the Permitting Transparency and Accountability Act ([S. 1735](#)); the full list of legislation considered by the Committee can be found [here](#).

All 55 bills were reported favorably by the Committee, with 39 approved en bloc by voice vote.

Member Toplines¹:

Chair Randy Paul (R-KY): Paul expressed frustration with Dr. Fauci's refusal to answer members' questions during his testimony before the committee. He emphasized Congress's contempt authority and supported using it against Dr. Fauci, arguing that the American people have a right to know what role the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases played in the COVID-19 response.

Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-MI): Peters emphasized the committee's bipartisan commitment to holding both Republican and Democratic administrations accountable, but argued that the contempt resolution against Dr. Fauci threatens that principle because it lacks a legal basis. He warned that the resolution could set a dangerous precedent for future witnesses and undermine Fifth Amendment rights. He stated that the resolution is a partisan attack that offers no additional information or improved safety for the American people.

¹ Chair Paul's and Ranking Member Peter's opening statements were not available online at the time of this memo's distribution.

Key Legislation Considered:

Permitting Transparency and Accountability Act ([S. 1735](#))

I. *Member Toplines*

- Sen. **Rick Scott** (R-FL) argued that this bill would allow entities seeking a permit to track their application in the process.
- Scott offered a substitute amendment.
 - Adopted by unanimous consent.
- Peters offered an amendment requiring agencies to report when they pause or issue a stop-work order on a permit, arguing that projects halted under the Trump administration have resulted in unnecessary costs and wasted natural resources.
 - Scott responded that agencies can put that information on their websites, making the amendment unnecessary.
 - Failed by a recorded vote of 7-8.
- Peters expressed support for greater transparency and accountability in the permitting process but argued that the bill did not go far enough and required further revisions.

II. **Passed out of Committee 6-3 by voice vote.**

A. Aye:

1. Chairman Randy Paul (R-KY)
2. Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)
3. Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)
4. Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO)
5. Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH)
6. Sen. Ashley Moody (R-FL)

B. Nay:

1. Ranking Member Gary Peters (D-MI)
2. Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)
3. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)