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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 20, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2021

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Lisa Schultz, Church of the Advent, Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, You are our hope for years to come.

Give to the Members of this body a special measure of wisdom and strength to accomplish Your purposes on Earth. Lord, help them to see what a practical resource they have in You as You empower them to complete their business with civility, cooperation, and competence. Bless the leaders of both parties and their staff members. Bless those who chair committees and subcommittees, those who manage bills and labor for liberty. Enable our lawmakers to do what without You would be impossible.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 635.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 635, Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Patrick J. Leahy, Chris Van Hollen, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Martin Heinrich, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on nominations, in a few moments, we are going to begin confirming a slew of nominees to serve in the Biden administration that, up until now, have been needlessly obstructed by a handful—just a handful—of Senate Republicans. But under the rules, they can do that.

Confirming these nominees is one of the most basic constitutional responsibilities of the U.S. Senate. It is bigger than the interests of any one Senator. It is about ensuring our government is able to effectively serve the American people here at home and advance the American interests overseas.

For decades, both sides—both sides—have understood that each President, regardless of party, deserves to have their administration filled, and we have worked together to make that happen, particularly for noncontroversial and less senior nominees. But today's blockade is a beast of a different nature.

Right now, over 150—150—of President Biden's nominees are stalled by a handful of Republican Senators who have hijacked the rules of the Senate for no other reason than obstruction for its own sake. Many received bipartisan support in committee.

These aren't low-priority nominees—whatever that means. Many of these men and women would deal with matters of diplomacy and national security. That is what Republicans are blocking. Some of them would help implement the bipartisan infrastructure bill. That is what Republicans are blocking.

From fighting inflation to relieving supply chains, to advancing U.S. national security, many of the men and women who are nominated would be the ones who would actually do this work. Let me repeat that. For all the howling and hollering we hear from Republicans about inflation, national security, and economic recovery, they are blocking the very same people whose jobs it would be to tackle these issues. It is "Alice in Wonderland" logic.

There are no justifications for their delay—none. Listening to the other side twist themselves into pretzels, it is clear that their game is simple, cynical, self-interested obstruction. And I thank my colleagues on this side of the aisle for coming to the floor day after day to shine a spotlight on the real-world impact of Republicans' obstruction.

This is the consequence of Republican obstruction. We are going to keep voting in this Chamber as we work to get these nominees confirmed.

#### BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

Mr. President, now on Build Back Better, Senate Democrats are working to pass Build Back Better and send it to the President's desk as soon as possible so we can strengthen the middle class, create opportunity in the 21st century, and fight the climate crisis.

Yesterday, I had a good discussion with the President and the Speaker, where we talked about ongoing negotiations on finalizing the Build Back Better Act so we can pass it through the Senate. The President requested more time to continue his negotiations, and so we will keep working with him, hand in hand, to bring this bill over the finish line and deliver on these most needed provisions.

At its core, Build Back Better is about making the greatest investment in the American people that we have seen in generations. It is about building new ladders to help people climb into the middle class and providing them stability to thrive in the middle class once they get there. That means lowering the costs of prescription drugs, extending the child tax credit, making childcare more affordable for tens of millions of families, expanding housing, early education, and affordable healthcare. And it means taking unprecedented steps to fight climate change and lay the groundwork for greater action in the future.

These are all things that the American people want. These are things Democrats are fighting to secure.

And it cannot be forgotten that not a single Republican—not one—has joined us in making them happen. They are opposed to making childcare more affordable; they are opposed to fighting the climate crisis; and they are possibly even considering fighting provisions like making drugs like insulin more affordable.

If Republicans won't fight to help everyday Americans afford the basics, Democrats will. We are going to keep working to achieve our goal of passing Build Back Better into law.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. President, on voting rights, the fight to protect voting rights and restore the U.S. Senate is moving forward.

Yesterday, I continued to have detailed discussions with many of my colleagues about how we are going to reach our goal of passing voting rights to ensure it takes effect before Americans return to the polls in the next election, so it can affect those 2022 elections which Republican legislators are so jaundicing.

Last night, a number of my colleagues and I met with Marty Paone, a Senate rules expert who worked under several previous majority leaders, including Robert C. Byrd, about how we can restore the Senate so it can work the way our Founders intended, the way it has functioned for generations before the Republican gridlock of the past decade or so.

Just now, I came from a meeting where both Marty Paone and Marty Gold—one a Democrat and one a Republican—counseled discussing how we can move forward on these issues, making the Senate work and getting voting rights done.

Later today, Marty will join the Senate Democrats at our caucus meeting to continue this very important conversation—Marty Paone will.

We have tried all year long to get Republicans to join us on a bipartisan effort to protect our democracy, but they have resisted, and they have blocked the Senate from having so much as a debate on this issue—a debate, not even a debate. Four votes, on three of them, every Republican voted not even to go forward in debating them—on the fourth vote, only one. Of course, under the rules of the Senate, as they are presently constituted, you need 10.

Voting rights should not be a partisan issue. Both parties are better off if our democracy is strong and safeguarded against the Republican assaults playing out at the State level.

The voting restrictions we are seeing passed in Republican-dominated State legislatures are the most egregious assaults on voting rights since the days of Jim Crow, and they are being passed entirely on a party-line basis—zero bipartisanship from these State legislator Republicans.

Here in the Senate, we are going to keep at it because just because Republicans will not join us, does not mean Democrats will stop fighting on this issue. It is too important, and the fight continues.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 528, Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Ossoff, Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 506 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barraso	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Hassan	Padilla	

#### NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeven	Sullivan
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Thune
Capito	Kennedy	Tillis
Cassidy	Lankford	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Romney	Young
Graham	Rubio	
Grassley	Sasse	

#### NOT VOTING—20

Burr	Inhofe	Peters
Cotton	Johnson	Portman
Cramer	Lummis	Risch
Daines	McConnell	Rounds
Ernst	Moran	Sanders
Feinstein	Ossoff	Shelby
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for a num-

ber of foreign affairs nominations that should receive not just cloture votes today but should receive votes on their nomination.

It is a long list, including Dr. Atul Gawande to be the Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Global Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development; Mark Gitenstein to be the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union; Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon to be the Ambassador to Spain; Rahm Emanuel to be the Ambassador to Japan; Governor Jack Markell to be the U.S. Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; Marcela Escobari to be Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean at USAID; and Marc Knapper to be the Ambassador to Vietnam.

Just think about it. Think about these assignments and what they mean to the United States. These are quality nominees, people who will represent the United States at home and abroad with skill and dignity.

I appreciate that the majority leader has made it a priority to confirm them prior to the end of the session, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support their nominations. But let's face it—there is little to celebrate when it comes to nominations in the Senate. The truth is that some Republicans' unprecedented obstructionism is straining the system to the breaking point, leaving the President without a team on national security positions that are critical to the national security and interest of the United States and the American people, leaving our Nation weakened—weakened. I will talk a little bit about that as it relates to these nominees.

I am thrilled that we are voting today on the nomination of Dr. Atul Gawande. His medical background and track record in public health are impressive, and he is clearly superbly qualified for the role of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Global Health at USAID. But it should not take this long. Dr. Gawande was nominated 5 months ago.

We are in the middle of a pandemic, a global pandemic, and he will be key to helping us fight COVID internationally. Do you think that our Republican colleagues would think it is urgent to get someone in a position that can help us to deal with the global COVID challenge? Republicans should have been pressuring us to move his nomination at lightning speed instead of slowing it at every turn.

Similarly, I am pleased to support Ambassador Gitenstein to be our point person in Brussels. He has a long and distinguished career in both the public and private sectors, including previously as U.S. Ambassador to Romania, and is deeply committed to strengthening transatlantic ties.

He should have been in Brussels weeks ago, as the President is working tirelessly to ensure a strong and uni-

fied European reaction if Russia dares to invade Ukraine. He has to do so without an Ambassador to the European Union. We want the European Union to be on our side and join with us in multilateral efforts to give Russia the consequences of any action militarily against Ukraine, but, you know, you need to have someone at the EU making the case.

Marcela Escobari—her experience and knowledge are deeply needed at USAID, where she would be leading our efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean, regions that are facing immense challenges, from Haiti to Venezuela to the Northern Triangle. She was confirmed by voice vote for this very same position in 2016. Yet, this time around, her nomination has languished due to Republican holds.

Now, we are worried about immigration, right, undocumented immigration coming to the country? Well, if you don't have somebody to help create stability in Haiti, guess what. You are going to see a lot more people at that southern border. If we don't deal with the Northern Triangle, we are going to continue to have a challenge. If we don't deal with the humanitarian challenges of the dictatorship in Venezuela, we are going to continue to see a challenge there. Shouldn't we have the person in charge of dealing with these challenges so that we, in our national interest—forget about being a good neighbor—in our national interest, are protected?

Look at the other nominees. Look at the other nominees. Spain. Spain happens to be the head right now—one of the Spaniards happens to be the head of the EU's—basically their Secretary of State, their Foreign Minister. Wouldn't it be great to have an American Ambassador in Spain pressing both the Spanish and that Foreign Minister on the questions of Ukraine, on the questions of Venezuela, on the questions of Cuba? And I could go on and on. But we have nobody in Spain. Spain hasn't been the most forward-leading, as we would like to see them, even though they are involved heavily in our hemisphere, but we have no one in Spain to make the case.

How about Japan? As we are trying to meet the challenge of China in that part of the world, we have no one in Japan to help galvanize the challenges that we want to meet as it relates to China—no one. We have a new Prime Minister in Japan. It would be great to have somebody on the ground already engaging with the Japanese in coordination with the QUAD as we deal with the challenges of China. I hear a lot of talk here about China, but here we are, when we could do something about it, and we have nothing.

Marc Knapper to be the Ambassador to Vietnam—a country that is feeling the pressures and coercion of China economically and otherwise. Wouldn't it be great to have a U.S. Ambassador there to help proselytize Vietnam into our orbit as they meet the challenges of China in the days ahead?

So, supposedly, these people are being held up in pursuit of some national security initiative. Yet we are putting all these other national security initiatives at risk in order to deal with one person's vision of the world and what should be done. I don't understand that logic. I don't know how, supposedly to promote the national interests of the United States and its security, you then create a series of risks for the United States and its national security across the globe. That is what is happening. That is what is happening. It is pretty outrageous.

Now, I am in pain here, but these nominations have to get done. They have to get done. So if we are going to stay here, we are going to stay here, but these nominations have to get done. These people need to be in their positions so that we are not going to be in pain across the globe. Something is going to happen in one of these places, and we will not be there to ultimately have someone to promote our interests to protect ourselves.

Let me close by saying that I didn't come to the Senate to fight about nominations—certainly not what I did when I aspired to come to the Senate. I don't think most of our colleagues did as well. We came here to work for our constituents, to find solutions that move this country forward, to make a positive difference. We need to rededicate ourselves to making the Senate work, to fulfilling the constitutional duty of advice and consent. We are not fulfilling our constitutional duty of advice and consent in this manner.

Giving the President—I didn't agree with President Trump on a lot of his foreign policy decisions, but I voted for a lot of his nominees, and I didn't hold them up in any way, shape, or form, as we are seeing in this unprecedented fashion. He needs qualified people to help the Nation confront the challenges we face.

I urge my colleagues, let's move forward. Let's expeditiously get these nominees out. If you don't want to vote for them, don't vote for them. That is fine. But don't stop the process of the advice and consent that ultimately is needed to put these people in the positions that are critical to the national security of the United States.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO ROLFE MCCOLLISTER

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about two prominent Louisianans who are either transitioning or have transitioned into new ways to serve our State.

And I am not unbiased about these individuals, as you will shortly be able to tell. But I think most Louisianans who are fairminded will agree with what I am about to say.

The first person I want to talk about—and I have known both of these folks for a long time—is Rolfe McCollister.

Rolfe did own—he has sold a number of his companies. What did he do? Well, let me just say generally, first, Rolfe is a very astute and successful business person. He is one of the most prominent, if not the most prominent, publisher in Louisiana.

He started from scratch a periodical called the Baton Rouge Business Report, and from that, Rolfe expanded. I mean, the list of his publications is very impressive. He started with the Baton Rouge Business Report. He publishes 10/12 Industry Report, 225 Magazine, inRegister, Daily Report, 225 Dine, Best of 225 This Week.

He also started a very important tradition, which is looked forward to in my State, called the Business Awards and Hall of Fame.

He started the influential Women in Business, and he started the Top 40 Under 40 list, to recognize some of our younger citizens.

Rolfe is retiring effective at the first of the year, and despite all of Rolfe's success in the business world—he is also a banker and he does other things, all self-made. Aside from his success in the world of publishing and journalism, the most important thing Rolfe McCollister has is his passion.

Now, he is smart. He is very intelligent, a graduate of LSU, extraordinary character, very dependable. If you need something done, you go to Rolfe. Trustworthy. But it is his passion that has most impressed me about Rolfe McCollister.

I first met Rolfe in 1987. I knew of him, but I met him. Louisiana had elected a brand-new reform Governor, a former Congressman by the name of Governor Buddy Roemer.

Like many of our reform Governors, Buddy was to serve one term. And when Governor Roemer took over, gosh, the State was a mess. We had, I think it was, a \$7 or \$8 billion budget. We had a \$1.1 billion structural deficit. When Governor Roemer became Governor, we couldn't make payroll. Our schools were a mess. We had no charter schools in Louisiana. Our universities were floundering. And when you don't have adequate funding, universities tend to cannibalize each other. They were all competing for the dollars. It was like Lebanon; you didn't know which faction was going to be the winner today.

Our campaign finance in Louisiana was a mess. At that time, it was legal, and not out of the ordinary, for somebody to put \$200,000 cash in a suitcase and take it to a political candidate, and it was perfectly legal for that candidate to take it and perfectly legal for that donor to give it.

Governor Roemer set out to try to fix some of these problems, and by his side was Rolfe McCollister, not in a paid position.

I was working for Governor Roemer then as his lawyer. Rolfe just spent all his time helping, and we needed him, because Governor Roemer would listen to him, and Rolfe was there every step of the way.

And after Governor Roemer got beat, Rolfe didn't stop. He has never stopped. He has been a leader in the charter school movement in Louisiana for as long as I can remember. He believes that competition makes all of us better, and it will make our public schools better.

He did a stint on the LSU board of supervisors, which runs our flagship university, LSU. Rolfe didn't ever hold back. I mean, he said exactly what he thought about what was working at LSU and what wasn't working, and Rolfe made a lot of people mad.

But Rolfe always believed, as did Governor Roemer, and, frankly, as do I—I learned a lot from both of them—that if you make the right people mad, you are doing your job. And this was all because of his passion, because he cared so much about Louisiana, to make it better. He didn't make any money off of it; it cost him money. And I am sure his family said: Hey, Rolfe, you know, can you come home a little earlier tonight, you know?

But Rolfe is just a fine person, and I am very proud to have him in Louisiana. When I count my blessings, I count Rolfe twice, and he is transitioning to a new role. He sold his company to his partner, who is another great guy, Julio Melara. But Rolfe is going to still be involved in my State, and I just want to thank him.

TRIBUTE TO MELINDA DESLATTE

Mr. President, the second person I want to mention briefly—totally different in terms of the way she contributes to our State—her name is Melinda Deslatte.

Melinda is the new—I want to get her title right—research director, which is the No. 2 position at the Public Affairs Research Council.

The Public Affairs Research Council is a big deal in Louisiana. I think it is our oldest think tank. It is one of the premier think tanks. They are not Republicans; they are not Democrats. I don't know what they are, except smart and straightforward.

They periodically publish white papers, exhaustively researched, about issues like the environment, fiscal policy, education. Every year when we amend our constitution—and, unfortunately, we amend our State constitution just about every year—PAR puts out a publication explaining—not advocating for or against, but explaining—the amendments. I read their white papers and their writings like clockwork.

The No. 2 position there is research director. So it is important. Melinda Deslatte is the new research director. I think Melinda has taken over the Public Affairs Research Council, and I am bittersweet about it. I am very happy for PAR because they got one of our best and our brightest, but I am really sad for journalism.

Melinda ran the Associated Press in Baton Rouge for 22 years—22 years. And, for me, the three things that you have to have to be a respected journalist are, first, you have got to have

brains. Melinda has brains aplenty. I am not saying she is the smartest person I have ever met, but to paraphrase Coach Bum Phillips, the list she is on, it doesn't take long to call the roll.

You have got to be willing to work very hard to be a successful journalist, and, boy, Melinda has a work ethic. But you have also got to be fair, and Melinda Deslatte was—she is now at PAR—the fairest journalist I have ever dealt with.

I don't know what her politics are. I never asked her. I don't even know if she is in a party. And I have been on the long end and the short end of some of her pieces.

She was unspinnable. By that, I mean it is not that she wouldn't listen. You could call Melinda. She was a great listener. You could sit there and talk to her and give her your speech for 20 minutes, 30 minutes, and if she wasn't on deadline, she would listen to you. But I always got the impression it didn't do any good because she was so smart and so hard-working and so dedicated to her profession that she was just going to call it like she saw it, and she did. She did.

She was not an agenda journalist. She was a real journalist. And I know, you know, that Melinda is probably not going to like me saying this. Melinda is the kind of journalist that if a politician praised her, you know, it is like: I must be doing something wrong here. You know, you don't want too much praise from politicians.

But she has left her job. So I feel like I can do it. And she has gone on to another way of helping our State.

I wish all of our journalists were Melinda Deslatte. I wish all of them were Melinda Deslatte.

But, anyway, thank you, Rolfe. Thank you, Melinda. Thank you both for giving so much to Louisiana.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I am looking around this Chamber, and I am talking to my colleagues, and it is so apparent; we should not be here right now. Our business should be done. We have had all year.

We should have wished one another well last week, and then we should have gotten ourselves home to our families, to our church families, to our neighbors and friends. And right now, I should be in Tennessee wishing Tennesseans well for this Christmas season.

But with the way things are going, I am beginning to believe that Joe Biden and the Democrats do not wish the American people well because the fact

is, everything they have done this year, in some way, shape, or form, has made life harder for Americans and for Tennesseans, and it has taken away just a little bit more of their freedom.

I was talking with a Tennessean last night, and they were making this point to me about the gains that they had seen during Republican control of the House and the Senate and the Trump administration and being able to keep more of their money in their pocket. This was a veteran who talked about our standing in the world. Our allies knew they could trust us. Our enemies, indeed, feared us. All of that is gone. Life is harder; life is more uncertain; it is less predictable; inflation is through the roof.

As Tennesseans have turned on the news this week, they have heard an avalanche of news reports holding one or two Members of this body responsible for “obstructing the democratic process”—something that sounds pretty scary when it is taken out of context, doesn't it?

In my opinion, I consider it media malpractice to blame one or two Members of this Chamber for a year's worth of bad-faith delays because Members have asked for a vote on certain national security issues, and the Senate should have weighed in on these issues long ago. The Senate has had the time. The leadership has had the time. So, no, that narrative cannot stand.

All these delays and all this strife is the natural conclusion of the Democrats' single-minded obsession with their reckless tax-and-spending spree.

My colleagues on the left have, indeed, squandered months trying to strong-arm their moderate colleagues into rubberstamping what I call their “Build Back Broke” agenda. It is so toxic that even economists who many times are friendly with the White House have turned their backs on the proposal. Even they deem it socialist in nature.

This month, we have reaped the consequences of their obsession in the form of 6.8 percent inflation. It is already at a 40-year high. It is still ticking up. Gas prices are increasing. Food is costing more. Warehouses are being cleared out. One hundred and seventy cargo ships are still off the coast of California, 150 miles out.

But yet, until a few hours ago, really, the Democrats were pushing for final passage on a spending bill that would make things even worse—would make it worse. It is not \$1.75 trillion; it is \$5 trillion. It is not paid for. It is not, “Oh, it doesn't cost a dime”; it costs \$3 trillion. That is the conservative estimate.

If you look back through the record, you will find almost no help for our supply chains that I mentioned that are all backed up, and you will find at least one terrible mistake that made the bad situation worse.

Joe Biden's vaccine mandates started inflicting damage on the economy and our supply chains well before the

courts started throwing up their roadblocks, and thank goodness the courts are backing where the American people are on this mandate issue.

In Tennessee, these foolish mandates could cost businesses more than \$70 million and force 37 percent of our labor force out of work.

My Democratic colleagues, however, have wasted hours here on the Senate floor defending what is truly a blatant power grab. Does it make the lives of Tennesseans and Americans better? Absolutely not. It makes them worse.

They have somehow neglected to acknowledge that these mandates don't reach as far as our southern border. Isn't it amazing? In fact, most of the policies they are so eager to force on the American people that are making their lives worse evaporate once you hit the border, which is even more chaotic now than it was on day 1 of the Biden administration.

If you look back on the past year, you will find little in the way of assistance for our Border Patrol agents and other law enforcement officers. Oh, no, can't do that. Oh, no, let's reinvent the police. Let's reinvent law enforcement. Oh, no, we can't put more assets on the southern border to defend our sovereignty. It makes you believe that the Democratic Party is pleased with the chaos that they are seeing in border communities all across that southern border.

What my friends across the aisle have done is basically to hand power, control, and billions of dollars to those cartels. And they have opened up their arms, and they have welcomed now right at 2 million people to illegally enter this country. No vaccine mandates apply to them. Oh, no, sir, not at all—preference. Let's go ahead. They can go through a separate TSA line when they get on a plane with a taxpayer-funded plane ticket. And all the time, the lives of Americans under this administration, they are not as well off as they were a year ago. Their life is not as comfortable as it was a year ago.

Now, if security was even an inkling of a priority with my colleagues, if security had any importance at all, securing this Nation—you know, it is kind of one of the first things we are supposed to do, provide for the common defense. But this week, we finally got around to passing the NDAA. How about that? Finally got it done.

Now, we wouldn't have had to wait until this week to take the threat of what I call the “axis of evil” seriously—the threats coming from Russia, China, Iran, North Korea. I can assure you, they are watching us very closely, and they are keeping up with what we are doing to protect this Nation.

Why are they so aggressive right now? They are looking at Joe Biden, and they are saying, He is weak, he is not going to do anything to push back on us. You know, he talked about a few economic sanctions with Russia, but Putin is not worried about that. How

about sanctioning, stopping trade, sanctioning so many other areas, stopping the Nord Stream 2—how about that—to show that we are going to deal with them as they, an adversary of ours, deserve to be dealt with?

We don't do any of that. Oh, no, let's not make Xi Jinping mad. Let's not do anything like that. Let's not call him into account. Let's let him keep carrying out that genocide on the Uighurs. Oh, and you know, let's do this; let's just have a diplomatic boycott of the Olympics. But go ahead and let our corporations, let our TV networks and their cameras broadcast to the world the glory of Beijing and Xi Jinping.

Inconsistencies and weakness do not serve us well. They do not. And instead of looking at things that should be a priority, my colleagues across the aisle have kept their focus on trying to pass a gigantic spending bill that the American people do not want and programs they say we don't need.

But the Democrats are saying that we are going to pass it by whatever means necessary—whatever means necessary. We are going to get this done. Thank goodness, we are leaving here, and it is not done.

Now, woven into this exercise in partisan brinksmanship was an ongoing effort to punch holes in the very institutions that keep our government from collapsing into chaos. We have watched our Democratic colleagues fail to gain traction with policies that people haven't asked for and, as I said, don't want. But instead of setting their power grabs and wish list aside, the Democrats tried to find ways to crash through constitutional and institutional backstops and force their will on the American people.

You hear it all the time: Time is running out. We are going to lose the House; we are going to lose the Senate so we have got to do this. We have got to transform the country.

Well, they have gone round after round with the Supreme Court and the Federal court packers, the anti-filibuster crowd, and those who wish to attack the integrity of the ballot box. They don't want to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat; they are trying to make it easier to cheat and harder to vote. And, repeatedly, they continue to try to look for somebody who blame. It has got to be somebody else's fault.

Just yesterday, we saw a wave of righteous indignation over the Senate Parliamentarian's refusal to allow the Democrats to shove amnesty for illegal immigrants into a budget bill. That is right.

They should not have been surprised by the ruling. They tried it once, twice, three times, and every time, they should have known how this was going to end. You can't do that.

It is almost as if all this has nothing to do with the policies printed on the thousands upon thousands of pages the Democrats are hoping nobody reads—because they feel like they have got a

deadline, they have got to do this, time is running out. By whatever means necessary, let's just get it done.

Well, there is no serious person—none—who could look at this past year and conclude that Joe Biden and his allies in Congress have been acting in good faith, doing things the people want to see done, because their agenda has been the opposite of that.

That is why so many elected representatives in the House and the Senate are saying: Hey, I am going home, and I am talking to people. We are getting calls in our office. We are getting emails. People are speaking up. They don't like this. The more they know about what we are doing, the less they like it.

There is no serious person who could look at these underhanded attacks on our institution and conclude that the Democrats believe more in the common cause of freedom than they do in passing their "Build Back Broke" agenda. They have got to have it. They have just got to have it.

And no serious person could look at the past year and dispute that it is Joe Biden and the Democrats who were the architects of their own destructive agenda. And the reason we are all still here at the eleventh hour waiting on the majority is because they have put their power before the people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF SHALINA D. KUMAR

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I am so pleased today to rise to speak about two incredibly competent women who are going to be coming before us for votes for the Michigan Federal district bench a little bit later today.

First of all, I rise in support of the nomination of Judge Shalina Kumar to be the U.S. district court judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. During her nomination hearing, Judge Kumar spoke about her father, Dr. Krishna Kumar, who moved to the United States from India. Dr. Kumar taught all of his children to believe in themselves and that they could be anything if they put their minds to it, and that is just what Shalina Kumar has done.

She was born in Royal Oak, MI, received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, and graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. She spent a decade in private practice before being appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm to the Oakland County Sixth Circuit Court in 2007.

She has since been elected by Michigan voters, and since January 2018, Judge Kumar has served as the chief

judge of the circuit court. During her time as a judge, Judge Kumar has presided over more than 10,500 cases, and she has served as presiding judge of the Adult Treatment Court, which allows people to avoid jail time by getting mental health treatment, help with employment and education, which is so important. During her nomination hearing, Judge Kumar talked about the amazing transformation she sees in people and how grateful they are for the opportunity to contribute to society.

She has also served as the chairperson of the Oakland County Criminal Assignment Committee, a member of the Michigan State Bar professionalism committee, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Michigan Judges Association.

If confirmed, Judge Kumar would be the first Federal judge of South Asian descent in Michigan, and there is no doubt that her father and her home State of Michigan will be very, very proud. I enthusiastically support this nomination and hope that my colleagues will do the same.

#### NOMINATION OF JANE M. BECKERING

Mr. President, secondly, I rise also to give strong support as well for the nomination of Judge Jane Beckering to be U.S. district court judge for the Western District of Michigan. I can think of few people more qualified or more respected and more ready to serve the people of Michigan in this new role.

Jane Beckering is a native of West Michigan. She attended the University of Michigan and then the University of Wisconsin in order to carry on her family's legacy. Both her father and her grandfather were trial lawyers—two of the world's finest, according to Judge Beckering. They believe that America's system of justice was the best in the world, and they taught Judge Beckering that civility, integrity, and respect for others are the trademarks of the legal profession.

Judge Beckering has spent her career upholding these ideals. During her more than three decades of legal experience, she has presided over and issued an opinion on more than 4,000 cases. Since 2007, she has served as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals and is the chief judge pro tempore of the court. She was first appointed to the court by then-Governor Jennifer Granholm and later elected by the people of Michigan.

Before that, Judge Beckering was a trial attorney in Grand Rapids, and she has been actively involved in the West Michigan legal community. She has a broad range of experience in a wide range of cases, including multi-State commercial litigation, product liability, personal injury, and wrongful death cases.

For all of these reasons, Judge Beckering was strongly supported by the Western District Judicial Nominations Advisory Committee. She was unanimously rated "well qualified" by

the American Bar Association, and she received bipartisan support in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

She is just the type of person we need in the Federal judiciary, and I am eager for her to begin her new role. I wholeheartedly support this nomination and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Both Judge Kumar and Judge Beckering are extremely qualified and competent judicial nominations that are in front of us today, and I hope everyone will be supporting them as strongly as I am. And I know people in Michigan are very, very proud of both of them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### VOTE ON GAWANDE NOMINATION

All postcloture time has expired. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gawande nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 507 Ex.]

#### YEAS—48

Baldwin	Booker	Carper
Barrasso	Brown	Casey
Bennet	Cantwell	Collins
Blumenthal	Cardin	Coons

Cortez Masto	Leahy	Schatz
Duckworth	Lujan	Schumer
Durbin	Manchin	Shaheen
Gillibrand	Markley	Sinema
Hassan	Menendez	Smith
Heinrich	Merkley	Stabenow
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Tester
Hirono	Murphy	Van Hollen
Kaine	Murray	Warnock
Kelly	Padilla	Warren
King	Reed	Whitehouse
Klobuchar	Rosen	Wyden

#### NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeven	Sullivan
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Thune
Cassidy	Kennedy	Tillis
Cornyn	Lankford	Toomey
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Romney	Young
Graham	Rubio	
Grassley	Sasse	

#### NOT VOTING—21

Burr	Inhofe	Peters
Capito	Johnson	Portman
Cramer	Lummis	Risch
Daines	McConnell	Rounds
Daines	Moran	Sanders
Feinstein	Osoff	Shelby
Fischer	Paul	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). 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 action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 577, Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 508 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Padilla
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Hassan	Murray	

#### NAYS—30

Barrasso	Hagerty	Sasse
Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Blunt	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cornyn	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	Romney	Wicker
Grassley	Rubio	Young

#### NOT VOTING—23

Burr	Graham	Peters
Capito	Inhofe	Portman
Cotton	Johnson	Risch
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	McConnell	Sanders
Ernst	Moran	Shelby
Feinstein	Osoff	Warner
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The yeas are 47, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.



## ACT FOR ALS ACT

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to join with my colleague the Senator from Alaska in celebrating some good news. Every now and then, something really good happens here in the Congress of the United States.

Many of us know the story of ALS, a particularly cruel and brutal disease, a disease that attacks the body but not the mind and whose victims, while they steadily lose their ability to control their muscles and their movement, suffer a sort of living death that, until you have seen it up close, it is hard to appreciate just how cruel this disease is.

Last week, 423 of our House colleagues, Members of the House of Representatives, voted to send the ACT for ALS Act here to this Senate. And last night, we here in the Senate unanimously sent that bill to President Biden's desk for his signature.

I have to start, I want to start by thanking my dear friend and colleague the Senator from Alaska. She has been a tireless, passionate, capable advocate, and without her this would not have happened. For those who question whether bipartisanship can still deliver results that matter, this Senator, this bill, this moment proves that it can and it does.

We are grateful to our lead cosponsors over in the House, Congressman QUIGLEY and Congressman FORTENBERRY.

Frankly, the story behind this moment is the incredible advocacy of the ALS community. They are the reason that the bill got drafted, the bill got introduced, the bill got marked up, the bill passed the House, and that here in the Senate some obstructions were overcome with remarkable force and swiftness. I am just briefly going to mention the tenacity and the strength and the capability of some of the folks who have been my role models in this work, and then I am going to yield to my friend and colleague from Alaska, and she will also speak about it.

I just do also briefly want to say that ACT for ALS is not just some resolution. It is not just some commemorative act. This will deliver \$100 million through a newly authorized FDA rare neurodegenerative disease grant program. It will fund critical research. It will improve coordination between the Federal, academic, and private sector researchers. And more than anything else, it will give people hope.

When I think of this work, Dan Tate is the man who first comes to mind, and Dan, like me, is a graduate of Amherst College and a spirited and capable and soulful person—one of Washington's most skilled lobbyists, someone who worked in the Clinton administration and worked for a Member of the House—and his personal advocacy has meant a huge amount to me, as has the engagement by Brian Wallach and so many others.

And I have a half dozen other folks of whom I want to speak, but, first, I

think simple decency suggests I should yield the floor to my friend and colleague from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as my friend from Connecticut has pointed out, there are—

Mr. COONS. Point of personal clarification: Delaware.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Oh, my goodness, my soul.

Mr. President, may I strike that erroneous introduction?

Mr. COONS. Born in Connecticut.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank my dear friend from Delaware—always Delaware—but truly a friend; a friend on many different issues, but a man whom I have come to know is motivated not by the politics of what goes on in this body but by the passion and his interest in doing good, doing good policy and doing good things for people.

And what we are speaking to today, recognizing the significant passage of the ACT for ALS Act that happened last evening unanimously, as he has pointed out, that this is not only good for the body, if you will, to say we were able to move good legislation forward, good policy legislation forward, but this is a gift. This is a gift of hope for those who live with ALS, for those families who are part of that journey of those who live with ALS.

ALS, as Senator COONS has noted, is an awful, awful disease. Some would suggest, and I certainly would, that it is probably the worst disease to be afflicted with, when your body literally closes in on you while your mind is still active and vibrant.

I have a very personal connection to ALS. I think many of us have very personal connections to ALS. I wish that we didn't have these personal connections to this hideous disease, but we do, and that connection allows us to learn and understand a little bit more about it.

And I think the most heartbreaking thing that I realized, when my family member was diagnosed with ALS, my cousin's husband, was that there was no treatment. There was no hope. There was no hope.

I am not suggesting that the ACT for ALS is the end-all be-all. I wish that we could stand here and say that. It is not, but what it is, is a glimmer of hope.

I want to read just a couple sentences from an email that I received last evening when I was able to share this good news that this bill was passing unanimously through this body, and my cousin Jen says:

The passage of this bill will bring real, tangible hope to people living with ALS and those to be diagnosed. In this ALS world, right now, there are no effective treatments. All we have is hope. This bill changes everything. It will bring real, tangible hope and treatments to people living with ALS. We have never had that in this disease.

We haven't found the cure, we haven't found the treatment, but what

we are providing today is that first step forward, a tangible step forward to the hope, because every day—every day—those who are living with ALS and their loved ones, who live through this disease with them, have to hope and pray every single day that today is going to be the day. Today is going to be the day that we can slow this, that we can halt this.

There are some extraordinary heroes that have been involved with this fight over the years. They are everyday people. They got into it not because they were paid lobbyists. Most of them got into it because they had lived through ALS. They had lost a loved one to this disease, and rather than to give up and give in and be too tired to carry on, they said: I am going to commit so that no other families have to feel this helplessness.

And so you have got some amazing people. You have got a group out there, the I AM ALS team—extraordinary, extraordinary advocates.

Senator COONS has mentioned Brian Wallach and Dan Tate. The two of them lead I AM ALS. You have got Megan Miller, Deb Paust, Sandy Morris, Christa Thompson, Nicole Cimbura, Becky Mourey, Michael Lecker, Shelly Hoover, Michelle Lorenz, Mayuri and Mayank Saxena—so many, so many more who were part of that effort.

The I AM ALS organization, working with the ALS Association, working with the Muscular Dystrophy Association and so many others were so critical in moving this forward. Think about what happened.

This was introduced over here in the Senate. We looked this up. It was May 25. May 25. And to get over 60 cosponsors in the U.S. Senate on any kind of a measure—I wish that the Senator from Delaware and I could say that we single-handedly got every single one of those cosponsors, but it was these advocates. It was these grassroots individuals. It was everybody that I just named—Dan and Megan and Jenny and Deb and Sandy, who made these calls, who were relentless.

And when the politics did intervene, they were unleashed and passionate in their advocacy. And I think this is a good lesson to us, that when those who are intimately and passionately involved, that you can make a difference, you can move legislation. You can move mountains.

The last thing I want to say before I turn back to my colleague here is that there are a lot of people who are not part of an organization but who have just felt compelled to speak up.

We heard voices from around my State: Marcel from Sitka; Douglas from Anchorage; a gentleman by the name of Mike, also from Anchorage. The calls, the letters, the emails that we got—I know all of our colleagues received the same as well.

So this, again, was an effort that was so personal to so many, but the leadership that I think we saw come together with Brian Wallach, his wife Sandra—



they were the founders there of I AM ALS.

Brian was only 37 years old when he was diagnosed with ALS—37—so super young. And he was told 6 months: You have got 6 months to live.

He is a father to two little girls, and he just said: Got to keep fighting. We have got to keep fighting for a cure—a cure that will allow him to raise his daughters with his wife.

And I think it is fair to say that, 4 years later now, Brian is just as determined, just as tireless an advocate for ALS and the ALS community.

So, again, I think about people like Brian and Dan, my cousin Jenny, who lost Pat to this awful disease in 2013. He lived with ALS for 8 years. Our family lived with ALS for those 8 years.

And so the advocacy continues because of the passion for so many who have lived through a life that is almost difficult for us to imagine.

And as they have come out of losing a loved one to a disease like this, to know that they are willing to carry that flag, that they are willing to commit their time, their resources, and everything that they have so that others don't go through this, we honor them. We honor that commitment.

I am so pleased to be able to work with my partner on this and to know that this was a good success, but we are going to need to be doing more, and I will be doing it with him.

I yield to my friend from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. I want to express my gratitude to my friend and colleague from Alaska.

It is, indeed, a deep well of darkness into which a family is cast when they receive a diagnosis of ALS.

My own awareness of this disease and its dread consequences is rooted in a number of cases that came to me and my extended family now quite a few years ago.

My brother is with us here in the Chamber today, and his dear friend Dan Loftus passed through ALS, and I remember the pain that this caused him and the depth of that loss.

A friend of mine from Delaware, Alex Snyder-Mackler, first shared with me his father Scott's diagnosis with ALS, now 20 years ago. And year after year, as many of us would gather in Newark and run a 5K and do a fundraiser for some sort of research, for some sort of hope, his father Scott slowly slipped away.

I talked to Alex this morning and was reminded of how much this means to those families who have come through this.

Max Walton, a dear friend of mine in the bar in Delaware, and his father—just an unbelievable character, a great and funny and creative and capable man who built a family business and then slipped from us through ALS.

ALS was first known to America when Lou Gehrig, an outstanding baseball player, got it. And he is still famous for his "I am the luckiest man in the world" speech, when he announced his retirement from baseball.

But 80 years later—80 years later—it is still a mystery to science and a death sentence to those who get this dread diagnosis who are often told they have just a few short years to live. This bill in their name and honor confronts this stark reality and makes progress.

I cannot close without thanking two other people—Meghan Taira, who is tireless here on the floor in helping move and prioritize things working for Leader SCHUMER, who lost her own mother, Ellen Taira, to ALS, and last, if I could, for someone whom I am not worthy of.

I have a legislative director, Brian Winseck, who is a spectacular human being, whose skill and persistence and diligence and dedication for my side of this kept us at it every day. His father Joseph was a high school civics teacher, and the loss of his life through ALS is something from which Brian has made so much good for others through his role in helping shepherd this through my office.

What Senator MURKOWSKI and I are showing for a moment here today is an answer to a question so many families, so many people living with ALS, so many who have lost a loved one to ALS wonder in the dark moments: Does anyone care? Does anyone see this? Does anyone know what is happening? Is anyone going to do something about this?

The families and those who are living today with ALS and those who have lost someone to ALS need to know that your advocacy is heard, that it moved a mountain here in the Congress, and it will begin moving resources and energy and dedication.

We are at the beginning of the next step of this journey, but, as my dear friend, under whom I served many, many years ago in a very dark time in the history of South Africa, said: Hope. Hope is being able to see that despite all the darkness, there is still light.

Bishop Desmond Tutu spoke that to the people of South Africa struggling in a very dark time and place.

To the families, the survivors, and those who are living with ALS, my dear friend from Alaska and I and the folks in our families and on our staff and in the many countless teams of advocates around this country hope that this holiday season, that this Christmas, that this year, we have brought you some glimmer of the light that you have brought to us.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RANDI LUDINGTON

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I think here in the Senate, so many of us

have the privilege to occasionally host military fellows, congressional military fellows, and I would like to take just a minute here to recognize the great work of a former member of my staff, Air Force Lt. Col. Randi Ludington. She spent the last year working in my personal office as part of the U.S. Air Force congressional fellowship program. She just concluded that fellowship program just last week and has moved on to her next assignment, but I think it is important to be able to publicly express my appreciation for the work she did over the last year and really for her service to the Nation overall.

For 17 years now, Randi has served in the U.S. Air Force. She was first an enlisted financial technician before she earned her commission and worked her way up to the rank of lieutenant colonel. She had a level of exposure before coming to my office certainly. These experiences of being in different places around the world, leading airmen, advising commanders, really proved invaluable when she came to provide her expertise in my office.

Not only has she spearheaded efforts legislatively and prepped me for meetings and hearings, she really became a key member of our team, working with Alaskans, working with counterparts back here, but really serving them just as she would serve her own troops.

When we were faced with a very chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, Randi was one of those who was really burning the midnight oil. She was putting in long days and long nights, answering calls from constituents and veterans who were seeking help. She was doing just that. She was there around the clock, sometimes just listening, offering words of support; other times just really helping to synchronize the efforts between people on the ground in Kabul, lining them up with Departments and Agencies here in Washington, doing everything she could to try to help facilitate the needs of so many who were so desperate to get out.

In the end, Randi was honored by an Alaska Native Corporation, the Goldbelt Corporation. They had been engaged in an airlift, a significant airlift, and she was recognized by Goldbelt for her dedicated efforts assisting them throughout that whole ordeal. So it was nice to know that she had received not only the recognition and thanks from those here, fellows back in Alaska, but also the broader international recognition.

So I take this moment to just express my thanks to Randi. It was a pleasure having her in my office. She has a fabulous family. It was a great pleasure to be able to get to meet her husband Brad, an Air Force veteran himself. They have three super-great little kids: Charlee, Ryan, and Graham.

I wish Randi and her family nothing but the best as she moves forward with her military career.

I feel very fortunate that we get some of our Nation's best, who are able

to take kind of a little bit of a detour through their professional trajectory in the military to come here, work with us, share their level of expertise, and also educate themselves on the internal process we have here.

I was very fortunate to have her as part of my team. I think we should all be proud to know that it is leaders like her who comprise our military.

So, again, thank you, Randi, for what you have done for our country and what you have done to help Alaska.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, according to ProPublica reporting, a Purdue student from China, Zhihao Kong, who goes by the nickname “Moody,” wrote a letter condemning the Chinese Communist Party for killing dissidents in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

We all know the famous image of the man who stood courageously, not in front of one tank—most of the images that ran in U.S. newspapers were of one guy standing in front of a tank. And if you just look at that image, you can assume that the tank commander is some nutjob who decided he was going to torment this kid. But if you actually look at the image, as you can through U.S. photo archives, and you pan back out, that first tank is one tank in a long, long, long, long line of tanks coming that this man stands courageously in front of. It is not one nutjob tank commander looking at this guy in Tiananmen Square; it is an autocratic government that is scared to death of the courage of free people. And that man stood there courageously as the Chinese Communist Party was murdering students in Tiananmen Square.

The Purdue graduate student, Moody, decided to write an open letter about that reminding students in America and around the world of what happened in Tiananmen Square.

Well, guess what happened next. After Moody published his essay, China’s secret police decided to go visit his family and intimidate them so that they might put pressure on him, asking him, commanding him, coercing him, twisting the arms of his parents and loved ones, to stop talking about the truth, about what happened in Tiananmen Square in June of 1989.

When Mr. Kong refused to back down, other Chinese students at Purdue—not Chinese students in Beijing, Chinese graduate students at Purdue—decided that it was their obligation to harass Mr. Kong. They pursued him around campus, and they threatened to report

him to the Chinese Embassy. Think about that for a second.

What do we think about Embassies as for? Two hundred countries around the face of the Earth, and when you are traveling and you have a lost passport or you suffer some, you know, petty crime or you have a family member who has a medical emergency back home, you call up your Embassy for help because you think these are people who love you. You are in a foreign place and you don’t maybe speak the language and the Embassy is there to help you navigate a world where you might not know the language, the laws, or the customs.

What happened in the United States—a freedom-loving place—is that these Chinese students, Chinese nationals here in school at Purdue, decided that they thought it might be their job to contact the Chinese Embassy to tattle on Mr. Kong because the man had the courage to tell the truth. He had spoken online. He had written online. He had been involved in dissident events.

So what happened then, besides his parents being harassed by the Chinese secret police and besides graduate students following him around campus to intimidate him and threaten to report him to the Embassy, WeChat decided that they needed to block and suspend his account to cut off his communications with the outside world.

A few days before he was scheduled to speak at a Zoom commemoration of the Tiananmen Square massacre, the secret police went to visit his parents again, reminding them that they needed to make sure he put an end to his activism—read “truth-telling.”

It is convenient for Americans to look the other way and stay silent in the face of this. We have seen many American professional sports leagues; we have seen Hollywood companies lusting after Chinese middle-class markets; we have seen the Marriott hotel chain agreeing to intimidate their own employees so that their employees didn’t acknowledge what has happened in Hong Kong and the threats currently against Taiwan; we have seen this censorship using economic statecraft from Beijing to intimidate Americans and American companies and American institutions to do their bidding to suppress people who might tell the truth.

It is convenient to stay silent. Many of our institutions have pathetically agreed with Beijing that they would self-censor at Beijing’s and Chairman Xi’s bidding.

Well, guess who didn’t do that. Purdue University decided they were not going to do that.

So there is a lot of bad stuff happening in the world because of the expansionistic desires of the CCP, and we have a lot of Americans and American institutions who are willing to be complicit in the CCP’s desired expansionism, but Purdue didn’t. So we should pause today, just for a minute, and celebrate that good news. We should celebrate that courage.

Mitch Daniels, former Governor of Indiana, current President of Purdue, decided that this was not OK, and it was important to tell the truth about this fact, what had happened, and that this wasn’t OK.

I would like to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today President Daniels’ letter to the Purdue campus 36 hours ago because we need a hell of a lot more truth-telling like this in American life. Here is Mitch Daniels and the Purdue leadership on behalf of not just Purdue but American values:

Dear Purdue students, staff and faculty,

Purdue [has] learned from a national news account last week that one of our students, after speaking out on behalf of freedom and others martyred for advocating for [freedom], was harassed and threatened by other students from his own home country [in this country]. Worse still, [this student’s] family back home, in this case [the home being] China, was visited and threatened by agents of that nation’s secret police.

We regret that we were unaware at the time of these events and [we] had to learn of them from national sources. That reflects the atmosphere of intimidation that we have discovered [surrounding] this specific sort of speech.

Any such intimidation is unacceptable and [it is] unwelcome on our campus. Purdue has punished less personal, direct and threatening conduct. Anyone taking exception to the speech in question had their own right to express their disagreement, but not to engage in the actions of harassment which occurred here. If those students who issued the threats can be identified, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Likewise, any student found to have reported another student to any foreign entity for exercising their freedom of speech or belief will be subject to significant [action].

International students are nothing new at Purdue University, which welcomed its first Asian admittees over a century ago. We are proud that several hundred international students, nearly 200 of them [from China], enrolled [at Purdue] again this fall.

But joining the Purdue community requires acceptance of [our] rules and values, and no value is more central to our institution or to higher education generally than the freedom of inquiry and expression. Those seeking to deny those rights to others, let alone to collude with foreign governments in repressing them, will need to pursue their education elsewhere.

Sincerely,  
Mitch

Chairman Xi is a coward, and he sends his goons to intimidate people for telling the truth. That is who Chairman Xi is. He doesn’t believe in the dignity of people. He doesn’t believe that they are image-bearers of God. He doesn’t believe they have the rights of free speech, religion, press, assembly, and protest. He believes that you must intimidate college students for telling the truth. If they are saying something to a small group of people 6,000 miles away, Chairman Xi is intimidated, and he is scared.

That student told the truth. We should celebrate that student. Mitch Daniels and Purdue University stood up to that kind of intimidation. We should celebrate that because that is what American courage looks like, and we need a whole hell of a lot more of it.

We need a lot more people to look like the Women's Tennis Association, not to look like the NBA.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

REMEMBERING GENERAL RAY ODIERNO

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to GEN Raymond Odierno, one of the greatest commanders of his, or any other, generation of American military leaders.

Ray served the Army and the Nation with great distinction. He attended West Point, and following graduation, he went on to serve nearly 40 years in the Army, retiring as a four-star general.

Ray's service took him around the world, from Germany and Albania to Kuwait and Iraq. He reached the heights of his career as the commander of all coalition forces in Iraq and a tenure as the 38th Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ray was an inspirational force to the men and women he commanded and the leaders he advised. His character, professional skills, and abiding love and respect for those around him made him a preeminent soldier. His steadfast loyalty and commitment to his fellow soldiers and veterans was unwavering.

I was privileged to have worked extensively with Ray. His courageous leadership in so many demanding jobs leaves me with great admiration and gratitude.

We were both West Pointers and both had the privilege of serving in the Army, so we shared many things in common.

I recall first meeting Ray in Iraq when he commanded the 4th Infantry Division. I was immediately struck by his presence, his keen insight, and the mutual and profound respect he shared with his troops. His example of selfless service, dedication to his mission and his soldiers, together with his personal integrity and decency, sustained and inspired all who served with him.

I also had the privilege of working closely with him while he served as Chief of Staff of the Army. He proved an innovative and resourceful leader who continued to focus on soldiers and their families as he maintained an Army on the most robust deployment schedule in our lifetime.

Ray's love for his country was surpassed only by his love of family—his wonderful wife Linda and their three children; Tony, Katie, and Mike; and their beautiful grandchildren.

I offer the Odierno family my deepest condolences on his passing and thank them for sharing Ray with us for so many years.

The Odierno family's military tradition runs deep and strong. Ray's father was an Army sergeant in World War II. And his son, retired Army Captain Tony Odierno, also graduated from West Point. Tony served with distinction in Iraq before he was wounded there and came home and found other

ways to serve. I know that legacy of service will continue and manifest itself in many different ways.

Ray Odierno was a powerful, inspiring person. He dedicated his life's work to serving others, and his was a life well-lived. He will be missed by all who have had the privilege to know him and to serve with him.

I am proud to honor the legacy of GEN Ray Odierno, and I know the Members of the Senate will join me in recognizing the incredible contributions he made for our Nation.

And in words familiar to all West Pointers:

And when our work is done,  
Our course on earth is run,  
May it be said, "Well done; be thou at peace."

GEN Raymond Odierno, well done. Be thou at peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, news from this morning that 50 so-called battalion tactical groups have been sent to the Ukraine border by President Vladimir Putin—reports in American newspapers suggest that over the last several days there has been an increased amount of movement in Russian military assets to the Ukraine border.

This is a crisis that is deepening. There remains a diplomatic off-ramp, but that off-ramp only exists if Vladimir Putin sees the United States and its allies, especially those in Europe, united in our desire to support Ukraine in its time of need with the kind of assets they will need to defend themselves, but also with a commitment to levy unprecedented sanctions on Russia, long-lasting, deep sanctions, if they go forward with an incursion deeper into Ukraine than Russia already is.

But, right now, as we speak on the Senate floor, a small handful of Senate Republicans are blocking the key diplomatic personnel that would be able to unite U.S. policy with Europe around Russia's threatened invasion of Ukraine. And so I hear a lot of really strong-sounding press statements from many of my Republican colleagues, often the exact same Republican colleagues who are blocking these nominees, about how Joe Biden needs to stand strong for Ukraine, while, at the same time, they are down here on the floor denying President Biden the personnel that he needs in order to enact a policy that can save Ukraine from disaster—the Assistant Secretary for International Organizations, the U.S.

Representative to the EU, the U.S. Representative to OECD, numerous Ambassadors to European countries, including our Ambassador to France, France being one of the key nations that will help orchestrate a policy of cohesion amongst European nations with respect to the crisis in Ukraine.

And so everybody sees what is going on here. Not all of my Republican colleagues, but a small handful of my Republican colleagues, are setting the President up, raising expectations about what he should be able to do to save Ukraine but then denying him the personnel to get it done.

And I understand that, you know, the refrain from my Republican colleagues is, well, you know, Senator SCHUMER should just file cloture. They know how this works. For cloture, because of our current rules, the whole process takes days. We have pages full of nominees that we have to do. We wouldn't be able to conduct any other business. The Senate has never run like this.

When the Senate has had qualified nominees like Jack Markell, Mark Gitenstein, Denise Bauer in front of it, it has never required days of debate, cloture motions, in order to get key personnel, especially at times of need right now.

I hope we get an agreement to move nominees, but, frankly, time is running short for Ukraine. Time is running short for the Ukrainian people, and my Republican colleagues—the handful that are blocking these nominees—better decide whether they are interested in scoring political points or whether they are interested in standing up for the security of the United States and the security of the Ukrainian people.

REMEMBERING EDITH PRAGUE

Madam President, when they made Edith Prague, who died Thursday at the age of 96, they broke the mold. I am confident of this because in my 48 years on this Earth, I have never, ever met another person like her.

I knew Edith Prague as my colleague in the Connecticut State Senate, where she served from 1994 to 2012, retiring as the oldest member of that chamber at age 86. She was a friend of mine and a mentor. She modeled a form of public service for me that I will be eternally grateful for. There was no one in Connecticut public life as persistent, as dogged, as forceful, as Edith Prague.

She woke up every day thinking about the plight of workers, the poor, and the elderly. She had an acute sense of the injustice done to those who labored in difficult jobs, those making poverty wages, and those people who were living on fixed incomes.

And when she believed that a cause was right, she would not back down. In 1991, Governor Lowell Weicker hired her to be his commissioner of aging, and then, a year later, he fired her because when he told her that she needed to fold her agency into a bigger department to save money, she refused.

When she was elected to the State senate, she was a tireless worker, a

fighter for workplace safety laws, for raising the minimum wage, and for elderly nutrition programs. When she believed that a cause was just, nothing could stop her. She was relentless. I remember sitting in these closed-door Democratic caucus meetings with her, and she would introduce a bill at the beginning of the session, usually a bill way ahead of its time, expanding workers' rights or increasing supports for the elderly. And every week—every week—she would argue the case, and she wouldn't stop talking until she had persuaded at least one additional State senator in the room to support her bill.

At the beginning of the session, senate leaders would tell her: "No, Edith, we are not doing that bill this year," or "No, we just can't afford it." And she just wouldn't listen. She never saw a stop sign.

I have never seen anybody like this. She never saw a stop sign when there was something worthwhile to be done for the vulnerable. She would bring that bill up over and over and over again, and, eventually, she would just wear everybody down, and she would get it done.

She was in her seventies when I met her, and she had twice as much energy and stamina as I did. She was a force of nature. The last major bill she passed, she was 86 years old. It was a landmark piece of legislation granting home care workers the ability to organize and collectively bargain. She fought for the bill's uncertain passage all year, and then she stood on her feet for 6 hours, defending it in a marathon Senate debate.

She did all this with her trademark wide grin, smile, her big laugh. She was a consummate pain in the ass, but everybody loved her because, although she worked on issues of such gravity and seriousness and controversy, she brought such transparent, outward joy to her work. She knew she was a pain, and she chuckled when people tried to push her aside because she just knew she was going to outlast them.

I learned so much from her. She took me under her wing. She treated me so kindly when I came to the Senate as a naive 29-year-old. She believed in me, and her confidence meant the world to me.

Her energy and her enthusiasm for the causes she worked on gave me energy and enthusiasm for the things that mattered to me.

I think about her a lot when I work on the issue of gun violence. It wasn't one of the issues that drove Edith, but, you know, some days, it is hard to keep going on an issue like this when so little progress is being made nationally. But then I think of Edith, who never ever gave up when a thing was the right thing to do, in her mind, and her memory will keep me going, and I know it will keep a lot of other people going in Connecticut who knew her.

Longtime political reporter Mark Pazniokas writes for the Connecticut Mirror. He wrote a beautiful story

about Edith this week, and I will close with what he wrote:

[Edith] Prague did not go gentle, anywhere. She lived Dylan Thomas's poetry, his belief that "old age should burn and rave at close of day." She fought governors, fellow lawmakers, and, most consistently, the notion of retirement, a status finally imposed on her by a confluence of strokes and concerns of family and physician.

"My only choice is to retire or drop dead. I have to retire. Believe me, I don't like it," Prague said when she left state employment as the 88-year-old commissioner of aging in 2014. "Lots of people look forward to retirement," she said, "but I'm not one of them."

Edith was one of a kind, and the impact she left on people who knew her, like me, and the people who never met her, like those she fought for, is indelible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, as we are now in December and the year is winding down, I am reflecting on one of the first actions, one of the first decisions I made when I joined the Senate back in January, and that was a decision to establish a judicial evaluation commission with folks back in California, professionals who would help me find, vet, and recommend candidates to President Biden to serve on California's Federal courts.

Usually when the general public thinks about Federal courts, they tend to only think about the Supreme Court, but, as those who work in this body know, the vast majority of Federal cases—indeed, more than 99 percent of all Federal cases—are decided at the district court or circuit court level. So, as we go about our work to strengthen the justice system in America, I think it is important that we give proper attention and support to district and circuit courts.

Fast-forward to today and the items that we are working on literally as we speak. Nominees to every level of the Federal judiciary by the prior administration—let me put it mildly here. We are far from diverse, far from representative of our Nation, and as a result, the Federal courts and those who sit on the Federal bench do not reflect the diverse, vibrant America that it serves. And I am not just talking about gender. I am not just talking about race and ethnicity. For too long, the bench of our Federal courts has been dominated by corporate lawyers and former prosecutors.

Now, prosecutors and corporate lawyers do contribute valuable and important expertise to the Federal judiciary. That is why I have supported the nomination of some this year. But the judiciary also needs the knowledge and perspective of legal professionals who have taken different paths. I am talking about public defenders, who uphold our constitutional commitment that every person deserves fair representation and due process. I am talking about public interest lawyers, who de-

fend fundamental rights and the rule of law. I am talking about consumer and voting rights lawyers, labor and immigration lawyers, and local government lawyers, who serve diverse clients and advocate for different interests and bring critical insights on how working-class Americans interact with the law.

We need all these perspectives in order to rebalance our Federal courts and hopefully in the process rebuild and reaffirm public confidence in the fairness of their rulings. Our country is stronger and fairer when every level of our government reflects the voices and the experiences of all Americans—not just the privileged, not just the powerful.

A Federal bench that includes more voices can better provide justice for all. That is why, over the course of the past year, I have worked with my commission that I established back in January—which, by the way, is 70 percent attorneys of color and a majority women, and I am proud to share that—along with Senator FEINSTEIN and President Biden, to find, to nominate, and to support a new generation of qualified, outstanding, and professionally diverse Federal judges—a Federal bench that is diverse in every sense of the word.

As a result of these efforts and pending confirmation votes that I hope will soon occur, I am so proud that California's district court bench will soon include Maame Frimpong, a proud daughter and wife of immigrants from Ghana, who used her law degree to fight for consumers and strengthen global democracy.

It will soon include Judge Jennifer Thurston, who earned her law degree as a night student while raising a family and spent a decade serving in county government.

It will soon include Judge Jinsook Ohta, an immigrant from South Korea, who spent nearly 10 years of her career helping to prosecute unfair business practices and to protect consumers from fraud.

It will soon include Judge Linda Lopez, who spent more than 10 years as a public defender in San Diego.

It will soon include Judge Hernan Vera, the son of Argentine immigrants, who spent a decade fighting for the disadvantaged and leading the Nation's largest pro bono law firm.

In addition, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals now includes Judge Lucy Koh, whom we recently confirmed, an expert litigator of intellectual property cases and the first Korean-American woman to serve on the Federal circuit court.

The Ninth Circuit will also soon include Justice Gabriel Sanchez, the proud son of a single mother from Mexico, who has earned wide recognition as a public servant and an appellate judge on California's court of appeal.

It will soon include Judge Holly Thomas, the granddaughter of sharecroppers, who has made a career of fighting for the civil rights of all Americans.

I celebrate each of these outstanding nominees, and I thank them for their service to this country. I urge their swift confirmation.

Now, of course, we will still have a long way to go and much more work to do, but these confirmations, colleagues, represent a big step in the right direction.

I am proud of the work we have done so far to diversify the Federal bench, and I am committed to keeping up the momentum that we have started in that critical mission in 2022.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the Senate will soon vote on 10 judicial nominees—nine for district courts and one for the Ninth Circuit appeals court—as we continue the critical work of restoring balance to our Federal judiciary.

Before briefly speaking on their records, I want to offer a few broad observations. I continue to be impressed by the experience, qualifications, and professional diversity that we see among President Biden's judicial nominees.

Looking at these 10 in particular: Nine currently serve as either State court or Federal magistrate judges; three have worked for county or State governments; two have previously served as Federal public defenders; one has served as a Federal prosecutor, while another has worked in various roles at the Justice Department; one has worked for a leading civil rights organization; and several have worked in private legal practice.

The judiciary is stronger when our judges come from an array of professional backgrounds, including those that have been historically underrepresented on the bench. Furthermore, all 10 of these nominees are highly qualified, with broad experience and distinguished records. Each of them has demonstrated their commitment to impartiality and evenhandedness. And they will be ready upon confirmation to fully dedicate themselves to the demands of the bench.

First is Judge Linda Lopez, nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. For the past 3 years, Judge Lopez has served as a magistrate judge in the Southern District of California, where she has presided over seven bench trials. Prior to her appointment, Judge Lopez spent 25 years as a criminal defense attorney, first in private practice and then as a Federal public defender for more than a decade. During this time, she appeared in court frequently and tried 11 jury trials.

With such extensive trial experience, both on and off the bench, it is no surprise that Judge Lopez received a unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association. She has the strong support not only of her home State Senators—Senators FEINSTEIN and PADILLA—but also of top Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of California, including the

Deputy U.S. Attorney and Criminal Division Chief.

We will also vote on Judge Jinsook Ohta's nomination to the Southern District of California. Judge Ohta is currently a judge on the San Diego Superior Court, where she handles family law cases involving domestic violence, child custody, and child support—among many other issues.

Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Ohta spent nearly a decade with the consumer protection section of the California Attorney General's Office. In this role, she handled major cases involving healthcare fraud, illegal robocalls—and oversaw an investigation into Facebook's violations of consumer privacy rights.

Judge Ohta has been rated "well qualified" by the ABA, and she has the strong support of Senators FEINSTEIN and PADILLA, her home State Senators.

Judge Ohta's family immigrated to the United States from South Korea when she was young, and she grew up in New York City before attending Yale University and New York University School of Law. If confirmed, Judge Ohta would be the first Asian-American woman to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Ohta's wide-ranging legal experience makes her exceptionally well qualified to be a district court judge.

Next is David Urias, nominated to the District of New Mexico. Mr. Urias is a highly skilled litigator who is well versed in a number of practice areas, including criminal law, civil rights law, election law, and immigration. He also has experience representing a broad range of clients, from families of victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, to hedge fund managers, to plaintiffs from low-income backgrounds.

In addition to having the strong support of his home State Senators—Senators HEINRICH and LUJÁN—Mr. Urias has been rated unanimously "well qualified" by the ABA. Given Mr. Urias's broad expertise and his experience representing a wide range of clients, he understands the importance of ensuring that every voice is fairly heard in our Nation's courts.

Next is Judge Maame Frimpong, nominated to the Central District of California. Judge Frimpong currently serves as a Superior Court judge in Los Angeles County. During her time on the Superior Court, she has presided over approximately 30 jury trials and thousands of hearings in misdemeanor and felony matters. In this role, Judge Frimpong has demonstrated the acumen and temperament that is required of our Nation's judges. And she is yet another example of both the professional and demographic diversity that President Biden's nominees are adding to our Federal courts.

The ABA has unanimously rated Judge Frimpong "well qualified" to serve as a district court judge. Judge Frimpong has the strong support of her home State Senators—Senators FEIN-

STEIN and PADILLA—and she has my support as well.

We also will consider Judge Jane Beckering's nomination to the Western District of Michigan. Judge Beckering has served as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals since 2007. Prior to assuming the bench, she spent 17 years as a litigator in private practice, where she appeared regularly in both State and Federal courts and tried three jury trials to verdict.

In reviewing her record, I am particularly impressed by Judge Beckering's judicial approach. She has stated, "My judicial philosophy is that judges should take off their partisan hats when they sit on the bench and treat all comers fairly and impartially . . . they should make their rulings based on the rule of law, not on a political agenda."

That is exactly the perspective we should be looking for in nominees to the Federal bench. Judge Beckering received a unanimous "well qualified" rating from the ABA and has the strong support of her home State Senators, Senators STABENOW and PETERS.

Next is Judge Shalina Kumar for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Kumar has served on the Sixth Judicial Circuit for Oakland County, MI, since 2007. She is currently the chief judge on this court—the second largest trial court in Michigan—and served in this role on a temporary basis beginning in 2010, 8 years before her official appointment. Over the past 14 years, she has presided over more than 10,000 cases and approximately 100 jury or bench trials on civil, criminal, and juvenile matters. Before joining the bench, Judge Kumar was a skilled litigator.

Given her long and distinguished career as a State court judge and her litigation experience, it is unsurprising that Judge Kumar received a unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association. She likewise has the strong support of Senators STABENOW and PETERS. Once confirmed, she will also be the first Federal judge of South Asian descent to serve in Michigan.

We will also vote on Judge Jennifer Thurston's nomination to the Eastern District of California. Since 2009, Judge Thurston has served as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of California. And last year, she was elevated to the position of chief magistrate judge. She has presided over at least 30 trials and 400 bench trials, and she has issued hundreds of judgments involving a range of issues, including civil rights, voting rights, employment discrimination, and criminal cases.

Given Judge Thurston's experience as a long-time jurist, she will be ready from day one to take on the challenges of the Eastern District of California, which has one of the highest caseloads in the country. Judge Thurston was rated unanimously "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. And she has the strong support of her home State Senators, Senators FEINSTEIN and PADILLA.

We will also be voting on Judge Kate Menendez's nomination to the District of Minnesota. Judge Menendez has served the District of Minnesota as a Federal magistrate judge since 2016. She was appointed to that role by the district's sitting Federal judges, a reflection of Judge Menendez's record, qualifications, and dedication to impartiality.

Before assuming the bench, Judge Menendez served for nearly two decades as a Federal public defender, gaining considerable trial and appellate experience. Importantly, she has demonstrated that she understands the difference between the role of an advocate and that of a judge. She received a unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association and has the strong support of Senators KLOBUCHAR and SMITH.

We will also consider the nomination of Judge Mary Katherine Dimke for the Eastern District of Washington. For nearly 6 years, Judge Dimke has served as a U.S. magistrate judge in the Eastern District of Washington, based in Yakima, WA. In this role, Judge Dimke has presided over hundreds of matters, including approximately 400 civil cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

Prior to assuming the bench, Judge Dimke, a first-generation college graduate, spent her legal career as a Federal prosecutor. During this time, she prosecuted a wide range of crimes, with a particular focus on fraud and complex financial crimes. The ABA has unanimously rated Judge Dimke "well qualified" to serve as a district court judge, and she has the strong support of her home State Senators, Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL.

Finally, we have Judge Gabriel Sanchez, nominated to a California seat on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Sanchez is an experienced litigator and appellate jurist with a proven track record of impartial, evenhanded decision-making.

He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale and a master's degree from Cambridge University. After graduating, he clerked for Judge Richard A. Paez on the Ninth Circuit. Judge Sanchez worked as a civil litigator in private practice for 5 years before serving in the California State government, where he advised then-Governor Jerry Brown on litigation, legislation, appointments, and various policy measures, including criminal justice reform.

For example, he helped California develop and implement a response to a 2011 Supreme Court holding ordering the State to reduce its prison population. He served admirably to ensure California met its constitutional obligations while also prioritizing public safety. In 2018, Judge Sanchez was appointed to serve on the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District. The court has appellate jurisdiction over virtually all final judgments and orders issued by 12 counties in California.

During his time on the bench, Judge Sanchez has filed or joined in nearly 500 opinions in cases almost evenly split between civil and criminal matters. So his judicial experience has been broad and varied. Judge Sanchez also has the strong support of his home State Senators—Senators FEINSTEIN and PADILLA—and was rated unanimously "well qualified" by the ABA. He is an exceptional nominee with impeccable credentials, and his evenhanded approach to justice will serve him well on the Ninth Circuit.

I urge all of my colleagues to support these outstanding judicial nominees. Every one of them has been rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. They will bring much-needed professional and demographic diversity to the bench. They will be impartial and evenhanded in the administration of justice. And they will always be faithful to the rule of law.

#### NOMINATION OF MARY KATHERINE DIMKE

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to confirm Judge Kit Dimke for a district court vacancy in the Eastern District of Washington.

To begin, I want to thank President Biden for nominating Judge Dimke for this position at my strong recommendation. At the start of this Congress, there were six Federal district court vacancies in Washington State—six. More than half the Federal bench in Washington State was empty. Those vacancies put a huge strain on our Federal courts, but thanks to the quick work of this Senate with Judge Dimke's confirmation, there will be just two, with another nominee voted out of committee just yesterday.

We have confirmed more than 30 circuit and district judges to lifetime appointments and I could not be prouder that, once we confirm Judge Dimke, four of them will serve Washington State. In this Congress, we have sent a clear message that the judicial system belongs to the American people, and it should work for all of the American people, not just the powerful and well-connected.

We are delivering on that commitment by appointing Federal judges who reflect the diversity of our communities and who bring important professional diversity that has been missing from our courts for too long. Just this Congress, we have confirmed to the Federal bench in my State Lauren King, a respected Tribal law expert and Washington State's first Native American Federal judge; Tana Lin, a civil rights lawyer, the first former public defender, and the first Asian-American Federal judge in my home State; David Estudillo, the son of immigrants, a respected State court judge, and a former immigration attorney. And soon, I hope this Senate will vote to confirm Judge Kit Dimke.

Judge Dimke is currently a Federal magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Washington. She knows the current judges and the lay of the land well, having served in that role since

2016, and is a highly respected judicial colleague. Given her current role, she has meaningful experience in both criminal and civil Federal litigation.

Judge Dimke's entire career has been in public service; she previously worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in both the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington. A native of Washington State, she grew up in rural Asotin County as the child of a cattle ranger and lumber mill owner; she knows Eastern Washington. Judge Dimke attended the Running Start program at Walla Walla Community College in high school and went on to obtain her undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University and law degree from Vanderbilt. She is someone with a proven track record who is committed to improving access to the court and will look for ways for the court to work equitably for all participants and for each voice to be heard.

Judge Dimke has already demonstrated that commitment as a magistrate judge, having worked to expand the court's mediation services, improved and diversified the court's indigent defense services, and more quickly resolved one of the top areas of litigation that the Eastern District sees—Social Security disability appeals. She participates in the court's Judicial Institute, volunteering to judge the court's civics competitions for students. And she is actively engaged in the court's external outreach regarding the crisis missing and murdered Native American and Indigenous women, a significant and serious problem facing Tribal communities in Washington State.

Bottom line, Judge Dimke is qualified to become a Federal district court judge and will make an excellent addition to the Federal bench from the Spokane Courthouse. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her today.

#### VOTE ON LOPEZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lopez nomination?

Mr. PADILLA. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West



Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 509 Ex.]

#### YEAS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

#### NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeben	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

#### NOT VOTING—27

Barrasso	Fischer	Ossoff
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Capito	Inhofe	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Romney
Cramer	Kaine	Rounds
Daines	Lummis	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Moran	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomi-

nation of Executive Calendar No. 579, Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 510 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Durbin	Menendez
Bennet	Gillibrand	Merkley
Blumenthal	Hassan	Murkowski
Booker	Heinrich	Murphy
Brown	Hickenlooper	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Padilla
Cardin	Kelly	Peters
Carper	King	Reed
Casey	Klobuchar	Rosen
Collins	Leahy	Schatz
Coons	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Shaheen
Duckworth	Markey	Smith

Stabenow  
Tester  
Van Hollen

Warner  
Warnock  
Warren

Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeben	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

#### NOT VOTING—28

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Kaine	Sanders
Cramer	Lummis	Shelby
Daines	McConnell	Sinema
Ernst	Moran	Toomey
Feinstein	Ossoff	
Fischer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jinsook Ohta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### NOMINATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about some nominees and how important it is to keep advancing nominees.

A President should be able to have his Ambassadors in place so we can deal with the rest of the world, and we have key people who are still missing from Agencies, many of whom got through committees with strong bipartisan support. Let me start with one of them.

Today, I rise to discuss the importance of the Senate swiftly confirming Alan Davidson, one of President Biden's very important nominees to the Department of Commerce. If confirmed, he will play a crucial role in the coming months and years in making sure every American has access to reliable, affordable internet.

Mr. Davidson has been nominated to be the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA. OK. That sounds like a lot of words, but what does it really mean?

As head of the NTIA, Mr. Davidson will oversee the distribution of the \$40 billion for broadband infrastructure funding coming out of our bipartisan infrastructure bill. So his job couldn't be more important as we look at providing high-speed internet to every corner of this country. He will also play an important role in expanding wireless internet networks, promoting fair competition in the digital sector, and ensuring every American has access to affordable and fast internet.



As you know, after months of negotiations between Democrats and Republicans, this Senate came together to pass the President's bipartisan infrastructure law, making a once-in-a-generation investment to improve roads, rail systems, and public transit, address climate change by updating our power grid, and, yes, invest in high-speed internet.

It is the largest investment our country has ever made in high-speed internet. I was proud to lead in the Senate the base bill—Representative CLYBURN led it in the House—to make this happen when it comes to broadband.

Affordable and reliable internet access is more important now than ever as students and families rely on the internet to learn or work from home, access telehealth services, and stay connected to loved ones.

As 42 million Americans, including 16 percent of households in rural Minnesota, lack reliable broadband access, the need to make the promises of this law a reality could not be more urgent. As head of the NTIA, Mr. Davidson will be responsible for overseeing the roll-out of funding for broadband grants across the country. We don't want to wait. We need someone who knows what he is doing in place now.

With more than two decades of experience in the public and private sector as an executive, someone who worked in technology, and as an attorney, it is clear Mr. Davidson is ready for this job.

He served in the Department of Commerce during the Obama administration, where he was the Department's first Director of Digital Economy. His background in privacy and internet policy will be invaluable. I am confident he will protect consumers, promote competition, and make this historic law meaningful for everyday Americans.

His nomination has earned support from a broad array of organizations, including the Chamber of Commerce, the National Consumers League, the Open Technology Institute, and more than 80 others.

I should also point out that eight former heads of the NTIA, Republicans and Democrats alike, have urged the Senate to confirm Mr. Davidson. And he did very well in the committee. He came out of the committee with bipartisan support.

To me, this should just be done like this. We should just get it done through this Chamber, but we wait through this morass of rules. Instead of making the rules easier so we can restore the Senate so we can actually debate issues, we literally spend hours and hours and hours and hours on nominees who received Republican support in the committee because one person decides, well, I am going to hold that one up.

We need to get this done now because while we wait, students, parents, and workers without high-speed internet are falling behind. I have heard too

many stories, as I know every Senator in this chamber has heard, about people from our States who have jumped through hoops just to get online.

One high school student in Otter Tail County, MN, had such weak internet at her house that she always had to drive to the parking lot of a liquor store to take her online biology quizzes. I met her mom. She told me the story herself. I have also heard from rural doctors who rely on the WiFi in McDonald's parking lots to read their patients' x rays when they are outside the office on weekends. That is just unacceptable. So we need to make sure that this historic broadband funding gets out the door and that we have someone in place to administer it.

In addition to this hugely important work, Mr. Davidson will also be responsible for implementing upgrades to our 9-1-1 system. In a crisis, no one should be put in danger because of outdated 9-1-1 systems, and first responders, public safety officials, and law enforcement must be able to communicate seamlessly.

As a member of the Senate Commerce Committee and as one of the chairs of the Congressional Next Generation 9-1-1 Caucus, I know that these upgrades are urgently needed to help move the country's largely outdated 9-1-1 call centers and related technology into the digital age. We need to enable 9-1-1 call centers to handle text messages, pictures, videos, and other information sent by smartphones, tablets, and other devices when faced with an emergency. Mr. Davidson, with his vast array of experience, will help to bring our 9-1-1 systems into the 21st century by providing State and local governments with the resources they need to update our emergency response networks and keep our communities safe.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. Davidson's nomination today to move our country and our economy forward. The stakes are too high to wait.

Mr. President, I also come to the floor today to speak on the many Ambassador nominees who are ready for a vote but are being held up by some of our colleagues on the other side. I emphasize "some" because many of these nominees got strong bipartisan support.

While I appreciate the progress we are now making on some of the nominees as we speak, many have been waiting months for a vote. When we finish today—at least tonight or when we finish in the next few days—more, we know, will still be waiting because we have well over 100 people who have been waiting for a vote, over 150 people waiting for a vote.

This unnecessary delay is sabotaging our diplomatic efforts around the world. The State Department is made up of some of the best, the brightest, and the most patriotic citizens. By failing to confirm Ambassadors, whether to Iraq—we know how important that is—Equatorial Guinea, or Japan, we are hurting not only the nominees and

our Foreign Service officers but also all those who look to America as a beacon of democracy.

First, let's look at Elizabeth Moore Aubin, who was nominated to be Ambassador to Algeria in April and was reported out of the committee in June—June—the beginning of summer. We are now in the middle of winter.

Algeria is an important partner in northern Africa when it comes to economic and strategic security issues. Aubin is clearly up to the task. She previously served as the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and served as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Algiers, Algeria, during a 2013 terrorist attack.

Aubin knows from her years at the State Department and from her firsthand experience what it takes to keep Americans safe overseas. Yet she has been held up for 6 months. Americans and Americans in Algeria deserve better.

Angola. Another Ambassador who has been waiting since June is Tulinabo Mushingi, who has been nominated to serve as Ambassador to Angola and several other islands off the coast of eastern Africa. He has already served as Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission to our Embassy in Ethiopia, so he will be ready to take on this role on day 1.

Through our country's partnership with the Angolan Government, we have made significant progress in removing thousands of landmines and advancing economic growth in the region. The United States and Angola will be better served with an experienced Ambassador, and he should be confirmed promptly.

Yet that is not all. We also must move forward with Claire Cronin, whom President Biden nominated to be the Ambassador to Ireland. Cronin was the first woman to serve as the Massachusetts House majority leader and the first woman to chair the Massachusetts House Judiciary Committee. President Biden nominated her in June, 6 months ago, and she advanced from committee nearly 2 months ago, in mid-October.

Ireland is an economic partner, a security partner, and, of course, the United States is home to many proud Irish Americans.

We need Ambassador Cronin to move forward.

I know we are making progress, but I think of a country like Japan, where Rahm Emanuel has been nominated—Japan.

My good friend, whom we lost this year, Vice President Mondale, was the Ambassador to Japan, and I remember how proud they were when he got voted through and went to Japan. They were so proud that the United States of America sent an ambassador to their country, someone of great experience.

This is the case of all these Ambassador nominees. Our country deserves to have people over there representing our Nation. You think they don't notice, these countries?

As I said, we are making progress. Today or tomorrow, we may vote to confirm Denise Campbell Bauer, President Biden's nominee to serve as Ambassador to France. Bauer was nominated in July, 5 months ago, and is only now coming to the floor for a vote. She served as Ambassador to Belgium, including during the 2016 terrorist attack in Brussels. She is well qualified for this role.

France is our oldest ally and friend, and while we may be making progress, I am deeply concerned that our Republican colleagues have needlessly delayed this post.

I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to lift their hold on these Ambassadors and the dozens of other qualified, dedicated nominees.

We know there are negotiations afoot that we can move forward. Let's get a bunch of these done.

The United States must be able to have strong people in place for our allies to deal with problems overseas and to represent proudly the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON OHTA NOMINATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. The yeas and nays are ordered.

All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Ohta nomination?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator

from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 511 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

#### NAYS—24

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

#### NOT VOTING—29

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Kaine	Sanders
Cramer	Lummis	Shelby
Daines	McConnell	Sinema
Ernst	Moran	Toomey
Feinstein	Ossoff	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). 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 action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 580, David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Bernard Sanders, Christopher

Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 512 Ex.]

#### YEAS—45

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

#### NAYS—25

Boozman	Cotton	Hawley
Braun	Crapo	Hoeven
Cassidy	Cruz	Kennedy
Collins	Grassley	Lankford

Lee  
Marshall  
Murkowski  
Rubio  
Sasse

Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis

Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

## NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Ossoff
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Hagerty	Portman
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Capito	Inhofe	Romney
Cornyn	Johnson	Rounds
Cramer	Kaine	Sanders
Daines	Lummis	Shelby
Ernst	McConnell	Sinema
Feinstein	Moran	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Herrera Urias, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield back all time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Urias nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and

the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 513 Ex.]

## YEAS—45

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

## NAYS—26

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoehn	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	Murkowski	Wicker
Grassley	Rubio	Young
Hagerty	Sasse	

## NOT VOTING—29

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Kaine	Sanders
Cramer	Lummis	Shelby
Daines	McConnell	Sinema
Ernst	Moran	Toomey
Feinstein	Ossoff	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 574, Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Jon Ossoff, Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District

Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 514 Ex.]

## YEAS—47

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

## NAYS—24

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoehn	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

## NOT VOTING—29

Barrasso	Cramer	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Daines	Inhofe
Blunt	Ernst	Johnson
Burr	Feinstein	Kaine
Capito	Fischer	Lummis
Cornyn	Graham	McConnell

Moran	Risch	Shelby
Ossoff	Romney	Sinema
Paul	Rounds	Toomey
Portman	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL).

On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 24.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Maame Ewusi-Mensah Frimpong, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. May I make an inquiry of the Chair? How long was the last rollcall vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Twenty-three minutes.

Mr. DURBIN. If I could make an inquiry of the Chair through the legislative clerk of the last person voting, could the Chair report that?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Apparently not.

#### VOTE ON FRIMPONG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Frimpong nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS),

the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 515 Ex.]

#### YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

#### NAYS—24

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

#### NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Ossoff
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Burr	Inhofe	Risch
Capito	Johnson	Romney
Cornyn	Kaine	Rounds
Cramer	Lummis	Sanders
Daines	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Menendez	Sinema
Feinstein	Moran	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). 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 action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 487, Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Bernard Sanders, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 516 Ex.]

#### YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

#### NAYS—24

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

## NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Ossoff
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Burr	Inhofe	Risch
Capito	Johnson	Romney
Cornyn	Kaine	Rounds
Cramer	Lummis	Sanders
Daines	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Menendez	Sinema
Feinstein	Moran	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 24.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Beckering nomination?

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 25, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 517 Ex.]

## YEAS—45

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden

## NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeben	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

## NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Burr	Inhofe	Portman
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	Manchin	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Menendez	Sinema
Fischer	Moran	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 488, Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Bernard Sanders, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEIN-

STEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 25, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 518 Ex.]

## YEAS—45

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden

## NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeben	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

## NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Burr	Inhofe	Portman
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	Manchin	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Menendez	Sinema
Fischer	Moran	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.



## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Mr. CARDIN. I yield back time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kumar nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 519 Ex.]

## YEAS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	

## NAYS—25

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Boozman	Hoeven	Sullivan
Braun	Kennedy	Thune
Cassidy	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

## NOT VOTING—31

Barrasso	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Blackburn	Inhofe	Portman
Burr	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Kaine	Romney
Cornyn	Lummis	Rounds
Cramer	Manchin	Sanders
Daines	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Menendez	Sinema
Feinstein	Moran	Toomey
Fischer	Murray	
Graham	Ossoff	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 575, Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK-

BURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 520 Ex.]

## YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Lujan	Tillis
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

## NAYS—24

Blunt	Hagerty	Sasse
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Grassley	Rubio	Young

## NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Burr	Inhofe	Portman
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	Manchin	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Moran	Sinema
Fischer	Murray	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 24.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer L. Thurston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I yield back time.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thurston nomination?

The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 521 Ex.]

#### YEAS—46

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Leahy	Tester
Carper	Lujan	Tillis
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Hassan	Reed	

#### NAYS—24

Blunt	Hagerty	Sasse
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Grassley	Rubio	Young

#### NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Burr	Inhofe	Portman
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	Manchin	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Moran	Sinema
Fischer	Murray	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 578, Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Ron Wyden, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Cory A. Booker, Richard Blumenthal, Martin Heinrich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr.

GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 522 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blunt	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	Kennedy	Smith
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Tillis
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Grassley	Peters	

#### NAYS—21

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

#### NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Burr	Inhofe	Portman
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	Manchin	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Moran	Sinema
Fischer	Murray	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 21.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Katherine Marie Menendez, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY'S 17,000TH VOTE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just after the clock struck 12 midnight, we have a wonderful announcement: Senator LEAHY has just cast his 17,000th vote.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

Madam President, I would note one more thing. Robert C. Byrd is the only Senator who has cast more votes than Senator LEAHY in the history of the United States.



(Applause.)

So we will have a 2-hour recess to celebrate. No, we are not doing that.

(Laughter.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, while the distinguished leader is still on the floor, I thank him for his comments. It is very late at night, and I will speak further about this next week.

I must admit, when I came here as the junior-most Member of the Senate, I did not expect to be in this position, but I have had the privilege now of serving with slightly over 20 percent of all of the Senators who have served in the history of this country, and some were very, very good Senators—and all were Senators. All were Senators, and some were very good.

(Laughter.)

I will speak about this later in the week. I appreciate the comments, and it has been a privilege serving with all of those hundreds and hundreds of Senators I have served with.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

#### VOTE ON MENENDEZ NOMINATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Menendez nomination?

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from

Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 523 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blunt	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	Kennedy	Smith
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Tillis
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Grassley	Peters	

#### NAYS—21

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeben	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

#### NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Burr	Inhofe	Portman
Capito	Johnson	Risch
Cornyn	Kaine	Romney
Cramer	Lummis	Rounds
Daines	Manchin	Sanders
Ernst	McConnell	Shelby
Feinstein	Moran	Sinema
Fischer	Murray	Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 573, Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 524 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Lujan	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	

#### NAYS—23

Blunt	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hoeben	Scott (SC)
Braun	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Hagerty	Sasse	

#### NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso	Cramer	Graham
Blackburn	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Burr	Ernst	Inhofe
Capito	Feinstein	Johnson
Cornyn	Fischer	Kaine

Lummis  
Manchin  
McConnell  
Moran  
Murray

Ossoff  
Paul  
Portman  
Risch  
Romney

Rounds  
Sanders  
Shelby  
Sinema  
Toomey

[Rollcall Vote No. 525 Ex.]

#### YEAS—47

Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Booker  
Brown  
Cantwell  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Collins  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Gillibrand  
Grassley

Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hickenlooper  
Hirono  
Kelly  
King  
Klobuchar  
Leahy  
Lujan  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murkowski  
Murphy  
Padilla  
Peters

Reed  
Rosen  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Tillis  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 23.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Mary Katherine Dimke, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I yield back all time.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dimke nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator of Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 23, as follows:

Blunt  
Boozman  
Braun  
Cassidy  
Cotton  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Hagerty

#### NAYS—23

Hawley  
Hoeven  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Marshall  
Rubio  
Sasse

Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

#### NOT VOTING—30

Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Burr  
Capito  
Cornyn  
Cramer  
Daines  
Ernst  
Feinstein  
Fischer

Graham  
Hyde-Smith  
Inhofe  
Johnson  
Kaine  
Lummis  
Manchin  
McConnell  
Moran  
Murray

Ossoff  
Paul  
Portman  
Risch  
Romney  
Rounds  
Sanders  
Shelby  
Sinema  
Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the information of the Senators, I am going to read a list of UCs for Ambassadors. Then we will have three votes, one on an ambassador and two on cloture for court of appeals judges.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, no later than January 14, 2022, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 3436 introduced earlier today by Senator CRUZ; that there be 2 hours of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees on the bill; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the Cruz bill, with 60-affirmative votes required for passage, with no amendments in order and without intervening action or debate; further, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if applicable, that PN605 Elizabeth Rosenberg to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of Treasury, be discharged from the Banking Committee and the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Executive Calendar Nos. 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 318, 319, 403, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 439, 448, 449, 450, 455, 516, 517, 518, 520, 522, 523, 524, 617, 618, 620, 621, 623, 624, 625, and PN605; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with-

out intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the bill in the agreement be placed on the Calendar of Business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia; Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Lesotho; Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon; Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe; Eugene S. Young, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Congo; Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs); Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform; Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform; Alexia Marie

Gabrielle Latortue, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury; Steven C. Bondy, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Bahrain; Michael Raynor, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau; Adam Scheinman, of Virginia, to be Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Non-proliferation, with the rank of Ambassador; Sharon L. Cromer, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia; Troy Damian Fitrell, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Guinea; Marc Ostfield, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Paraguay; Cynthia Ann Telles, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Costa Rica; Kent Doyle Logsdon, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova; Caryn R. McClelland, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam; Michael J. Murphy, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Bosnia and Herzegovina; Laura S.H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; Peter D. Haas, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Julie Chung, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of

America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka; Patricia Mahoney, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Central African Republic; Peter Hendrick Vrooman, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mozambique; Elizabeth Anne Noseworthy Fitzsimmons, of Delaware, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Togolese Republic; Brian Wesley Shukan, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Benin; David R. Gilmour, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Equatorial Guinea; Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia; Mark Brzezinski, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Poland; Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Argentine Republic; Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein; Michael M. Adler, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Belgium; Erik D. Ramanathan, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Sweden; John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management); and Elizabeth Rosenberg, of Vermont, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw all of the filed cloture motions, with the exception of the Sanchez and Thomas

nominations; that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar Nos. 519, 526, 446, 442, 454, 447, 440, 323, 317, and 320, en bloc, and that the Senate vote on the nominations in the order listed; that upon disposition of the Gifford nomination, the Senate vote on the cloture motions on the Sanchez and Thomas nominations; further, that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Sanchez nomination at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, January 3, and on confirmation of the Thomas nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader; further, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the first nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pantaleon nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rahm Emanuel, of Illinois, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Japan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Emanuel nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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 that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 526 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Grassley	Rosen
Bennet	Hagerty	Sasse
Blumenthal	Hassan	Schatz
Blunt	Heinrich	Schumer
Booker	Hickenlooper	Shaheen
Brown	Hirono	Smith
Cantwell	Kelly	Stabenow
Cardin	King	Sullivan
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Leahy	Thune
Collins	Lujan	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Padilla	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	Young

NAYS—21

Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Markey	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Warren
Hawley	Merkley	Wicker

NOT VOTING—31

Barrasso	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Blackburn	Inhofe	Portman
Burr	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Kaine	Romney
Cornyn	Lummis	Rounds
Cramer	Manchin	Sanders
Daines	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Moran	Sinema
Feinstein	Murkowski	Toomey
Fischer	Murray	
Graham	Ossoff	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the previous order, the remaining nominations be considered en bloc.

I further ask that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture vote on the Thomas nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador; Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador; Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the Rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco; Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland; Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; Marc Evans Knapper, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service.

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, it has been a long day of voting. We are not quite done yet, but we are close.

At the end of the day, we will have invoked cloture on 2 circuit judges, confirmed 9 district court judges, confirmed 41 Ambassadors, and confirmed 5 other members of President Biden's team. It has been a long day but a good day's work. I thank my colleagues.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 572, Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Chris Van Hollen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Lujan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Elizabeth Warren, Jeff Merkley, Cory A. Booker, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 44, nays 24, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 527 Ex.]

YEAS—44

Baldwin	Casey	Heinrich
Bennet	Collins	Hickenlooper
Blumenthal	Coons	Hirono
Booker	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Brown	Duckworth	King
Cantwell	Durbin	Klobuchar
Cardin	Gillibrand	Leahy
Carper	Hassan	Lujan

Markey	Rosen	Van Hollen
Menendez	Schatz	Warner
Merkley	Schumer	Warnock
Murphy	Shaheen	Warren
Padilla	Smith	Whitehouse
Peters	Stabenow	Wyden
Reed	Tester	

## NAYS—24

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeben	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Rubio	Wicker
Hagerty	Sasse	Young

## NOT VOTING—32

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Blunt	Inhofe	Portman
Burr	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Kaine	Romney
Cornyn	Lummis	Rounds
Cramer	Manchin	Sanders
Daines	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Moran	Sinema
Feinstein	Murkowski	Toomey
Fischer	Murray	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 44, and the nays are 24.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gabriel P. Sanchez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 635, Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Chris Van Hollen, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Martin Heinrich, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEIN-

STEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 42, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 528 Ex.]

## YEAS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Lujan	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden

## NAYS—25

Boozman	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Braun	Hoeben	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Collins	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Wicker
Cruz	Rubio	Young
Grassley	Sasse	
Hagerty	Scott (FL)	

## NOT VOTING—33

Barrasso	Graham	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Blunt	Inhofe	Portman
Burr	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Kaine	Romney
Cornyn	Lummis	Rounds
Cramer	Manchin	Sanders
Daines	McConnell	Shelby
Ernst	Moran	Sinema
Feinstein	Murkowski	Stabenow
Fischer	Murray	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 42, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Holly A. Thomas, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

(At the request of Mr. THUNE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RODERICK JENNINGS

• Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exceptional American and an exceptional member of the U.S. Capitol Police Force, Officer Roderick Jennings. Officer Jennings is retiring from the U.S. Capitol Police on December 28, 2021, after 31 years of service, and today, I wanted to take a moment to honor his years of service to the U.S. Capitol Police and to our country.

While he has served in many roles during his tenure, Officer Jennings most recently has been assigned to the U.S. Capitol Police Senate Division. I would often see him stationed in the basement of the Russell Senate Office Building, as well as other locations throughout the Senate complex. Whenever I saw Officer Jennings, he was always friendly and consistently maintained a sense of utmost professionalism. I always enjoyed seeing him throughout my day, and I know other members and staff feel the same. The Senate community will miss Officer Jennings.

We must do everything we can to support and honor our law enforcement officers for what they do for us each and every day. The Capitol Police make tremendous sacrifices and put their lives on the line for us, and for that, we owe them a debt of gratitude. Officer Jennings showed an unwavering commitment to keeping others safe, and these halls undoubtedly remained safer because of his service and the entire Capitol Police force. Officer Jennings represents everything that is great about our country, and we are all better off for his selfless sense of duty and his tireless commitment to our safety. I thank Officer Jennings for his

years of service, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.●

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, on the vote to confirm Marcela Escobari, I wish to be recorded as a no vote. Had there been a rollcall vote, I would have voted no.

Mr. President, on the vote to confirm Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, I wish to be recorded as voting no vote. Had there been a rollcall vote, I would have voted no.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I had the privilege to deliver the commencement address for Michigan State University fall graduates. Speaking with and recognizing the next generation of leaders in Michigan and the country was an incredible honor. While I was unable to attend today's vote No. 506 on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 528 Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted aye on the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. President, I had the privilege to deliver the commencement address for Michigan State University fall graduates. Speaking with and recognizing the next generation of leaders in Michigan and the country was an incredible honor. While I was unable to attend today's vote No. 507 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 528, Atul Atmaram Gawande, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted aye on confirmation.

Mr. President, I had the privilege to deliver the commencement address for Michigan State University fall graduates. Speaking with and recognizing the next generation of leaders in Michigan and our country was an incredible honor. While I was unable to attend today's vote No. 508 on motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 577 Linda Lopez, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted aye on the motion to invoke cloture.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, had there been a rollcall vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 323, Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, I would have voted no.

Had there been a rollcall vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 519, Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New

York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra, I would have voted no.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 608, Adm. Christopher W. Grady, for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 154 and 601.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 239, Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 320, Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 323, Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 440, Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Ireland.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 442, Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 446, Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 447, Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirma-

tion of Executive Calendar No. 454, Mark Gitenstein, of Washington, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 519, Julissa Reynoso Pantaleon, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 625, John R. Bass, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management), vice Brian J. Bulatao.

#### REMEMBERING COLIN POWELL

Mr. REED. Mr. President. I rise today to honor one of our Nation's most distinguished and honorable military and diplomatic leaders, Colin Powell.

Few American leaders have served their nation more, from combat overseas as a young officer to the heights of military command and diplomacy on the world stage. Colin Powell will and should hold a renowned place in our country's history.

Throughout his life, Colin Powell was the epitome of selfless service and courageous leadership. He gave everything he had to America—and then some. And he always did what many profess but few do: He took responsibility.

Colin Powell was a trailblazer for countless Americans. He paved much of the way on his own. Raised in the South Bronx as the son of Jamaican immigrants, he joined ROTC at the City College of New York and went on to serve with incredible bravery in Vietnam, sustaining wounds on two tours and saving the lives of many fellow soldiers. Colin Powell's remarkable skill as a military commander was clear to everyone around him, and he rose quickly through the ranks, eventually becoming National Security Advisor to President Ronald Reagan and, later, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for President George H.W. Bush.

The "Powell Doctrine," as his theory of warfare would become known, guided the United States to its most decisive military victory since World War II through Operation Desert Storm. Colin Powell insisted that war should be the last resort in any national conflict, but, when necessary, it should be focused, overwhelming for the enemy, and controlled with clear objectives. We would do well to remember that vision today.



Colin Powell reached the summit of his career when he was named Secretary of State for President George W. Bush. Once again, he served his country selflessly and demonstrated his innate decency and integrity.

A distinct honor of my life was the opportunity to work with and learn from Colin Powell in the years afterward. I made a point to call him when I was named chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. His advice was deeply appreciated. Indeed, both in and out of uniform, he advised generations of Presidents, diplomats, military leaders, and lawmakers with wisdom and candor. Colin did not shrink from the truth, and he will be remembered as one of our Nation's most thoughtful strategists.

Perhaps most importantly, to the countless Americans who looked up to him, Colin Powell leaves a legacy of courage and integrity. He was the first leader of color in many of the land's highest offices, including National Security Advisor, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of State. He was beloved by his troops, respected by his peers, and trusted more than any other American of his day.

Colin Powell was resolute and honorable throughout his life and career, and America is fortunate to have benefited from his leadership. I offer my sincere condolences to Alma and his wonderful family, whom I know he loved deeply and fiercely.

May we all strive for the wisdom, courage, and humility that Colin Powell imparted upon this great Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO STAFF

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, as this year draws to a close, I rise today to recognize my staff and their exemplary service to Pennsylvania in the face of immense challenges. Even under the best of circumstances, public service can be challenging work. For the past 2 years my staff have, like all Americans, grappled with the daunting uncertainty and isolation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic and grief for the more than 800,000 lives lost.

Despite these difficulties, they have risen to the demands of the moment to support, advocate for, and empower the people of Pennsylvania. The end of the year is a time for reflection on all that we have overcome and an opportunity to express gratitude for those we hold dear. This December, I would like to express my gratitude for the men and women who have served in my office—some of whom have since moved on—and their indelible contributions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during such an extraordinary time.

I am grateful for my administrative staff, who build and maintain the solid foundation on which an effective congressional office is built. These are the people who tirelessly ensure that everyone on our team has the support and resources needed to do their jobs effectively. While the work that they

do may not be noticeable to everyone, they are truly the connective tissue which allows the rest of the office to function.

Similarly, the office's executive staff are tasked with ensuring my time is used as efficiently as possible and that my day runs smoothly. From building schedules that balance constituent engagements, committee hearings, floor votes, and travel; to managing the flurry of briefing memos on any given day and drafting my constituent greetings, I could not be nearly as effective on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania without their hard work.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the work of the constituent services team, who walk with constituents in their darkest moments in pursuit of a brighter resolution. Day in and day out, these are the men and women who help Pennsylvania seniors navigate issues with Social Security checks, help veterans secure benefits owed to them and medals they have earned, among so many other things. During COVID, they have continued to assist with routine cases while also working tirelessly to connect Pennsylvanians with testing and other resources, apply for small business relief, navigate unemployment systems, and so much more.

The outreach staff, spread out over seven offices across the Commonwealth, serve as a vital resource in ensuring the needs of all 67 counties are met. These individuals are my liaisons to local communities across Pennsylvania, representing me in their regions every single day. Throughout the pandemic, they have been in constant contact with local elected officials, sharing information back and forth and bringing to bear Federal resources when they have been needed most. Their relationships across the Commonwealth, and their granular knowledge of communities large and small are extraordinary. I am grateful for innumerable phone calls and meetings that they lead and attend every year and the thousands of miles that they drive as they crisscross their regions to show up for the communities they represent.

The legislative staff fight daily for policies that will improve life for every American, but especially those who are too often overlooked and left behind. These men and women bring their expertise to bear to help inform my policy positions and floor votes. In answering constituent correspondence, they parse through complex matters of policy to help constituents better understand how critical legislation will impact Pennsylvania. I am deeply grateful for the benefit of their extraordinary minds and their dedication to improving the lives of working families with sound policy.

It is through the tireless work of the communications staff that Pennsylvanians understand how I am representing them in Washington. These men and women are a vital bridge be-

tween the work that I do in the Senate and the people of Pennsylvania, helping me connect the voices of the Commonwealth to the halls of Congress, and in turn bringing our legislative work back into communities across Pennsylvania.

Since 2017, I have had the privilege of serving as the lead Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging. During the pandemic, this team has relentlessly demanded accountability from the programs and institutions that serve older adults and people with disabilities. As COVID devastated nursing homes, they pushed for increased transparency to protect residents and workers. They now lead the call for transformative investments in life-changing home and community-based services.

There is an inscription on the Finance Building in Harrisburg, PA, that has guided me during my time as a public official. It reads: "All public service is a trust, given in faith and accepted in honor." Each and every day, my staff demonstrate their commitment to that trust with tireless work and personal sacrifice. They are hardworking and talented individuals who form a distinguished collective of honorable public servants whom I respect and whom I am grateful to work alongside.

Today, I am proud to list them alphabetically by name to memorialize their service to our Commonwealth and our country during this pandemic:

Tad Abramowich  
Natalie Adams  
Sandra Aguilera Garcia  
Jennifer Baker  
Jordan Ball  
Rob Bielunas  
Kim Bierly  
Hulan Bikales  
Regina Brennan  
Sydney Brooks  
Jessica Butherus  
Kathi Caber  
Jenna Carmen  
Alyssa Charney  
McKenzie Cliatt  
Christian Clesi  
Bob Coomber  
Connor Corpora  
Rory Daly  
Stephanie DeLuca  
Teresa Dennis  
Josh Dubensky  
Thomas Eagen  
Micah Escobedo  
Erika Felix  
Marlon Ferguson  
Lara Flynn  
Adam Fountaine  
Michael Gamel-McCormick  
Peter Gartrell  
Kristen Gentile  
Ben Gilsdorf  
Jasmine Goodman  
Veronica Goodman  
Ian Graham  
Rashage Green  
Jack Groarke  
Andrea Guscott  
Kyle Hannon  
Hans Hansen  
Kristen Harfield  
Doug Hartman  
Corey Husak  
Sean Hyland



Maurya Incavido  
 Narda Ipakchi  
 Brian Jennings  
 Aisha Johnson  
 Christopher Johnson  
 Robert Joyce  
 Liz Kishbaugh  
 Samantha Koehler  
 Molly Krafcik  
 Josh Kramer  
 Trace Ledgard  
 James Lee  
 José Leoncio  
 Nefetia Lundy  
 Mairead Lynn  
 Ian Madigan  
 Kristin Magnotta  
 Shoshana Marin  
 Ben Martin  
 Lindsay Martin  
 Sara Maskornick  
 Robbie Matesic  
 Cindy Matos Beltré  
 Jae Von McClain  
 Jake Medvitz  
 Alina Meltaus  
 Carolyn Mendez-Luck  
 Leah Mercik  
 Datnilza Metz  
 Kate Mevis  
 Derek Miller  
 Keith Miller  
 Gillian Mueller  
 Janet Murphy  
 Grace Nelson  
 Paul Nestler  
 Stephen O'Brien  
 Kennedy O'Dell  
 Max Olender  
 Hector Ortiz  
 Panini Pandya  
 Reecha Patel  
 Isabel Perez  
 Joycelyn Pickens  
 Nikki Rai  
 John Rizzo  
 Rahmon Ross  
 Ryan Ross  
 Kate Samuelson  
 Stacy Sanders  
 Valli Sanmugalingam  
 Judy Schaechter  
 Abigail Seibert  
 Julia Sferlazzo  
 Zach Shaw  
 Livia Shmavonian  
 Sara-Paige Silvestro  
 Madison Sloat  
 Allegra Smith  
 Cam Thompson  
 Amanda Toth  
 Jenna Valle-Riestra  
 Lieke van Heumen  
 Landy Wade  
 Caitlin Warner  
 Tia Watson  
 Aimee Wechsler  
 Ebony Staton Weidman  
 Madison West  
 Wesley Whistle

#### TRIBUTE TO ERIN STUART

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize a member of my staff, Erin Stuart, who left the office in July to attend law school at Marquette University. This is an exciting time in Erin's life and all of us with Team Sullivan want to thank her for her contributions to our office, the State of Alaska, and the U.S. Senate.

Erin is a born-and-raised Alaskan who grew up fishing with her family in our State's pristine waters. After graduating from South Anchorage High

School, Erin attended the University of Portland where she explored her passions for government affairs and trade policy.

Erin's time on Capitol Hill began in the summer of 2018 when she was an intern for my colleague, Congressman DON YOUNG. That following summer, Erin joined my DC office where she impressed all of us with her strong work ethic, eventually becoming a legislative correspondent for healthcare issues.

We work tirelessly in my office to ensure that the needs of Alaskans are best represented. I tell people who join my staff that it is not easy work. Erin was always eager to learn and to give the job her all, while also spending her evenings and weekends studying for the LSAT and filling out law school applications.

We wish her the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

While Erin is currently not on my staff, she is will always be a member of Team Sullivan. Please join me in wishing Erin success in her future. She is missed.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DAVID TOMASSONI

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Minnesota State Senator David Tomassoni, a public servant, Olympian, and friend. Even through his battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease—also known as ALS—he has continued to serve the people of his district on Minnesota's Iron Range.

David's family has a distinctly American story: His grandfather was an immigrant, and his father served in World War II. And David, a son of Chisholm, MN, attended Denver University on a full hockey scholarship before embarking on a professional hockey career that brought him to Italy and the Olympics. He then returned to the place he was so proud to call home: the Iron Range. As David is quick to remind anyone, the Range "provided the ore that has forged the steel that has made the bridges of America."

Northern Minnesota was also where David found his true calling as a legislator. In nearly three decades of public service in the Minnesota House of Representatives and State senate, David has represented his community with pride, working every day to deliver real results for workers and families. From bringing good-paying jobs to his district, to improving schools, to fighting for safe conditions for miners, he has always been driven by a commitment to making his constituents' lives better.

When David announced his ALS diagnosis, it sent a shock through the entire State senate, and his colleagues rushed to wish him encouragement and good health. But even in the face of his own illness—and in true Tomassoni fashion—he is still thinking of others.

He is planning to introduce legislation to invest in new research, care, and ultimately a cure for ALS. He knows he likely will not be able to benefit from that investment himself, but the possibility that he could help another person is enough for him.

I want to leave you with David's own words, from the letter he shared with his constituents about his ALS diagnosis. He wrote: "I give you my word that my brain and my body will continue to represent you with the same passion and vigor I've tried to give in the past. I have been fortunate and blessed in my life, my career, in sports, and with friends and a great family. This is the next challenge."

David, you are an inspiration, not just to me, but to anyone who values hard work and determination. Thank you for your decades of service to the people of our great State, and my thoughts and best wishes are with you. If anyone is up to this challenge, it is you.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JANIS SANTOS

• Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations to Janis Santos as she retires as CEO from Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start after 48 years of leadership in early childhood education and care. She deserves recognition for her steadfast commitment to ensuring that children of all backgrounds have access to high-quality early education.

A graduate of Holyoke Community College and the University of Massachusetts, Janis began her professional teaching career in western Massachusetts. She soon became a trailblazer in her field. After opening Parkside Early Learning Center in Ludlow in 1973, she went on to join Holyoke Chicopee Head Start, Inc., as executive director in 1979. She continues to lead Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, which has grown to be the second largest Head Start Agency in Massachusetts and one of the largest providers of early education in western Massachusetts. In her career with Head Start, she has held several leadership positions, including chair of the Massachusetts Head Start Directors Association, chair of the New England Head Start Association, vice chair of the National Head Start Association, and member of the national advisory panel for the Head Start 2010 Project.

In 2003, while serving on the board of directors of the National Head Start Association, she testified before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions in a hearing on the reauthorization of funds for Head Start. Her advocacy on behalf of the children and families in Head Start programs is powerfully important. I want to offer my gratitude to Janis Santos for her lifelong commitment to America's children and for all she has done to advance early childhood education and care in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I congratulate her on

her retirement and wish her the best of luck in her next chapter.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:21 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3377. An act to empower the Chief of the United States Capitol Police to unilaterally request the assistance of the DC National Guard or Federal law enforcement agencies in emergencies without prior approval of the Capitol Police Board.

H.R. 5545. An act to extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6256. An act to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3436. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to entities responsible for the planning, construction, or operation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and their corporate officers and to apply congressional review under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act to the removal of sanctions relating to Nord Stream 2, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 17, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3377. An act to empower the Chief of the United States Capitol Police to unilaterally request the assistance of the DC National Guard or Federal law enforcement agencies in emergencies without prior approval of the Capitol Police Board.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 516. A bill to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-53).

S. 46. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 66. A bill to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes.

S. 82. A bill to require a joint task force on air travel during and after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 116. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to study the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 140. A bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 198. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 316. A bill to establish a temperature checks pilot program for air transportation, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 451. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to help facilitate the adoption of composite technology in infrastructure in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 497. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes.

S. 594. A bill to double the existing penalties for the provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

S. 1127. A bill to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to make certain operational models available to the public, and for other purposes.

S. 1259. A bill to provide that crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1289. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reauthorize and modify the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 1747. A bill to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1790. A bill to ensure that the Federal Communications Commission does not approve radio frequency devices that pose a national security risk.

S. 1880. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 1890. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on scams that target travelers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 1894. A bill to designate Regional Ocean Partnerships of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1995. A bill to amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2016. A bill to authorize elements of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 2068. A bill to require the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce to promote and administer programs in the public and private sectors to assist the development of minority business enterprises, to ensure that such Agency has the necessary supporting resources, particularly during economic downturns, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 2299. A bill to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2424. A bill to make available \$250,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund for the Corporation for Travel Promotion.

S. 2699. A bill to establish a cybersecurity literacy campaign, and for other purposes.

S. 3309. A bill to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production.

S. 3375. A bill to promote travel and tourism in the United States, to improve the health safety and security of international flights entering the United States, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 3435. An original bill to extend the authorizations for certain National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3431. A bill to support programs and services under the Older Americans Act of 1965 through innovation and modernization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3432. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on initiatives of the Department of Defense to source locally and regionally produced foods for consumption or distribution at installations of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3433. A bill to require a strategy to support nationals of Afghanistan who are applicants for special immigrant visas or for referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3434. A bill to commission a study relating to the manufacturing programs of the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 3435. An original bill to extend the authorizations for certain National Heritage Areas, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3436. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to entities responsible for the planning, construction, or operation of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and their corporate officers and to apply congressional review under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act to the removal of sanctions relating to Nord Stream 2, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3437. A bill to extend certain COVID-19 bankruptcy relief provisions through March 27, 2022; considered and passed.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. Res. 483. A resolution remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REED:

S. Con. Res. 24. A concurrent resolution directing the Secretary of the Senate to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 368

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZ-

MAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 368, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 601

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 601, a bill to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to eliminate origination fees on Federal Direct loans.

S. 904

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 904, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes.

S. 1078

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1078, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment.

S. 1089

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1089, a bill to direct the Government Accountability Office to evaluate appropriate coverage of assistive technologies provided to patients who experience amputation or live with limb difference.

S. 1134

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1134, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1198

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1315

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1315, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program.

S. 1378

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1385, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to establish additional requirements for dealers, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1578

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 1847

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1847, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a community college and career training grant program.

S. 2080

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2080, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the treatment of core seasonal industries affected by antidumping or countervailing duty investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 2244

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2244, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid.

S. 2280

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2280, a bill to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2342

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2342, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

S. 2688

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2688, a bill to require consultations on reuniting Korean Americans with family members in North Korea.

S. 2890

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2890, a bill to allow the participants in the National Health Service Corps to defer their obligated service in order to receive training in palliative care services.

S. 2891

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2891, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to establish a pilot program to support medical residency and fellowship programs that assist veterans, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, *supra*.

S. 3080

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3080, a bill to amend the Employee

Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to provide for cost-sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost-sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 3169

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 3169, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of food packaging containing intentionally added PFAS, and for other purposes.

S. 3180

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3180, a bill to make transitional compensation available to dependents of members of the Armed Forces convicted of dependent abuse in Federal or State court and dependents of members accused of dependent abuse who have forfeited all pay and allowances for an unrelated offense.

S. 3207

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3207, a bill to amend the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act of 2016 to apply to members of the Coast Guard when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy, and for other purposes.

S. 3229

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3229, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

S. 3278

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3278, a bill to protect children and other consumers against hazards associated with the accidental ingestion of button cell or coin batteries by requiring the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard to require child-resistant closures on consumer products that use such batteries, and for other purposes.

S. 3418

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3418, a bill to provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by substance use disorder, including the use of opioids and stimulants, and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, public or private nonprofit entities, and certain health providers, to provide for the develop-

ment, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families.

S. RES. 321

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 321, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2050.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 483—REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 483

Whereas December 6, 2021, the 2-year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this preamble as the “terrorist attack”), is a day of commemoration for those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, during the terrorist attack, including—

(1) Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, Alabama;

(2) Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

(3) Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond Hill, Georgia;

Whereas the 3 servicemembers who died in the terrorist attack were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart;

Whereas the terrorist who committed the terrorist attack was a Saudi Arabian foreign military student who had been radicalized and established contacts with Al Qaeda operatives prior to attending flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola security forces and Escambia County, Florida, law enforcement officers took decisive action to end the terrorist attack and have rightly earned the praises and awards bestowed upon them;

Whereas 2 civilians were awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Medal for Valor for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 individuals were awarded the Purple Heart, or the law enforcement equivalent, for injuries sustained during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 9 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 law enforcement officers were awarded the Medal of Valor for their actions taken during the terrorist attack; and

Whereas December 6, 2021, marks 2 years since the lives of 3 military personnel were tragically cut short by the egregious act of terrorism at Naval Air Station Pensacola: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this resolution as the “terrorist attack”);

(2) commemorates in sorrow the servicemembers and civilians who lost their lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24—DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1605

Mr. REED submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 24

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In the table in section 2301(a), in the item relating to Eielson Air Force Base, strike “\$44,850,00” in the amount column and insert “\$44,850,000”.

(2) In section 4601, in the table relating to Military Construction, Navy, in the item relating to AEGIS Ashore Barracks Planning and Design in Redzikowo, Poland, insert “0” in the Conference Authorized column.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4896. Mr. SCHATZ (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2551, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4896. Mr. SCHATZ (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2551, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act” or the “AI Training Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AI.—The term “AI” has the meaning given the term “artificial intelligence” in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

(2) AI TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term “AI training program” means the training program established under subsection (b)(1).

(3) COVERED WORKFORCE.—The term “covered workforce” means—

(A) employees of an executive agency who are responsible for—

(i) program management;

(ii) the planning, research, development, engineering, testing, and evaluation of systems, including quality control and assurance;

(iii) procurement and contracting;

(iv) logistics; or

(v) cost estimating; and

(B) other personnel of an executive agency designated by the head of the executive agency to participate in the AI training program.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency”—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code; and

(B) does not include—

(i) the Department of Defense or a component of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) the National Nuclear Security Administration or a component of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and any other person determined relevant by the Director, shall develop and implement or otherwise provide an AI training program for the covered workforce.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the AI training program shall be to ensure that the covered workforce has knowledge of the capabilities and risks associated with AI.

(3) TOPICS.—The AI training program shall include information relating to—

(A) the science underlying AI, including how AI works;

(B) introductory concepts relating to the technological features of artificial intelligence systems;

(C) the ways in which AI can benefit the Federal Government;

(D) the risks posed by AI, including discrimination and risks to privacy;

(E) ways to mitigate the risks described in subparagraph (D), including efforts to create and identify AI that is reliable, safe, and trustworthy; and

(F) future trends in AI, including trends for homeland and national security and innovation.

(4) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Director shall update the AI training program to—

(A) incorporate new information relating to AI; and

(B) ensure that the AI training program continues to satisfy the requirements under paragraph (3).

(5) FORMAT.—The Director is encouraged to develop and implement or otherwise include under the AI training program interactive learning with—

(A) technologists;

(B) scholars; and

(C) other experts from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

(6) METRICS.—The Director shall ensure the existence of a means by which to—

(A) understand and measure the participation of the covered workforce; and

(B) receive and consider feedback from participants in the AI training program to improve the AI training program.

(7) SUNSET.—Effective 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this section shall have no force or effect.

#### DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1760.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1760) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs planned to be built in Oahu, Hawaii, as the “Daniel Kahikina Akaka Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the measure.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1760) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1760

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs planned to be built in Oahu, Hawaii, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Daniel Kahikina Akaka Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic” or the “Daniel Kahikina Akaka VA Clinic”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Daniel Kahikina Akaka Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic.

#### COL. GAIL S. HALVORSEN ‘CANDY BOMBER’ VETERANS CENTER

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2514.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2514) to rename the Provo Veterans Center in Orem, Utah, as the “Col.



Gail S. Halvorsen ‘Candy Bomber’ Veterans Center”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the measure.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2514) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2514

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF THE COL. GAIL S. HALVORSEN “CANDY BOMBER” VETERANS CENTER.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Gail Halvorsen was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on October 10, 1920, and spent his youth with his family on small farms in Utah and Idaho.

(2) After a brief stint at Utah State University, Gail Halvorsen joined the Civilian Pilot Training Program where he earned his pilot’s license in 1941. During that same year, Halvorsen joined the Civil Air Patrol as a pilot.

(3) Gail Halvorsen joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1942 and trained flying fighter jets with the Royal Air Force. Upon his return from training, he was assigned to fly transport missions in the South Atlantic Theater.

(4) After World War II and the division of Berlin into occupation zones, disputes broke out between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union over the future of Europe.

(5) Negotiations deteriorated, and in June of 1948 Soviet forces locked down all land routes connecting Western Germany with the allied portions of Berlin. Approximately 2,000,000 people in West Berlin were left completely isolated. Starvation, poverty, and desperate want ensued.

(6) In an effort to alleviate the immense human suffering, the allies decided to drop supplies to people of West Berlin from the air until a diplomatic solution to the blockade could be reached. Termed by United States forces “Operation Vittles”, the Berlin Airlift began on June 26, 1948.

(7) Gail Halvorsen was assigned to Germany in 1948 to work as an airlift pilot where he flew C-47 and C-54 cargo planes as part of Operation Vittles.

(8) While on mission at Tempelhof Airport in Berlin, Halvorsen noticed a group of German children standing just outside the barb wire fence.

(9) The children were destitute and clearly had very little to eat. Halvorsen gave the children two sticks of gum he had in his pocket, which they split into little pieces to share among themselves.

(10) Colonel Halvorsen was deeply affected by the experience and wanted to do more to help. He promised the children he would drop more candy to them from his plane as he flew his regular airlift missions.

(11) Halvorsen told the children they would recognize his plane by a back-and-forth waggle of his wings as he flew over.

(12) Colonel Halvorsen enlisted his copilot and engineer in the project and began attaching their candy rations to miniature parachutes which they dropped from their plane to the starving children below.

(13) The children of Berlin gave Halvorsen many nicknames including “Uncle Wiggly Wings”, “The Chocolate Flier”, “The Gum Drop Kid”, and “The Chocolate Uncle”. He eventually became known around the world as “The Candy Bomber”.

(14) Lieutenant General William H. Turner, who directed the Berlin Airlift, learned about Halvorsen’s efforts and officially expanded the idea into a full-blown operation known as “Little Vittles” as a play on the broader operation’s name.

(15) As the candy drops continued, word of Operation Little Vittles reached the United States. Families, schoolchildren, and candy-makers in the United States began contributing candy and homemade parachutes that Halvorsen and other pilots could drop.

(16) When the Berlin Airlift ended, an estimated 250,000 parachutes containing approximately 21 tons of candy had been dropped by Halvorsen and his fellow airmen as a part of Operation Little Vittles.

(17) Halvorsen retired from the military in 1974 after 31 years of service and more than 8,000 hours of flying time.

(18) Since his retirement, Halvorsen has continued his humanitarian service. He has voluntarily represented the United States Air Force and the United States abroad and has re-enacted his famous candy drops several times in Berlin and around the world.

(19) Halvorsen has also been a tremendous boon to his community through church service and other local contributions.

(20) Gail Halvorsen turned 100 years old on October 10, 2020.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Provo Veterans Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 360 State Street, Orem, Utah, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Col. Gail S. Halvorsen ‘Candy Bomber’ Veterans Center”.

(c) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the veterans center referred to in subsection (b) shall be considered to be a reference to the Col. Gail S. Halvorsen “Candy Bomber” Veterans Center.

**PUERTO RICO RECOVERY ACCURACY IN DISCLOSURES ACT OF 2021**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 182, H.R. 1192.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1192) to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as “PROMESA”).

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with

an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the “Puerto Rico Recovery Accuracy in Disclosures Act of 2021” or “PRRADA”.*

**SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE BY PROFESSIONAL PERSONS SEEKING APPROVAL OF COMPENSATION UNDER SECTION 316 OR 317 OF PROMESA.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) LIST OF MATERIAL INTERESTED PARTIES.—The term “List of Material Interested Parties” means the List of Material Interested Parties established under subsection (c)(1).

(2) OVERSIGHT BOARD.—The term “Oversight Board” has the meaning given the term in section 5 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2104).

(b) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), no attorney, accountant, appraiser, auctioneer, agent, or other professional person may be compensated under section 316 or 317 of that Act (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) unless prior to making a request for compensation, the professional person has filed with the court a verified statement conforming to the disclosure requirements of rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure setting forth the connection of the professional person with any entity or person on the List of Material Interested Parties.

(2) SUPPLEMENT.—A professional person that submits a statement under paragraph (1) shall promptly supplement the statement with any additional relevant information that becomes known to the person.

(3) DISCLOSURE.—Subject to any other applicable law, rule, or regulation, a professional person that fails to file or update a statement required under paragraph (1) or files a statement that the court determines does not represent a good faith effort to comply with this section shall disclose such failure in any filing required to conform to the disclosure requirements under rule 2014(a) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure.

(c) LIST OF MATERIAL INTERESTED PARTIES.—

(1) PREPARATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Oversight Board shall establish a List of Material Interested Parties subject to—

(A) the approval of the court; and

(B) the right of the United States trustee or any party in interest to be heard on the approval.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the List of Material Interested Parties shall include—

(A) the debtor;

(B) any creditor;

(C) any other party in interest;

(D) any attorney or accountant of—

(i) the debtor;

(ii) any creditor; or

(iii) any other party in interest;

(E) the United States trustee and any person employed in the office of the United States trustee; and

(F) the Oversight Board, including the members, the Executive Director, and the employees of the Oversight Board.

(3) EXCLUSIONS.—The List of Material Interested Parties may not include any person with a claim, the amount of which is below a threshold dollar amount established by the court that is consistent with the purpose of this Act.

(d) REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The United States trustee shall review each verified statement submitted pursuant to subsection (b) and may file with the court comments on such verified statements before the professionals filing such statements seek compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177).

(2) OBJECTION.—The United States trustee may object to applications filed under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) that fail to satisfy the requirements of subsection (b).

(e) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—In a case commenced under section 304 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2164), in connection with the review and approval of professional compensation under section 316 or 317 of PROMESA (48 U.S.C. 2176, 2177) filed after the date of enactment of this Act, the court may deny allowance of compensation or reimbursement of expenses if—

(1) the professional person has failed to file the verified disclosure statements required under subsection (b)(1) or has filed inadequate disclosure statements under that subsection; or

(2) during the professional person's employment in connection with the case, the professional person—

(A) is not a disinterested person (as defined in section 101 of title 11, United States Code) relative to any entity or person on the List of Material Interested Parties; or

(B) represents or holds an adverse interest in connection with the case.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1192), as amended, was passed.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING FOR THE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE ACT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 142, S. 2551.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2551) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish or otherwise provide an artificial intelligence training program for the acquisition workforce, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the Peters amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 4896) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Artificial Intelligence Training for the Acquisition Workforce Act” or the “AI Training Act”.

### SEC. 2. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AI.—The term “AI” has the meaning given the term “artificial intelligence” in section 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 2358 note).

(2) AI TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term “AI training program” means the training program established under subsection (b)(1).

(3) COVERED WORKFORCE.—The term “covered workforce” means—

(A) employees of an executive agency who are responsible for—

(i) program management;

(ii) the planning, research, development, engineering, testing, and evaluation of systems, including quality control and assurance;

(iii) procurement and contracting;

(iv) logistics; or

(v) cost estimating; and

(B) other personnel of an executive agency designated by the head of the executive agency to participate in the AI training program.

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(5) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency”—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code; and

(B) does not include—

(i) the Department of Defense or a component of the Department of Defense; or

(ii) the National Nuclear Security Administration or a component of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services and any other person determined relevant by the Director, shall develop and implement or otherwise provide an AI training program for the covered workforce.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the AI training program shall be to ensure that the covered workforce has knowledge of the capabilities and risks associated with AI.

(3) TOPICS.—The AI training program shall include information relating to—

(A) the science underlying AI, including how AI works;

(B) introductory concepts relating to the technological features of artificial intelligence systems;

(C) the ways in which AI can benefit the Federal Government;

(D) the risks posed by AI, including discrimination and risks to privacy;

(E) ways to mitigate the risks described in subparagraph (D), including efforts to create and identify AI that is reliable, safe, and trustworthy; and

(F) future trends in AI, including trends for homeland and national security and innovation.

(4) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Director shall update the AI training program to—

(A) incorporate new information relating to AI; and

(B) ensure that the AI training program continues to satisfy the requirements under paragraph (3).

(5) FORMAT.—The Director is encouraged to develop and implement or otherwise include under the AI training program interactive learning with—

(A) technologists;

(B) scholars; and

(C) other experts from the private, public, and nonprofit sectors.

(6) METRICS.—The Director shall ensure the existence of a means by which to—

(A) understand and measure the participation of the covered workforce; and

(B) receive and consider feedback from participants in the AI training program to improve the AI training program.

(7) SUNSET.—Effective 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this section shall have no force or effect.

The bill (S. 2551), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

## EXTENDING CERTAIN COVID-19 BANKRUPTCY RELIEF PROVISIONS THROUGH MARCH 27, 2022

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3437, introduced earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3437) to extend certain COVID-19 bankruptcy relief provisions through March 27, 2022.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

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

Mr. SCHATZ. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3437) was passed, as follows:

S. 3437

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “COVID-19 Bankruptcy Relief Extension Consolidation Act of 2021”.

### SEC. 2. EXTENSIONS.

Section 1001 of division FF of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 124 Stat. 3216) is amended by striking “the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act” each place the term appears and inserting “March 27, 2022”.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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



**AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH A COMMEMORATIVE WORK IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 202, H.R. 1664.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1664) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1664) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 483, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 483) remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 483) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL S. 1605**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 24, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) directing the Secretary of the Senate to make corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1605.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I further ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 24) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

**CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL GRAIN AND FEED ASSOCIATION AND RECOGNIZING THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS MEMBERS FOR TRANSFORMING THE BOUNTY OF UNITED STATES FARMERS INTO SAFE, NUTRITIOUS, SUSTAINABLE, AND AFFORDABLE HUMAN AND ANIMAL FOOD**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 447.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 447) celebrating the 125th anniversary of the National Grain and Feed Association and recognizing the Association and its members for transforming the bounty of United States farmers into safe, nutritious, sustainable, and affordable human and animal food.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 447) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 16, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Executive Session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 489 and 490; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Armando O. Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years; and Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Executive Calendar Nos. 416, 418, 419, 422, 426, 531, 570, 591, and 592; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Catherine A. McLaughlin, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2024; Lynnette Young Overby, of Delaware, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2022; Ismael N. Ahmed, of Michigan, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2024; Huascar Medina, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026; Fagan Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2023; Matthew S. Axelrod, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce; Maria Rosario Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be

Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years; Dennis DeConcini, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring April 17, 2026; and Joseph M. Green, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring March 3, 2022?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. (Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from Hawaii.

#### NOMINATIONS REMAINING IN STATUS QUO

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all the nominations received by the Senate during the 117th Congress, first session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with the following exceptions: Calendar Nos. 262, 265, 300, 313, 314, 348, 349, 355, 405, 407, 408, 415, 456, 460, 464, 468, 469, 483, 484, 485, 504, 510, 511, 512, 514, 515, 527, 529, 530, 532, 542, 549, 550, 551, 552, 559, 561, 564, 566, 568, 586, 588, 593, 594, 609, 610, 611, 615, 628, 631, 633, 634, 417, 424, 427, and PN Nos. 433, 489, 747, 767, 1023, 1155, 1435, 1464, 1285, 1286, 1222, 1223, 1295, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 442, 541, 554, 722, 761, 770, 954, 1014, 1048, 1049, 1148, 1156, 1165, 1170, 1206, 1207, 1210, 1211, 1228, 1251, 1254, 1288, 1289, 1323, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1364, 1370, 1372, 1423, 1424, 1439, 1369, 231, 427, 436, 618, 773, 778, 788, 796, 919, 999, 1491, 1149.

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

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2022

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times; and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, December 20, at 5 p.m.; Thursday, December 23, at 11 a.m.; Monday, December 27, at 4:30 p.m.; and Thursday, December 30, at 8:30 a.m. When the Senate adjourns on Thursday, December 30, it will next convene at 12 noon on Monday, January 3, pursuant to the Constitution. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the

time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Sanchez nomination, as provided under the previous order; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021, AT 5 P.M.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:04 a.m., adjourned until Monday, December 20, 2021, at 5 p.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

##### FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

SANDRA L. THOMPSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA.

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

ELIZABETH ROSENBERG, OF VERMONT, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TERRORIST FINANCING, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 17, 2021:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LARRY EDWARD ANDRE, JR., OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA.

ELIZABETH MOORE AUBIN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA.

MARIA E. BREWER, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN LAMORA, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

TULINABO S. MUSHINGI, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE.

EUGENE S. YOUNG, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND

PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.

MICHELE JEANNE SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS).

MARC EVANS KNAPPER, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

CHRISTOPHER P. LU, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

CHRISTOPHER P. LU, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR U.N. MANAGEMENT AND REFORM.

RUFUS GIFFORD, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE.

##### UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MARCELA ESCOBARI, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ALEXIA MARIE GABRIELLE LATORTUE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

##### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CATHERINE A. MCLAUGHLIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2024.

##### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

LYNNETTE YOUNG OVERBY, OF DELAWARE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

ISMAEL N. AHMED, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2024.

HUASCAR MEDINA, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026.

##### CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

FAGAN HARRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2023.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

STEVEN C. BONDY, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

MICHAEL RAYNOR, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

ADAM SCHEINMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

SHARON L. CROMER, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA.

TROY DAMIAN FITRELL, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA.

MARC OSTFIELD, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

CYNTHIA ANN TELLES, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA.

CLAIRE D. CRONIN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

BATHSHEBA NELL CROCKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JACK A. MARKELL, OF DELAWARE, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DENISE CAMPBELL BAUER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO.

KENT DOYLE LOGSDON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA.

CARYN R. MCCLELLAND, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM.

MICHAEL J. MURPHY, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

MARK GITENSTEIN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

LAURA S. H. HOLGATE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE VIENNA OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

#### THE JUDICIARY

JANE M. BECKERING, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

SHALINA D. KUMAR, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

ARMANDO O. BONILLA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

CAROLYN N. LERNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PETER D. HAAS, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

JULIE CHUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA.

PATRICIA MAHONEY, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.

JULISSA REYNOSO PANTALEON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SPAIN, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA.

PETER HENDRICK VROOMAN, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE.

ELIZABETH ANNE NOSEWORTHY FITZSIMMONS, OF DELAWARE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN.

BRIAN WESLEY SHUKAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA.

DAVID R. GILMOUR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

RAHM EMANUEL, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAPAN.

#### UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ATUL ATMARAM GAWANDE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MATTHEW S. AXELROD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

#### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

MARIA ROSARIO JACKSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

#### THE JUDICIARY

MARY KATHERINE DIMKE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON.

MAAME EWUSI-MENSAH FRIMPONG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

JENNIFER L. THURSTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

LINDA LOPEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

KATHERINE MARIE MENENDEZ, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA.

JINSOOK OHTA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

DAVID HERRERA URIAS, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO.

#### BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

DENNIS DECONCINI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 17, 2026.

JOSEPH M. GREEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 3, 2022.

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JAMIE L. HARPOOTLIAN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

MARK BRZEZINSKI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

MARC R. STANLEY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

SCOTT MILLER, OF COLORADO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN.

MICHAEL M. ADLER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM.

ERIK D. RAMANATHAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

JOHN R. BASS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT).

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ELIZABETH ROSENBERG, OF VERMONT, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TERRORIST FINANCING, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.