

Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist in 2001, as well as his current position serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in Houston. As the co-lead counsel for the United States in the prosecution of Robert Allen Stanford, Mr. Costa secured a conviction of 13 charges of conspiracy, wire, and mail fraud. Mr. Costa has been credited by his colleagues as the glue that held the case together. His dedication to this case and these victims shows the core of his character. The fact he asked for a delay in his confirmation because he wanted to finish this case and assure that convictions would be obtained makes me proud and pleased to support his nomination to the Federal bench.

I am also pleased to support the nomination of Judge David Campos Guaderrama to the Western District of Texas in El Paso. Judge Guaderrama is originally from New Mexico and moved to El Paso, TX, at a young age. He attained two bachelor degrees from New Mexico State University in political science and psychology, then earned his juris doctorate degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1979.

In 1987, Judge Guaderrama was appointed as the first chief public defender of El Paso County and continued in that service until he was elected to the 243rd Judicial District Court in 1995. As a testament to his service to the El Paso community, Judge Guaderrama has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Western District for the last 2 years.

During his three decades serving in the Texas legal system, Judge Guaderrama has earned many accolades for his help and leadership in initiating and enacting several successful judicial programs in west Texas. He has demonstrated a strong commitment to the El Paso community, and I am confident he will serve on the Federal bench well and I support his nomination.

I would also say Senator CORNYN also supports these two judges. Of course, Senator CORNYN sits on the Judiciary Committee. Our judicial evaluation committee, which is bipartisan, has served so well to give us the highest quality nominees on the bench, and our committee did select both these nominees as their first choices after their interviews and input from the legal community in both El Paso and Houston, which includes the Galveston part of the district.

These nominations have been well vetted. They have been supported by both sides of the aisle, and we are very pleased to put forward these two quality nominees. Senator CORNYN as well is very strongly in support of them.

With that, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know we are about to vote on these judges, but I wish to make a few remarks about the VAWA reauthorization before we do so.

There are few tools more important in the fight to end domestic and sexual violence than the Violence Against Women Act. This landmark legislation has fundamentally changed the way society views these horrible crimes, and it has resulted in a more than 60 percent decrease in domestic violence offenses. We have been successful because we have learned from experience and adapted our efforts to better meet the needs of victims.

Each reauthorization of VAWA has played a critical role in this process. As we learn more about the needs of victims, VAWA has been carefully modified to meet those needs. The bipartisan bill that Senator CRAPO and I introduced last year continues that important process. The Republican substitute amendment does not.

The Leahy-Crapo bill is based on months of work with survivors, advocates, and law enforcement officers from all across the country. We listened when they told us what was working and what could be improved. We took their input seriously, and we carefully drafted our legislation to respond to those needs. We made additional modifications and reached carefully crafted compromises through what was an open process. We also shared our draft with Senators from both sides of the aisle and proceeded openly to introduce the bill so that it could be reviewed and improved as the Judiciary Committee considered and voted on it.

Senator CRAPO and I purposely avoided proposals that were extreme or divisive and selected only those proposals that law enforcement and survivors and the professionals who work with crime victims every day told us were essential. Our reauthorization bill is supported by more than 1,000 Federal, State, and local organizations. They include service providers, law enforcement, religious organizations, and many, many more. There is one purpose and one purpose only for the bill that Senator CRAPO and I introduced, and that is to help and protect victims of domestic and sexual violence. Our legislation represents the voices of millions of survivors and their advocates all over the country.

The same cannot be said for the Republican proposal brought forward in these last couple of days. That is why the Republican proposal is opposed by so many and such a wide spectrum of people and organizations.

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against

Women, which represents dozens of organizations from across the country says:

The Grassley-Hutchison substitute was drafted without input or consultation from the thousands of professionals engaged in this work every day. The substitute includes damaging and unworkable provisions that will harm victims, increase costs, and create unnecessary inefficiencies.

Although well-intentioned by its lead sponsors, the Republican proposal is no substitute for the months of work we have done in a bipartisan way with victims and advocates from all over the country.

I regret to say the Republican proposal undermines core principles of the Violence Against Women Act. It would result in abandoning some of the most vulnerable victims and strips out key provisions that are critically necessary to protect all victims—including battered immigrants, Native women, and victims in same sex relationships. The improvements in the bipartisan Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act are gone from the Republican proposal. It is no substitute and does nothing to meet the unmet needs of victims.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this afternoon we are considering two nominations for U.S. district judge positions in Texas. Gregg Jeffrey Costa is nominated to serve in the Southern District of Texas, while David Campos Guaderrama is nominated to serve in the Western District of Texas. Again, we are moving forward under the regular order and procedures of the Senate. With today's nomination, we will have confirmed 80 judicial nominees during this Congress. With the confirmations today, the Senate will have confirmed more than 75 percent of President Obama's judicial nominations.

While we are making progress in the Senate, we continue to hear complaints about the vacancy rate. I will again remind my colleagues that of the 81 vacancies, more than 58 percent of these vacancies have no nominee.

These nominations came to the committee with the support of home State Senators. They were reported out of committee by voice vote. These nominees have exceptional records and demonstrate the type of consensus nominations that can be confirmed, even in a Presidential election year.

Mr. Costa received his B.A. degree in 1994 from Dartmouth College. He graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1999. After law school, Mr. Costa clerked for the Honorable A. Raymond Randolph on the DC Court of Appeals from August 1999 to July of 2000 and then for Chief Justice Rehnquist from July 2001 to July 2002. Between his two clerkships, he worked as a Bristol Fellow in the United States Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor General.

In 2002, Mr. Costa joined the law firm Weil Gotshal & Manges as an associate. During his time at the firm, Mr. Costa

handled civil litigation matters including intellectual property, class actions, international arbitration, bankruptcy, and general commercial disputes. Mr. Costa also worked on appellate matters and a few pro bono cases as well.

In 2005, he joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, Houston office, as an assistant U.S. attorney. Mr. Costa has worked in the criminal division of the office in the major offenders and major fraud sections, investigating and prosecuting matters in the areas of mortgage fraud, investment fraud, securities fraud, public corruption, Internet fraud, human trafficking, child pornography, and narcotics and firearms violations. As an AUSA, Mr. Costa also has handled numerous appellate matters before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

In addition to prosecuting cases for the office, Mr. Costa serves as the deputy international affairs coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office. In this capacity, he helps coordinate incoming and outgoing requests on behalf of the Governments of Malaysia, Turkey, Columbia, Greece, France, and the United Kingdom. Mr. Costa also helps and provides guidance to other AUSAs on extradition matters. And in 2005, after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Mr. Costa served as the hurricane fraud coordinator for his office that investigated fraud cases relating to the Hurricanes. Mr. Costa's office prosecuted more than 100 individuals for crimes such as government-benefit fraud, identify theft offenses, charitable fraud, and investment fraud.

The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary gave him a unanimous rating of "well qualified."

We are also considering the nomination of David Campos Guaderrama, nominated to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of Texas. After graduation from Notre Dame Law School, Judge Guaderrama worked as a solo practitioner from December 1979 to August 1980. He then formed a partnership practice with his then wife. His practice focused on defending individuals in criminal cases, but he also handled some general civil, probate, and workers' compensation cases during this time. In 1987, he was appointed to serve as El Paso County's first public defender and was charged with starting up and developing an office that would be capable of handling at least 50 percent of all indigent felony cases.

In November 1994, Judge Guaderrama was elected judge of the 243rd Judicial District Court of Texas. He was elected for a 4-year term and subsequently re-elected on four occasions. During his term as a Texas District Court judge, he was instrumental in establishing the 243rd Drug Court Program and Access to Recovery Program. Both programs are aimed at helping rehabilitate defendants guilty of minor drug offenses through counseling and supervision, rather than incarceration. Also while on the 243rd Judicial District he

served as chairman of a subcommittee that oversaw reform of the jury selection process that implemented mailing jury qualification questionnaires to potential jurors. He also piloted a program to use video conference technology to conduct arraignments.

In 2008, Judge Guaderrama was an unsuccessful candidate for justice, Eighth Court of Appeals of Texas. In 2010, he was appointed by the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Texas to serve an 8-year term as a U.S. magistrate judge. He has an ABA rating of majority "well qualified", minority "qualified."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Gregg Jeffrey Costa, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mr. LEAHY. 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 assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 83 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Akaka	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Alexander	Graham	Murray
Ayotte	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Harkin	Paul
Begich	Hatch	Portman
Bennet	Heller	Pryor
Bingaman	Hoeven	Reed
Blumenthal	Hutchison	Reid
Blunt	Inhofe	Risch
Boozman	Inouye	Roberts
Boxer	Isakson	Rockefeller
Brown (MA)	Johanns	Rubio
Brown (OH)	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Schumer
Cantwell	Kerry	Sessions
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Kohl	Shelby
Casey	Kyl	Snowe
Chambliss	Landrieu	Stabenow
Coats	Lautenberg	Tester
Coburn	Leahy	Thune
Cochran	Levin	Toomey
Collins	Lieberman	Udall (CO)
Conrad	Lugar	Udall (NM)
Coons	Manchin	Vitter
Corker	McCain	Warner
Cornyn	McCaskey	Webb
Crapo	McConnell	Whitehouse
Durbin	Menendez	Wicker
Enzi	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Franken	Moran	

NAYS—2

DeMint

Lee

NOT VOTING—1

Kirk

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes legislative session, the pe-

riod for debate only on S. 1925 be extended until 2:30 p.m. today, with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees and that I be recognized at 2:30 p.m. today.

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

Under the previous order, the question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of David Campos Guaderrama, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas?

The nomination was confirmed.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I rise today to speak on an issue that is profoundly important and meaningful to this body at this moment in history. We face a critical juncture in our Nation's history, and we absolutely must renew and strengthen the Violence Against Women Act, not only for the sake of women but also our families around Connecticut and this country.

I thank my colleagues for voting to proceed to consideration of S. 1925, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. VAWA is critically important. It is bipartisan legislation that gives victims of domestic violence and sexual assault access to the services they so desperately need. This crucial law supports both the organizations that provide these services and the law enforcement agencies that assist the victims as they pursue justice.

As a law enforcement official, I saw firsthand in my duties as State attorney general for Connecticut how important and practical and meaningful this law is. We have a responsibility to not only authorize but also to strengthen VAWA right away.

Some 17 years have passed since the original Violence Against Women Act. We have made great strides, but we cannot be complacent in our efforts to protect our Nation's children and women. At a time when the women of our great Nation face relentless attacks on their rights, we cannot afford to lose the ground we have gained over the last 17 years. We must address the grave concerns of domestic violence and sexual assault which are in no way partisan. As Chairman LEAHY so eloquently and powerfully stated, there is nothing Republican or Democratic about a victim who suffers from this grave ill.