

Patricia's character and to the integrity with which she will serve as a federal judge.

I rise today to not only speak in strong support of Patricia's nomination, but also to decry the decision by Senate Republicans to once again play politics with President Obama's nominees and to place partisanship above all else.

I rise today because my colleagues in the minority have declared it unnecessary to fill the three vacancies on the DC Circuit, including the seat to which Patricia has been nominated. The Senate Republicans on the Judiciary Committee propose eliminating the 9th, 10th, and 11th seats on the DC Circuit, rather than confirming nominees put forward by this President. Now, of course, my Republican colleagues dispute any partisan motivation. Instead, they claim a diminished caseload on the DC Circuit simply does not warrant confirmation of President Obama's nominees. This might be a persuasive argument were it not belied by Senate Republicans' confirmation of President Bush's nominees to these same seats and by the fact that the DC Circuit caseload has been consistent over the past decade and has even increased in recent years.

In fact, when John Roberts, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, last held the seat Patricia would occupy, his caseload was lower than the pending caseload Patricia will encounter on her first day as a judge. Let me be clear, the fight over this confirmation has nothing to do with Patricia—instead it has everything to do with the fact that a Democrat, rather than a Republican, now controls the White House. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are doing everything they can to prevent confirmation of this President's nominees.

Truly, the stakes are too high for this type of political gamesmanship. The DC Circuit is often called the second most important court in the United States, and for good reason. The DC Circuit handles some of the most complicated cases that enter the Federal court system, and its decisions touch the lives of Americans each and every day. From decisions affecting our clean air and water, to decisions having broad implications for labor relations, elections, and how we interpret and apply the Americans with Disabilities Act—decisions by the DC Circuit impact not only the quality of our lives today, but also our children's lives tomorrow.

Most importantly for our men and women in uniform, for our veterans, and for their families, the DC Circuit has jurisdiction over the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Its decisions matter to our servicemembers, to our veterans, and to their families—which is why it is shameful that Senate Republicans would rather play politics than allow a clean up or down vote on Patricia's nomination. The American people ex-

pect more from us. They deserve more from us.

I urge my colleagues to set aside partisanship and politics and allow an up or down vote on Patricia's nomination. Through her distinguished career and public service, Patricia Millett has earned not only our admiration and respect, but our support. Join me in supporting this nominee who is eminently qualified to serve as a United States Circuit Judge.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the nomination of Patricia Millett to be a Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

As my colleagues have noted, Patricia Millett will bring a wealth of experience and skill to the bench. She is a nationally recognized appellate attorney. She has argued 35 cases in nearly all of the Federal appellate courts and 32 cases at the Supreme Court. Patricia Millett is unquestionably qualified to serve as a judge on the DC Circuit Court.

I am proud to serve on the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, and I have been moved by Patricia Millett's experience as part of a military family.

Her husband, Robert King, served in the Navy and as a Navy reservist until his retirement last year. In 2004, he was deployed to Kuwait as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and was called up again in the fall of 2009 for Afghanistan, while Patricia cared for their 2 children, maintained the household, and continued her career, arguing before the Supreme Court.

Patricia and her husband have faced what so many military families have, the difficulties of deployment, the challenges of separation and single parenting at home, and the process of reintegration when a servicemember returns. They have shown the deepest commitment to serving our Nation.

Patricia Millett will bring these important experiences and the devotion to this country unique to military families with her to the bench, a vital contribution to the DC Circuit given the distinct role it plays in adjudicating military and defense issues.

Much of Patricia's life has been devoted to public service, and her desire to serve as an appellate judge for the important DC Circuit is a reflection of that commitment to serve in the public interest. I am disappointed that our colleagues have blocked a vote to confirm Ms. Millett. I urge Senators to reconsider and support her nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The majority leader.

SENATOR-ELECT CORY BOOKER

Mr. REID. Madam President, in a few minutes we are going to have the good fortune of welcoming a fine young man to be the next Senator from the State of New Jersey. I trust that serving in the Senate will be among the most rewarding experiences of his life, and he has had many of them.

I urge my fellow Senators, Democrats and Republicans, to get to know

this good man. I feel so elated that he is going to be here. Of course, I loved Frank Lautenberg. We served together for all those many years. But we are going to find that CORY BOOKER is going to be a great asset to this Nation and to the Senate.

He has had a tough time the last few months. His parents moved to Las Vegas in early August. And as things happen in life, his dad was stricken with a very violent stroke. His aunt lives there, his mom's sister. She is a retired dentist from California. I was there because of the August recess and I had the good fortune of meeting all three of them. His dad, of course, was not able to communicate and, sadly, he died not too long after that. But this was right before his election was completed, and it was very difficult for Senator-elect Booker going to Nevada, campaigning with all the national publicity he had in that election, but he, during this time of fire, did extremely well. I am very proud of him.

He had a demanding year, no doubt, with all the things he was doing and his deciding to run for the Senate. But he traveled to Nevada on various occasions, as I indicated, to be with his family and to support them. This quality he has was apparent early in life—his love of family and dedication to his parents, now especially his mom, who is going to be here today. He is not only a devoted son but a brilliant scholar and a dedicated public servant.

Think about this man's academic record: Stanford undergraduate, senior class president at Stanford. That fine institution also allowed him to study even more there and he earned a master's degree in sociology, which has served him well in the work he has done. His having this advanced degree in sociology helped him in his work with the people of the State of New Jersey and the city of Newark. But with him, one Stanford degree wasn't enough; he got two. And then, if that weren't enough—and it wasn't—he was chosen to be a Rhodes scholar and then got another advanced degree at Oxford.

If that wasn't enough, he went to Yale Law School. This is quite a record. He has been a city councilman and mayor for more than a decade. He has lived with his constituents and kept in touch with them like no mayor with whom I have ever come in contact. We are so fortunate to have him here. He has been with his constituents in the inner city of Newark. I commend him for his dedicated service to the people of New Jersey and the people of Newark.

Part of his job was to highlight the difficulties of working poor families, and he did that and he did it very well. He has done everything he can to highlight to everyone who would listen to him and watch him to indicate that many Newark residents are struggling to know where their next meal will come from. At a time in the history of this country when we have so many people needing so much, where the rich

are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer and the middle class is being squeezed, we are very fortunate to have this good man in the Senate. I am confident he will treasure his memories in this historic legislative body and serve his Nation and State with distinction.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Before we have this ceremony, I wish to say one thing about CORY BOOKER. I have talked about his great academic record. But for me, a frustrated wannabe athlete, his most impressive qualification, as far as I am concerned, is that he was a tight end for one of the great Stanford football teams.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a Certificate of Election to fill the vacancy created by the death of Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate. If there is no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixteenth day of October, 2013, Cory Booker, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Jersey, a Senator for the unexpired term ending at noon on the 3rd day of January, 2015, to fill the vacancy in the representation from said State in the Senate of the United States caused by the death of Frank Lautenberg.

Given, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-eighth day of October two thousand and thirteen.

By the Governor:

CHRIS CHRISTIE,
Governor.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-elect will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-designee, escorted by Mr. MENENDEZ, advanced to the desk of the Vice President, the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President, and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senator. Welcome.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MELVIN L. WATT TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FED- ERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGEN- CY—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding we are going to move now to the nomination of Mr. WATT. I yield back the time for the majority and the Republicans.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered. The time is yielded back.

CLOTURE MOTION

Under the previous order, the cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of MELVIN L. WATT, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Harry Reid, Tim Johnson, Mark Begich, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A. Coons, Martin Heinrich, Patty Murray, Bernard Sanders, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Al Franken, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Jack Reed, Thomas R. Carper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bill Nelson, Charles E. Schumer.

The VICE PRESIDENT. 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 MELVIN L. WATT, of North Carolina, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of 5 years, 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. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The VICE PRESIDENT. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 226 Ex.]
YEAS—56

Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson
Begich	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Landrieu	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Levin	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Coons	Markey	Udall (NM)
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murphy	

NAYS—42

Alexander	Blunt	Coats
Ayotte	Boozman	Coburn
Barrasso	Chambliss	Cochran

Collins	Hoeven	Reid
Corker	Isakson	Risch
Cornyn	Johanns	Roberts
Crapo	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Enzi	Kirk	Scott
Fischer	Lee	Sessions
Flake	McCain	Shelby
Graham	McConnell	Thune
Grassley	Moran	Toomey
Hatch	Murkowski	Vitter
Heller	Paul	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz	Inhofe
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The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote the yeas are 56, the nays are 42. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having not voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the Watt nomination.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The motion is entered.

NOMINATION OF PATRICIA ANN MILLETT TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DIS- TRICT OF COLUMBIA

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Under the previous order, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Patricia Ann Millett, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, John D. Rockefeller IV, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jon Tester, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Mazie Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr. Barbara Boxer, Jeanne Shaheen, Robert Menendez, Bill Nelson, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual format.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Patricia Millett is unquestionably qualified to be the next judge on the DC Circuit. The Senate will soon vote to end debate on her nomination and I hope that the rank partisanship that shut down our Government earlier this month will not be on display again with this upcoming vote. I hope the moderates who prided themselves in finding a solution to the shutdown will agree that Ms. Millett is an extraordinary nominee who should not be filibustered.

Over the last few weeks, I have heard those who want to filibuster Ms. Millett make some unfounded claims to justify their partisan agenda. First they asserted that the President is