

into their body to remove a tumor, to replace a wornout joint, to fix a broken bone, to repair a torn ligament, and above all else, to do no harm.

The President knew of that special relationship between people and their doctors. That is why when he was trying to gain support for the health care law, he made a clear and simple promise to the American people. The President said: "If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor, period."

Now people all across the country are finding out that they can't keep their doctor. The same law that has caused millions of Americans to lose the health insurance that worked for them is now causing them to lose their doctor.

People who are shopping for insurance on government exchanges are being forced to purchase insurance for things they don't want, don't need, and will never use. To keep costs down, many of these policies limit the doctors and hospitals that patients can use.

Some of the Nation's premier hospitals—including the Mayo Clinic and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center—are excluded from many insurance exchanges in their networks. Some of the best children's hospitals in the country are also excluded from the exchanges. This means a child with cancer may lose access to his or her doctor and their specialty hospital. Why? Because of the law.

In New Hampshire, 10 of the State's 26 hospitals are excluded from the only carrier that offers insurance in the exchange. The head of the medical staff at one of the excluded hospitals in New Hampshire has learned that her plan does not even let her, the chief of staff of the hospital, seek treatment at her own hospital.

The situation can be equally bad for seniors on Medicare. Thousands of doctors caring for seniors on Medicare Advantage have been dropped from their networks. Those Medicare patients are now going to be challenged to find a new doctor to take care of them.

The President's health care law is making it harder for doctors as well as for patients. Doctors know their patients. They know their health history, they know their lives, and doctors value the personal relationship as much as the patient does.

People become doctors in the first place to take care of their patients. Even if someone is able to keep their doctor, they will not necessarily be able to spend as much time with them as they might like to. That is because nearly two-thirds of doctors expect to have to spend more time on paperwork under the requirements of the law.

This isn't at all what the President promised the American people. People all across America put their faith and their trust in Barack Obama when they elected him President. It is the same kind of faith and trust they have in their own doctor. When patients lose trust in their doctor, as citizens they

are now losing faith in their President, it is extremely difficult to regain that trust.

So I continue to hear from my patients in Wyoming. They have always had my home phone number. They are anxious. They are angry. They know what they want from the health care reform. They want access to quality affordable care. That is not what they got with this law. Now many face losing the doctor who has always been there for them.

If President Obama wants to regain the trust of the American people, he will sit down with Republicans to deliver reforms that will help all Americans and fully protect the doctor-patient relationship. After all, President Obama has his own doctor at the White House, a doctor who is dedicated to the President's care. I am sure the President values his relationship just as much as other Americans value their relationship with their doctor.

I continue to come to the floor. I see my colleagues are arriving. I would call their attention to this issue, as they say we have to make the coverage for all these things, they feel they know what is best for American patients, we need to provide psychiatric insurance an coverage, and I have voted to provide parity for psychiatric care, but yesterday's New York Times article by Robert Pear, "Fewer Psychiatrists Seen Taking Health Insurance." So the insurance the President is providing for people doesn't actually help them. It maybe makes the President feel better, but it is not helping people get care.

The President has been very confused and used the word "coverage" when he should have been talking about actual health care for people, providing physicians to take care of them so people can get what they need in health care reform, the care they need, from a doctor they choose, at lowers costs.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on the nomination.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Deborah Lee James, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the

Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "nay."

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

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 270 Ex.]

#### YEAS—79

Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murray
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hagan	Paul
Baucus	Harkin	Portman
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Boxer	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schumer
Burr	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cantwell	Kaine	Sessions
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Shelby
Casey	Landrieu	Stabenow
Chambliss	Leahy	Tester
Cochran	Lee	Thune
Collins	Levin	Toomey
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Cornyn	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Enzi	Merkley	Wicker
Feinstein	Moran	Wyden
Flake	Murkowski	
Franken	Murphy	

#### NAYS—6

Fischer	McCain	Roberts
Johanns	Risch	Vitter

#### NOT VOTING—15

Alexander	Corker	Johnson (SD)
Blunt	Crapo	Kirk
Booker	Graham	Mikulski
Coats	Hatch	Rockefeller
Coburn	Inhofe	Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Heather Anne Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

Harry Reid, Sherrod Brown, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Robert Menendez, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Amy Klobuchar, Dianne Feinstein, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Bernard Sanders, Barbara Boxer, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael F. Bennet.

#### QUORUM CALL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair now directs the

clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

## [Quorum No. 12]

Ayotte	Franken	Murphy
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson
Baucus	Harkin	Portman
Begich	Heinrich	Pryor
Bennet	Heitkamp	Reed
Blumenthal	Heller	Reid
Boozman	Hirono	Risch
Boxer	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Isakson	Sanders
Burr	Johanns	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Cardin	Kaine	Sessions
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Shelby
Chambliss	Landrieu	Stabenow
Cochran	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Levin	Thune
Coons	Manchin	Toomey
Cornyn	Markey	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCain	Vitter
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	McConnell	Warren
Enzi	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Wyden
Flake	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an announcement. I realize everyone is tired, anxious, and some are a little concerned about everything.

I have had, especially late last night and early this morning, conversations with Republicans and Democrats as to what we should do this weekend.

The next set of votes will come shortly before noon today. Then we will have another set of votes this afternoon. Absent consent, the Senate will vote late Saturday, about 10:30 or thereabouts, on confirmation of Jeh Johnson to be the Secretary of Homeland Security.

The Senate has already received a budget bill from the House. We expect momentarily to receive the Defense bill from the House. I wish to have the Senate process these important bills as quickly possible. I plan to move to proceed on these bills as soon as we can. That would be as soon as we handle the pending nominations that are now before this body.

Thereafter, there are certain things we need to do before Christmas break. We need to do those two important bills, the budget and defense. We have to do the Chair of the Federal Reserve system. There is an Under Secretary of State that is very urgent, according to John Kerry. We have a Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, Under Secretary of Department of Interior, the head of the Internal Revenue Service, and the remaining judge on the DC Circuit. There have been requests from everybody—I shouldn't say that—lots and lots of people to do other things, but we are limited as to what we can do before next weekend. There are some other nominations that we are happy to discuss with individual Senators.

So it would be my suggestion that we go ahead and do this vote; during this vote, and prior to the next series of votes, I will meet with the Republican leader to see if there is a way we can give some time, especially to the staff, over the weekend. These people have worked extremely hard, and I haven't heard a complaint from a single one of them, quite frankly.

I went up last evening and visited the court reporters. We have 18 court reporters, and up on the 4th floor they have been sharing—for a little respite—two beds and taking naps, or at least trying to lie down and rest for a bit. They are working in 15-minute shifts, and they have been doing that for days now. So if we can work that out, I would be happy to do that.

My goal is we would wind up at the same place on Monday in the evening as we would wind up if we did all this stuff over the weekend. So I am happy to be as cooperative as possible. Christmas is on its way, and there are certain things we need to have done. There are lots of other things we need to do, but we are probably not going to be able to do those.

So I have laid out for everyone a broad scope of the schedule. I will meet with my friend the Republican leader and see if there is some way we can do this; otherwise, we will just proceed on.

The good news is that following the vote this afternoon, we wouldn't have anything until tomorrow night under the schedule as now listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate be brought to a close on the nomination of Heather Anne Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 271 Ex.]

## YEAS—51

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

## NAYS—34

Ayotte	Grassley	Risch
Barrasso	Heller	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Scott
Chambliss	Johanns	Sessions
Coats	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Cochran	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	
Flake	Portman	

## NOT VOTING—15

Alexander	Graham	Merkley
Blunt	Hatch	Mikulski
Coburn	Inhofe	Nelson
Corker	Johnson (SD)	Rockefeller
Crapo	Kirk	Schatz

The motion was agreed to.

# NOMINATION OF HEATHER ANNE HIGGINBOTTOM TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES

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

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Heather Anne Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 15 of the 113th Congress, there will now be up to 8 hours of postcloture consideration of the nomination, equally divided in the usual form.

Who yields time?

If neither side wishes to yield time, the time now will be equally divided.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I wish to take a short time here to discuss a situation which I think is gaining some attention in the actual news media on a continuing basis.

But with the Affordable Care Act and what we are doing or not doing here on the floor of the Senate with regards to the 51–50 controversy, perhaps we overlooked the number one obligation we have as Members of this body, and that is our national security, the defense of our individual freedoms, and the part we play in determining the same kind of objectives—liberty and freedom—all throughout the world. I am talking about foreign policy, and I am talking about the very dangerous situation that we face with regard to Iran.

On November 24 the United States, Germany, France, China, Great Britain, and Russia signed an interim