

tool helps keep all of us safe by encouraging victims to report criminals who pose a danger to our communities.

And last week, we heard about the impact services under VAWA have on victims—and how much more we must do. The National Network to End Domestic Violence, in their annual National Domestic Violence Counts Census, found that every day 9,000 service requests go unmet because of a lack of resources. This is not acceptable. Every day tens of thousands of victims turn to domestic and sexual violence services providers for support through emergency safe shelters, legal assistance, and child support groups, and we must do all we can to ensure these needs are met.

In my nearly 40 years in the Senate, few issues have meant more to me than passing an Inclusive Violence Against Women Act. The law is an example of how the Federal Government, in cooperation with state and local communities, can help solve problems. By providing new tools and resources to communities all around the country, we have helped bring the crimes of rape and domestic violence out of the shadows. I am proud of the work we did last year and I hope that a bipartisan Senate can come together this year to pass other, meaningful bills to support law enforcement and victims, like the Justice For All Act and the Runaway and Homelessness Youth Act.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CAROLYN B. McHUGH TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Carolyn B. McHugh, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time be charged on both sides.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is currently considering the McHugh nomination. We are not in morning business.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I am going to proceed on my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

APPALACHIA DEPRESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, there is a depression in Appalachia—an absolute depression. Families are losing work because of government attacks on the coal industry and communities are hurting.

Tonight we are going to hear 30 hours of excuses from a group of people who think that it is just OK that we have a depression in Appalachia. Well, it is not OK. It is cruel. It is cruel to tell struggling coal families that they can't have a job because some billionaire in San Francisco disagrees with their line of work.

Let me relay a message from a Kentucky miner named Howard. What you are going to hear over the next 30 seconds is more important than anything these anticonvulsants will say over the next 30 hours.

Here is what Howard had to say:

I say to you, Mister President of the United States . . . We're hurting. You say you're the president of the people? Well, we're people too. No one loves the mountains more than we do. We live here. We crawl between them. We get up every morning and we go to the top of a mountain in a strip job in the cold rain and snow to put bread on the table. Come and look at our little children, look at our people, Mr. President. You're not hurting for a job; you've got one. I don't.

That is Howard from eastern Kentucky.

I am not sure how anyone can hear something like that and think that attacking coal families is OK. It is not just coal families who are suffering.

I have two electric bills from a farmer named John in Shelbyville. Shelbyville is not in coal country. It is in another part of our State. But 90 percent of our electricity is from coal-fired generation. We have some of the lowest utility rates in America. At least we used to.

In July of 2008, the year before the President took office, John's electric bill was \$64.70. That was John's electric bill before the President took office. In July of 2013, he paid \$107.30. This same farm, a new President, and a 66-percent increase in utility bills in my State outside of coal country. That is a cost increase the people of Kentucky and the Nation simply cannot afford.

My colleagues say they will spend the entire night talking about how we need to wake up and take action. They are going to spend all night saying how

we need to wake up and take action. I wish to challenge them to think about acting in a way that puts the Americans I represent first and not spend 30 hours pretending as though they don't exist.

As I said, we have a depression in the coalfields of Kentucky created by this administration. Utility bills are soaring all over my State because of the actions of this administration. Tonight our colleagues are going to spend all night talking about just how great that really is. There is another side to the story. We need to care about and think about the people who are being hurt by the policies of this administration.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If neither side yields time, the time will be equally divided.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I am pleased to have the nomination of Judge Carolyn McHugh before the Senate today. Throughout her life Judge McHugh has demonstrated a commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence, professional distinction, and public service.

Judge McHugh graduated magna cum laude from the University of Utah, where she later earned her jurist doctorate, graduating Order of the Coif and serving as the editor on the Utah Law Review.

After excelling in law school, Judge McHugh clerked for the Honorable Bruce Jenkins of the District of Utah. She then spent more than 20 years in private practice, where she excelled, focusing on complex commercial litigation.

Throughout her career in private practice, Judge McHugh has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono work. She has been awarded several honors for her work to advance women in the legal profession. In 1996 the Utah State Bar recognized her with a Distinguished Committee Award from the Needs of Children Committee.

It was nearly 10 years ago when I first met Judge McHugh when I was working for then-Governor Jon Huntsman. During his first year as Governor, it was time for him to appoint someone to the Utah Court of Appeals. At that point the nominating commissions began their work, and shortly after their work concluded, the Governor's staff started interviewing various applicants, various people who had been considered by the nominating commission. It soon became apparent that there was a real standout in this very impressive group of candidates for this court of appeals position, and Judge McHugh's name rose to the top of the list.

During discussions I had with her and with my colleagues, as well as with Governor Huntsman, I found her to possess a keenly insightful legal mind, and I found her to be someone who really understands the role of judges—the necessarily limited role—and the

crucial function of the judge in our system. She has served with great distinction on the Utah Court of Appeals during those intervening years.

For that reason I am confident, based on the knowledge she has acquired, the skills she has developed and honed over the years, and the commitment to public service she has displayed up to this point in her career, Judge McHugh will, in fact, excel as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. I strongly urge my colleagues to support her confirmation.

Thank you, Madam President.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, in the last few weeks, we have wasted precious floor time and energy to overcome filibusters on several judicial nominations. The majority leader was forced to file cloture on judicial nominees in Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Puerto Rico, and Tennessee. This was the case, even though every single one of those nominations had the support of home State Senators—whether Democrat or Republican. In fact, seven of the eight judges confirmed in the last 2 weeks after filibusters were defeated were confirmed overwhelmingly with 90 or more votes. So why were we forced to overcome unnecessary procedural obstacles even though these judges were non-controversial and were filling longstanding vacancies in their districts? It is because Senate Republicans continue to try to slow down all confirmations in the Senate.

Today, we must again vote to end a filibuster on a judicial nomination. Carolyn McHugh, nominated to fill a vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, is a distinguished jurist who has served on the Utah Court of Appeals for nearly a decade. She has the support of both her home State Republican senators—Senator HATCH and Senator LEE. Her nomination could and should have been confirmed last year. She was unanimously reported out of the Judiciary Committee on November 14, 2013, but because Republicans refused to consent to a confirmation vote by the full Senate and Senate Republicans would not consent to holding her nomination in the Senate, Judge McHugh's nomination was returned to the President at the end of last year. She then had to be re-nominated and re-processed through committee this year and was again reported out of the Judiciary Committee without opposition on January 16, 2014.

After tonight's vote to end this unnecessary Republican filibuster, the Senate will waste up to 30 hours waiting for post-cloture time to burn, even though Judge McHugh will then be confirmed overwhelmingly. It is unlikely that much, if any, of the 30 hours will be used to explain why Republicans found it necessary to block the Senate from promptly considering Judge McHugh's nomination last year and again this year.

Republicans continue to obstruct on every nomination, even though there

are currently 89 Federal judicial vacancies, 34 of which have been deemed emergency vacancies by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. In stark contrast, there were only 56 judicial vacancies at the same point in President Bush's tenure. The comparison is even more troubling when you consider the 33 judicial nominees currently pending on the Executive Calendar. We could lower the number of judicial vacancies today to less than 70 if Senate Republicans would simply consent to voting on the pending nominees. We have not had fewer than 70 vacancies since May 2009, more than 4 years ago. And for most of President Obama's tenure in office, judicial vacancies have hovered around 80 and 90 because of Senate Republican obstruction. Nevertheless, Senate Republicans continue to object to votes on judicial nominations even when they cannot muster anything upon which to justify their delay.

There are no excuses for the delays except sheer partisanship. Twenty-one of the 33 judicial nominees currently pending on the Executive Calendar had hearings before the Senate Judiciary Committee last year. And 31 of the 33 judicial nominees currently pending on the floor were voted out of Committee with bipartisan support. It is clear that Senate Republicans have decided to use the rules change as another excuse to further accomplish their partial government shut down. Before the rules change, Senate Republicans used anonymous holds to delay confirming qualified judicial nominees, and dragged their feet every step of the way to slow down the confirmation process. Senate Democrats changed the rules precisely because of these delay tactics, which were causing great harm to the judicial system and negatively impacting those Americans who were seeking justice in our Federal courts. The American people who have sought to obtain justice in our Federal courts deserve speedy and prompt justice. These petty partisan tactics on display are not worthy of the Senate.

Shortly, I hope we can overcome the filibuster of the nomination of Judge Carolyn McHugh to fill a vacancy in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has served since 2005 as a judge on the Utah Court of Appeals and as the presiding judge of that court since 2012. She previously worked in private practice at Parr Brown Gee & Loveless as an associate (1983–1987) and subsequently as a shareholder (1987–2005). She has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Utah Law School and at the University of Utah College of Social and Behavioral Science. Judge McHugh earned her J.D., Order of the Coif, from the University of Utah Law School in 1982. After law school, she clerked for Judge Bruce S. Jenkins of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. The ABA Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Judge McHugh “Well Qualified” to serve on the U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals for the tenth Circuit, its highest rating. She has the support of her home State senators, Senator HATCH and Senator LEE. The Judiciary Committee reported her unanimously by roll call vote to the full Senate on November 14, 2013, and by voice vote on January 16, 2014.

I thank the majority leader for filing a cloture petition to end the filibuster of Judge McHugh's nomination. I hope my fellow senators will join me today to end this filibuster so that she can begin working on behalf of the American people.

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 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Carolyn B. McHugh, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Carl Levin, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Amy Klobuchar, Tom Udall, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Joe Donnelly, Jack Reed, Brian Schatz, Tom Harkin.

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 Carolyn B. McHugh, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Ayotte	Feinstein	Landrieu
Baldwin	Flake	Leahy
Bennet	Franken	Lee
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Levin
Booker	Graham	Manchin
Boxer	Hagan	Markley
Brown	Hatch	McCaskill
Cantwell	Heinrich	Menendez
Cardin	Heitkamp	Merkley
Carper	Heller	Mikulski
Casey	Hirono	Murkowski
Collins	Johnson (SD)	Murphy
Coons	Kaine	Murray
Donnelly	King	Nelson
Durbin	Klobuchar	Pryor