

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 540.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Claire McCaskill, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 540 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. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 33 Leg.]

YEAS—67

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Baldwin | Harkin | Murphy |
| Barrasso | Hatch | Murray |
| Begich | Heinrich | Nelson |
| Bennet | Heitkamp | Pryor |
| Blumenthal | Hirono | Reed |
| Booker | Johanns | Reid |
| Boxer | Johnson (SD) | Rockefeller |
| Brown | Kaine | Sanders |
| Cantwell | King | Schatz |
| Cardin | Kirk | Schumer |
| Carper | Klobuchar | Shaheen |
| Casey | Landrieu | Stabenow |
| Collins | Leahy | Tester |
| Coons | Levin | Thune |
| Corker | Manchin | Udall (CO) |
| Cornyn | Markey | Udall (NM) |
| Donnelly | McCain | Walsh |
| Durbin | McCaskill | Warner |
| Feinstein | McConnell | Whitehouse |
| Flake | Menendez | Wyden |
| Franken | Merkley | |
| Gillibrand | Mikulski | |
| Hagan | Murkowski | |

NAYS—31

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Alexander | Graham | Risch |
| Ayotte | Grassley | Roberts |
| Blunt | Heller | Rubio |
| Boozman | Hoeben | Scott |
| Burr | Inhofe | Sessions |
| Coats | Isakson | Shelby |
| Cochran | Johnson (WI) | Toomey |
| Crapo | Lee | Vitter |
| Cruz | Moran | Wicker |
| Enzi | Paul | |
| Fischer | Portman | |

NOT VOTING—2

Chambliss Coburn

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 31. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 34 Leg.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—43

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Alexander | Flake | Murkowski |
| Ayotte | Graham | Paul |
| Barrasso | Grassley | Portman |
| Blunt | Hatch | Risch |
| Boozman | Heller | Roberts |
| Burr | Hoeben | Rubio |
| Coats | Inhofe | Scott |
| Cochran | Isakson | Sessions |
| Collins | Johanns | Shelby |
| Corker | Johnson (WI) | Thune |
| Cornyn | Kirk | Toomey |
| Crapo | Lee | Vitter |
| Cruz | McCain | Wicker |
| Enzi | McConnell | |
| Fischer | Moran | |

NOT VOTING—2

Chambliss Coburn

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. The next vote will be the last rollcall vote in this series. The next vote after this vote—other than these we are going to try to do by consent—will be a week from Monday at 5:30. I wish you all well in your airplane rides today.

CONVEYING CERTAIN FEDERAL FEATURES OF THE ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair lays before the Senate a message from the House with respect to S. 25, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
S. 25

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 25) entitled “An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

Paragraph (6)(B) of section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control

Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a) is amended by striking “and for fiscal year 2023” and by inserting “, for fiscal year 2023, and for fiscal year 2024”.

SEC. 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF REDUCED ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF RETIRED PAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES UNDER THE AGE OF 62 UNDER THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 WHO FIRST BECAME MEMBERS PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2014.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1401a(b)(4) of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 403(a) of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-67) and amended by section 10001 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2014 (Public Law 113-76), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) MEMBERS COVERED.—This paragraph applies to a member or former member of an armed force who first became a member of a uniformed service on or after January 1, 2014.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on December 1, 2015, immediately after the coming into effect of section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and the amendments made by that section.

SEC. 3. TRANSITIONAL FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR) REFORM.

Section 1898 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii) is amended—

(1) by amending the heading to read as follows: “TRANSITIONAL FUND FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR) REFORM”;

(2) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish under this title a Transitional Fund for Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) Reform (in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’) which shall be available to the Secretary to provide funds to pay for physicians’ services under part B to supplement the conversion factor under section 1848(d) for 2017 if the conversion factor for 2017 is less than conversion factor for 2013.”;

(3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “during—” and all that follows and inserting “during or after 2017, \$2,300,000,000.”; and

(4) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “from the Federal” and all that follows and inserting “from the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund.”.

Mr. REID. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 25 and ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mr. REID. We yield back on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 35 Leg.]

YEAS—95

| | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Alexander | Bennet | Boxer |
| Ayotte | Blumenthal | Brown |
| Baldwin | Blunt | Burr |
| Barrasso | Booker | Cantwell |
| Begich | Boozman | Cardin |

| | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Casey | Johanns | Reed |
| Cochran | Johnson (SD) | Reid |
| Collins | Johnson (WI) | Risch |
| Coons | Kaine | Roberts |
| Corker | King | Rockefeller |
| Cornyn | Kirk | Rubio |
| Crapo | Klobuchar | Sanders |
| Cruz | Landrieu | Schatz |
| Donnelly | Leahy | Schumer |
| Durbin | Lee | Scott |
| Enzi | Levin | Sessions |
| Feinstein | Manchin | Shaheen |
| Fischer | Markey | Shelby |
| Franken | McCain | Stabenow |
| Gillibrand | McCaskill | Tester |
| Graham | McConnell | Thune |
| Grassley | Menendez | Toomey |
| Hagan | Merkley | Udall (CO) |
| Harkin | Mikulski | Udall (NM) |
| Hatch | Moran | Vitter |
| Heinrich | Murkowski | Walsh |
| Heitkamp | Murphy | Warner |
| Heller | Murray | Warren |
| Hirono | Nelson | Whitehouse |
| Hoeben | Paul | Wicker |
| Inhofe | Portman | Wyden |
| Isakson | Pryor | |

NAYS—3

| | | |
|--------|-------|-------|
| Carper | Coats | Flake |
|--------|-------|-------|

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Chambliss | Coburn |
|-----------|--------|

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF KEVIN W. TECHAU TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA

NOMINATION OF ANDREW MARK LUGER TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. HOBBS TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF GARY BLANKINSHIP TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

NOMINATION OF AMOS ROJAS, JR., TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

NOMINATION OF PETER C. TOBIN TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY LUZZATTO GARDNER TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

NOMINATION OF ROBERT A. SHERMAN TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC

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

The legislative clerk reported the nominations of Kevin W. Techau, of Iowa, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa; Andrew Mark Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota; Robert L. Hobbs, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas; Gary Blankinship, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Texas; Amos Rojas, Jr., of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida; Peter C. Tobin, of Ohio, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio; Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, of New York, to be Representative of the United States of America to the European Union; and Robert A. Sherman, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, at the conclusion of the vote, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Minnesota be recognized for up to 1 minute, the Senator from Georgia up to 7 minutes, the senior Senator from Rhode Island for up to 2 minutes, and that I be recognized thereafter, subject to the majority leader.

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

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Kevin Techau on his nomination as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa.

U.S. attorneys hold a very important position in our system of justice. They are charged with upholding the law and, consequently, must possess impeccable legal skills and superior knowledge. Additionally, it is just as important that U.S. attorneys be committed to justice, fairness, due process and equal protection. I am confident that Mr. Techau understands the importance of the job he is about to undertake and has the skills, perseverance, and sense of justice necessary to make the most of his new position.

There is no question that Mr. Techau is highly qualified to be a U.S. attorney. He gained extensive law enforcement and managerial experience as head of Iowa's Department of Public Safety and Department of Inspections and Appeals under then Governor Tom Vilsack. He also has broad criminal justice and trial experience, including as an assistant Federal public defender in Iowa, as a staff judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force and Iowa National Guard, and in private practice. That experience will serve him well in his new position.

Mr. Techau has also demonstrated over the course of his career his commitment to public service, strong leadership, excellent judgment, and integrity. He will vigorously and fairly enforce the law, and I am certain that Mr. Techau will continue his dedication to justice.

Mr. Techau is a person of truly outstanding intellect and character, and I wholeheartedly congratulate him—as well as his wife, Stephanie, and two children—on his nomination as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to share a few words of support of Kevin Techau to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa. Mr. Techau received his undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa in 1981, and his J.D. from the University of Iowa in 1984. Mr. Techau also has a distinguished military career. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate from 1985 until 1992. While serving in the base legal office he provided legal counsel on a broad array of issues, including Federal laws, employment law, medical malpractice claims and criminal prosecution.

As a circuit defense counsel, he served as lead attorney in major felony cases in European and eastern United States circuits representing U.S. Air Force airmen in court-martial cases involving charges brought under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Mr. Techau joined the Iowa National Guard in 1993 and served until 2011.

In 1992, Mr. Techau joined the firm of Grefe & Sidney in Des Moines, IA. As an associate attorney, the primary focus of his practice was in civil litigation. From 1996 until 1999, Mr. Techau served as a Federal public defender for Iowa. His practice as a public defender was both at the trial and appellate level, and he has tried cases in the U.S. Federal Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa and the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Techau was appointed to the position of director of inspections and appeals for Iowa in 1999, and in 2002 was appointed as commissioner of public safety for Iowa.

Since 2007, he has been associate general counsel at American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company. There he handles litigation management for the company. Throughout his career, Mr. Techau has demonstrated