

Leahy	Reed	Whitehouse	Hassan	Menendez	Stabenow
Markey	Schumer	Wyden	Heinrich	Merkley	Tester
Merkley			Hirono	Murphy	Udall
Murray	Warren		Kaine	Murray	Van Hollen

NOT VOTING—2

Isakson Sanders
The nomination was confirmed.

Leahy	Reed	Whitehouse	Hassan	Menendez	Stabenow
	Schumer	Wyden	Heinrich	Merkley	Tester
			Hirono	Murphy	Udall
			Kaine	Murray	Van Hollen
			Klobuchar	Peters	Warner
			Leahy	Reed	Warren
			Manchin	Schatz	Whitehouse
			Markey	Schumer	Wyden
			McCaskill	Shaheen	

NOT VOTING—2

Isakson Sanders
The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CONFIRMATION OF HEATHER WILSON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am honored to speak tonight after casting my vote to confirm Dr. Heather Wilson as Secretary of the Air Force. I have known Heather for nearly 20 years and submit that President Trump could not have selected a more qualified candidate to lead the Air Force in these demanding times. I am pleased that the Senate was finally able to confirm her nomination, and I wish her great success.

As an Air Force veteran, former Member of Congress, and most recently the leader of one of the top science and engineering schools, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Dr. Wilson has repeatedly demonstrated leadership abilities that will serve her and the Air Force well in this next chapter.

Her commitment to duty links back to her time as a cadet at the Air Force Academy, where she was a distinguished graduate. In fact, she will be the Academy's first graduate in history to serve as a Secretary of the Air Force. Dr. Wilson went on to serve as an Air Force officer in Europe during the Cold War, where she was based in the United Kingdom and at the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels. Upon leaving the Air Force, she served on the National Security Council staff of President George H.W. Bush, working on NATO and conventional arms control.

At a time when America's partnerships are being challenged by threats around the world, I am confident that her experience will lend a steady hand to our military decisionmaking.

Dr. Wilson will also bring with her great experience honed in the Halls of Congress. At the start of her decades-long representation of New Mexico's First Congressional District, she quickly became one of the go-to Members on national security issues. Heather took on tough issues not unlike the ones she will surely face as Secretary of the Air Force. Whether on issues of strategic

objectives and readiness or personnel matters, such as military sexual assault, she is prepared to have frank discussions on the issues and will contribute insightful proposals on how to best tackle the many challenges facing the Air Force. She understands not only the Air Force's key capabilities but the perilous outcomes we may face as a nation if we do not properly train and fund our military. She knows that rising to meet the challenges of the day must be done with an eye to the future so we may also deter and defeat the threats of tomorrow.

At a time when national security is of foremost concern, Dr. Wilson understands the Air Force's tremendous responsibility in keeping Americans safe and will be guided by the core values of the Force: integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all that the Air Force does.

I could not be happier for my friend, Dr. Heather Wilson, and wish her and her husband Jay the best of luck. South Dakota and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are losing an asset, but I am confident that the new era of excellence Heather helped usher in leaves the school well-positioned to remain a foremost engineering, science, and research institution. We are proud of Heather's continued success and trust she will represent us well as the 24th Secretary of the Air Force.

I would like to thank my colleague, Chairman McCAIN, for his work to advance Dr. Wilson's nomination through the Senate Armed Services Committee and for granting me the opportunity to introduce Dr. Wilson at her confirmation hearing. It was my honor to endorse her before the committee and to cast my vote in support of her nomination this evening. I am glad the Senate has advanced another of President Trump's nominees and wish Dr. Wilson, our next Secretary of the Air Force, continued wisdom and success as she continues her outstanding leadership in service to our country.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL "MICKEY" GORAL

Mr. DURBIN. Today, Mr. President, I want to honor my friend Michael "Mickey" Goral. For nearly four decades, Mickey has held elected office in

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 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Orrin G. Hatch, Bill Cassidy, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, John Thune, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch.

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 Scott Gottlieb, of Connecticut, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Ernst	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Nelson
Bennet	Flake	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Perdue
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Burr	Grassley	Risch
Capito	Hatch	Roberts
Carper	Heitkamp	Rounds
Cassidy	Heller	Rubio
Cochran	Hoeven	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Coons	Johnson	Shelby
Corker	Kennedy	Strange
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Feinstein
Booker	Cortez Masto	Franken
Brown	Donnelly	Gillibrand
Cantwell	Duckworth	Harris

Rockford, the county seat of Winnebago County, IL. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with him to serve Rockford and Winnebago County for many years.

A lifelong resident of Rockford, Mickey Goral grew up on Rockford's west end graduated from Boyland High School and Northern Illinois University with a B.A. in political science. He served on the county board for 18 years before being elected Rockford township supervisor and has held that post for 20 years.

At 63 years young, Mickey decided not to seek reelection, but refuses to use the word "retirement." He said: I hesitate to use the 'R' word because I don't play golf, I don't fish, and I have no other hobbies." Public service is all that is in Mickey's blood.

Oftentimes, public service becomes about accolades—not for Mickey. He simply aimed to make a difference in people's lives. Overseeing a \$1.6 million general assistance office, Mickey led a nine-person team responsible for providing assistance to the communities most vulnerable: those with no other source of income. His mission was always clear and simple: treat all people with respect, dignity, and compassion in providing basic human needs to families while they are on the road to self-sufficiency, and that is what he did. Mickey's years of service to the people of Rockford show that public service can make a real difference in people's lives. Following the great recession of 2008, his general assistant office dealt with more than 150 open cases every month. Today, that number in a typical month is cut in half. That is the kind of progress Mickey delivered for real working folks in Rockford.

Mickey Goral also had the privilege of serving as the president of the Township Officials of Illinois, bringing professionalism and training for township governments throughout my home State of Illinois, but for all his accomplishments, Mickey was most proud to the Rockford township supervisor because his government role was one that was closest to the people, which meant he had the opportunity to help his friends and neighbors. We need more people like Mickey Goral.

I especially want to thank Mickey's wife, Tami, and twin daughters, Karley and Kiley, for sharing so much of their husband and father with the community. I am honored to congratulate him on a job well done and wish him and his family all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, the United States is a world leader in innovation, science, and technology; promoting democratic and humanitarian values; and maintaining international security and economic stability. The United States should play no less of a global leadership role combating climate change.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. It is our greatest environmental, political, and moral challenge. History will judge our generation by what we do—or don't do.

I call on this body to pass S. Res. 155, affirming in no uncertain terms the U.S. responsibility to work cooperatively with the international community to aggressively and effectively fight climate change.

There is no need to debate whether manmade climate change is occurring. The scientific evidence is clear. Greenhouse gases emitted through human activity are having a profound effect on Earth's climate, and 2016 was the warmest year on record, beating the record of 2015, which beat 2014's. The international community is no longer debating the science of climate change, and there should be no further debate in the halls of Congress.

Instead we must agree how the United States—as part of the international community—will take all steps necessary to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to preserve our environment and way of life for future generations.

We are seeing species extinction and reduction in record numbers. We are seeing our landscapes changing, especially in the American West and in our colder climates like the Arctic. We are seeing extreme weather events devastate communities.

As a dry, arid State in the Southwest, my home State of New Mexico is right in the bull's eye of climate disruption. New Mexico is the country's sixth-fastest warming State: the annual temperature has increased about 2.7 degree Fahrenheit since 1970. Droughts are becoming more intense. We have decreased snowfall in the winter and decreased runoff in the spring. All this has negative consequences for our land and communities.

Climate change not only threatens our environment, it threatens our economic stability and international security.

More than 1,100 U.S. businesses, corporations, and organizations, many of which operate internationally, are on record supporting the Paris Agreement. The businesses include Arch Coal, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Dow Chemical, and DuPont. Business leaders agree that the Paris Agreement is good for business.

Support for the accord is broad based within private industry, from electricity generators such as PG&E and National Grid, to oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and Shell, to mining companies such as Rio Tinto, and to manufacturers such as General Motors. Even some of the largest coal producers, such as Cloud Peak Energy and Peabody Energy, support remaining in the agreement. This broad support is due to a simple reality: leaders of successful businesses make decisions based on the available science, not ideology.

Business leaders are telling Congress and the President to stay in. Last No-

vember, over 360 businesses and investors called on U.S.-elected leaders to support the Paris Agreement and other domestic low-carbon policies. The letter was signed by more than a dozen Fortune 500 companies, as well as small family-owned businesses across more than 35 states. All these businesses want the U.S. economy to be energy efficient and powered by low-carbon energy. They are concerned that a failure to build a low-carbon economy puts American prosperity at risk.

Despite this overwhelming support from the business community, the President has not decided whether the U.S. should continue as a member of the Paris accord. He is undecided despite the fact that his Secretary of State, former CEO of the world's largest oil company, says we should stay in, so we have a "seat at the table."

While sufficient resources and attention must be given to carbon-intensive industries and their workforces to ensure that transitions are not disruptive, we must look forward to supporting a new energy economy, that addresses climate change and produces good jobs.

We should not underestimate the threat climate change poses to national security. Secretary of Defense Mattis does not. He has testified before Congress that climate change poses as a national security threat. Indeed, the Pentagon has considered climate change a national security threat for over a decade.

Secretary Mattis wrote to the Senate Armed Services Committee that, "[c]limate change is impacting stability in areas of the world where our troops are operating today." He observed that, "[c]limate change can be a driver of instability, and the Department of Defense must pay attention to potential adverse impacts generated by this phenomenon." To prepare for this threat, Secretary Mattis stated that "... climate change is a challenge that requires a broader, whole-of government response. If confirmed, I will ensure that the Department of Defense plays its appropriate role within such a response by addressing national security aspects."

According to the American Security Project, climate change serves as an "accelerator of instability" or a "threat multiplier" that makes already existing threats worse. "The threat of global warming for security will manifest through a range of effects: resource scarcity, extreme weather, food scarcity, water insecurity, and sea level rise will all threaten societies around the world. Too many governments are not prepared for these threats, either because they do not have the resources or because they have not planned ahead. How societies and governments respond to the increase in instability will determine whether climate change will lead to war."

The President should not disregard the advice of his Secretary of Defense and the established position of the Pentagon. The challenge of climate change