to do their job to reauthorize and fund this bill so that 209,000 children in Ohio will be protected, as well as 9 million people in the country—Ohio, Arizona, California, Minnesota, and Oregon are all expected to run out of CHIP money by the end of the year, early January. Some States will need to start notifying families right now that they could lose their coverage. Virginia will have to start sending out notices as early as this week. Many other States expect funds to run out the first of the year.

This is not just a few children whom maybe we don't want to think about; this is 9 million children—209,000 children in my State, tens of thousands of children in Kansas, and it is hundreds of thousands of children in Senator NELSON's Florida. These are working families who don't qualify for Medicaid but can't afford private insurance. They are families with two working parents who often aren't lucky enough to work for companies that provide health insurance. They are families with children who have special needs. CHIP helps provide access to specialty providers so the kids are never faced with a situation where their family can't afford the therapy or the expensive prescription drugs they need.

Healthcare for all of our children is something on which we ought to be able to come together, wouldn't you think—especially at the holiday season. Leading into Christmas, wouldn't you think we could agree on that, that we ought to take care of the Children's Health Insurance Program?

There has never been a gap for funding in the CHIP program. It was created in a bipartisan way. Senator Kennedy, who sat over here, Senator Rockefeller, who sat over here, and Senator HATCH, who is still in this body, all worked to create this program.

In those days, Senator HATCH said: "As a nation, as a society, we have a moral responsibility" to ensure our children have healthcare. We have maintained that bipartisanship ever since, until now—until Speaker RYAN and Leader MCCONNELL, who would rather worry about tax cuts for the rich, would rather worry about helping banks keep consumers from having their day in court, would rather worry about helping the Koch brothers and the drug companies. That is way more important than taking care of 209,000 children in Ohio. I guess it is more important for Senator MCCONNELL to go back in that room and write a bill with his lobbyist friends from the Koch brothers, oil companies, drug companies, and Wall Street—all his special interest buddies. He can write a bill for those big tax breaks for those companies but just not get around to taking care of these kids.

Two years ago, with the support of advocates all over the country, we extended funding for CHIP with bipartisan support. We did it for 2 more years. We put kids first in this body, acted early to extend CHIP so families wouldn't have to worry. This year, in committee—and I give credit to Senator HATCH in this case, as well as Senators PORTMAN, WYDEN, and others. We passed a 5-year extension of CHIP, and almost all my colleagues voted for it, but passing it out of committee and patting ourselves on the back doesn't get the job done.

I ask all my colleagues who sit here—again, with health insurance paid for by taxpayers—for one time this Christmas season to set partisanship aside and actually do the right thing. Let's forget the tax bill for just a few days. Let's forget helping the Wall Street banks for a few days. Let's forget about helping the oil companies and billionaire contributors on whom Senator MCCONNELL and his colleagues rely. Let's forget about that just for a few days, and let's take care of 209,000 children in Ohio and tens of thousands of children in Kansas and 9 million children around the country.

My friend Bill Considine is the CEO of Akron Children's Hospital. He is the longest serving CEO of any children's hospital in the country. He said: "The fact that this reauthorization has been delayed for political reasons, for shallow campaign promises, is inexcusable." I have known Bill Considine for 25 years. I don't know if he is a Republican or a Democrat. Certainly, I don't think he cares much about that. What he cares about is taking care of kids. He says that the fact that we are putting these children and families at risk in the country we live in—there are no words we can use to justify it. He is right. There is no way to justify Congress's negligence. We need to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program this week—now.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Mr. President, another test we face right now to make it clear to the American people whose side we are on is unfolding at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Our job is to look out for the people we serve, not Wall Street banks and corporations trying to scam consumers. That is why we must protect the independence of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

In 2008, when the big banks crashed the economy, which cost millions of Americans their homes and jobs, it was obvious that no one was looking out for the public. While predatory lenders were getting rich on families who were taking out a second mortgage to make ends meet, the people who were supposed to be looking out for those families were asleep at the switch. That is why we passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law and created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with one mission: to protect consumers, to stand up for bank customers, homeowners, servicemembers and veterans, student loan borrowers and seniors, and all the millions of Americans who, when it comes to the financial marketplace, need somebody on their side.

With these transactions that people do in an increasingly complex financial world, with all the fine print and all the documents people sign to buy a home or get a credit card or sign up for an account with a bank or insurance company, the public needs somebody on their side. They need someone to look out for them who is not obedient to the Wall Street bottom line.

Some in this body have tried to roll back the Dodd-Frank rules that protect taxpayers and homeowners from Wall Street abuses. It is all the more important that Americans have a strong, independent consumer protection bureau on their side.

The Bureau's actions have resulted in $12 billion in relief for more than 29 million American consumers who had been ripped off by debt collectors, for-profit colleges, and payday lenders. Some were cheated by almost iconic American companies, such as Wells Fargo and Equifax.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has a special Office of Servicemember Affairs run by Holly Petraeus. They took on the payday lenders and car title lenders that targeted servicemembers on military bases across the country. I know firsthand. I know up close how they do that. At Wright-Patterson Air Force Base—the largest single site employer in the State of Ohio, near Dayton—the predators, payday lenders, and financial service predators set up shop right outside the base. They can't set up shop on the base. They prey on people who are a little less sophisticated financially. They don't have a lot of money, they are young, and in many cases, they are servicemembers who aren't paid very well and are already struggling. For somebody who is overseas—they prey on the spouse when the person is overseas. They prey on them, and when they are overseas, they prey on their families.

Even Sheila Bair, a former George W. Bush appointee, was on TV this morning talking about how important this agency's work is to working families.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has been able to do all this because it is not beholden to Wall Street, special interests, and is not beholden to the people in this body. It is strong because it is independent.

The people in this body who want to take away the CFPB say that it is a bureaucracy that is not accountable to anybody. Do you know what they mean? When I hear my friends in the Banking Committee say that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is not accountable to anybody, what do they mean? They mean the banks can't influence them, the big Wall Street officials can't influence them, the Members of Congress who shill for the banks can't influence them, and the Members of Congress who front for the big Wall Street firms can't influence them. That is what they mean when they say it is not accountable. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is accountable to the public. It is accountable to the people who get hurt by some of these financial transactions.

A couple of weeks ago, the administration sent the Vice President down here under the cover of night. We know that when the Vice President comes down here to the Senate floor, it is about to be a victory for Wall Street, and that is what happened. The Vice President came here to the Senate floor under the cover of night to overturn a consumer bureau rule that would have guaranteed that hard-working Americans get their day in court when cheated by a big bank. The Vice President comes in and breaks a tie, and consumers lose, but Wall Street wins. Wall Street is indebted to this Vice President.

Now the administration ignores the law and hands over the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to a person who doesn't even think it should exist. The man they want running this consumer watchdog bureau has said that the agency ''is a sick, sad joke.'' He voted to repeal it.

I guess that is why he thinks he could do this job part time. The President sent a member of his Cabinet who already has a full-time job at the Office of Management and Budget to also run the consumer bureau at the same time. I have never heard of anything quite like that, but he is a reliable Wall Street crony who will do the bidding for Wall Street and do everything he can if he gets the chance to undercut it.

When he says it is a sick, sad joke, it is no joke to the people who have been cheated by Wall Street. It is no joke to the tens of thousands of servicemembers who rely on the consumer bureau to fight for them against bankruptcy. Think about that. Think about these banks that prey on servicemembers—19, 20, 25-year-old men and women who are serving their country. Some of them are overseas. Their spouses are raising the kids, struggling every day on a servicemember's pay. The banks have abused them. Who stood up for them? It wasn't Members of Congress who stood up for them; it was the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. That is why they are there. It was no joke to the 29 million American consumers who have money in their pockets now because the consumer bureau stood by them. It is no joke that in his first act today, Mulvaney says he wants to put an end to payments to working families who have been cheated by banks and financial institutions.

We need this agency to be able to continue its work fighting back against Wall Street abuses and fighting for the American people. Americans need a full-time cop on the beat with a proven track record of fighting for them, not a part-time Director who has another job in the President's Cabinet—who ever heard of such a thing?—especially since that part-time Director had a reputation when he was in Congress down the hall. Now that he is in the President's Cabinet, he has a record of working for Wall Street.

In 2016, Candidate Trump said: ''[T]his election is a choice between taking our government back from the special interests or surrendering our last scrap of independence to their total and complete control.'' If President Trump wants to keep that promise, he should take his own advice. He should allow the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to carry out its mission to protect American consumers, free of Wall Street special interests. You don't drain the swamp by putting a toady from Wall Street into the consumer bureau to do the bidding of Wall Street. It is pretty darn simple.

The President has a chance to stand beside the American people. He told us last year that he would drain the swamp, stand up to special interest groups, and that he would punish Wall Street if Wall Street overreached. He should keep that promise. He should allow the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to continue doing its work.

Anyone who stands on the side of hard-working Americans should make it clear that they support Deputy Director English as the Acting Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. It is about whose side you are on. Are you on the side of Wall Street? Are you on the side of the special interests writing tax-cuts-for-the-rich bills in the majority leader's office? Are you for Main Street? Are you for hard-working Americans who show up to work every day and just want an even break and a chance in this country?

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Friedrich nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 281 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Cantwell	Cornyn
Baldwin	Capito	Cortez Masto
Barrasso	Cardin	Cotton
Bennet	Carper	Crapo
Blumenthal	Casey	Cruz
Blunt	Cassidy	Daines
Booker	Cochran	Donnelly
Boozman	Collins	Duckworth
Brown	Coons	Durbin
Burr	Corker	Enzi
Ernst	Lankford	Rubio
Feinstein	Leahy	Sasse
Fischer	Lee	Schatz
Flake	Manchin	Schumer
Franken	Markey	Scott
Gardner	McCain	Shaheen
Graham	McCaskill	Shelby
Grassley	McConnell	Stabenow
Harris	Menendez	Strange
Hassan	Merkley	Sullivan
Hatch	Moran	Tester
Heinrich	Murkowski	Thune
Heitkamp	Murphy	Tillis
Heller	Murray	Toomey
Hirono	Nelson	Udall
Hoeven	Paul	Van Hollen
Inhofe	Perdue	Warner
Isakson	Peters	Whitehouse
Johnson	Portman	Wicker
Kaine	Reed	Wyden
Kennedy	Risch	Young
King	Roberts	
Klobuchar	Rounds	

NAYS—3

Gillibrand	Sanders	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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 senior 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Gregory G. Katsas, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, Ben Sasse, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, Tom Cotton, Ron Johnson, Mike Lee, James Lankford, Jerry Moran, Lindsey Graham, Roger F. Wicker, Bob Corker.

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 Gregory G. Katsas, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 282 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Cornyn	Graham
Barrasso	Cotton	Grassley
Blunt	Crapo	Hatch
Boozman	Cruz	Heller
Burr	Daines	Hoeven
Capito	Enzi	Inhofe
Cassidy	Ernst	Isakson
Cochran	Fischer	Johnson
Collins	Flake	Lankford
Corker	Gardner	Lee