

the 55th Wing were not negatively impacted, and, above all, a unifying spirit of dedication and purpose that showed the world that, when disaster strikes, there is nothing that can keep the men and women of Offutt Air Force Base from answering the call of duty.

I am extremely proud to have the privilege of representing everyone who makes this base such a key part of our national security. There is no finer representation of what it means to serve than the selfless work of the personnel at Offutt who responded to this emergency.

Despite the outstanding efforts made in preparation for this natural disaster, Mother Nature took a toll on the base. At the flood's peak, one-third of Offutt Air Force Base was underwater. Eighty facilities at the base have been impacted, and waters crested at a depth of 16 feet. More than 3,000 personnel were displaced from their work centers, and 1.2 million square feet of office space was underwater.

The damage across the installation is extensive, and it will take a concerted effort to ensure that the impacts from the flooding are resolved and that the base is fully restored.

I urge my colleagues to work together with the Nebraska delegation to ensure that when the full accounting of the impacts from the flood are assessed, we provide the Air Force with the full resourcing it needs to repair that damage.

The good news is, our service men and women at Offutt are already hard at work on the process of putting Offutt back on its feet.

As the water recedes, personnel have been working hard to account for the damage and take action to resume the operations that were suspended as a result of this disaster.

One of the signature sounds of the Bellevue, NE, community is the distant rumble of the engines of the aircraft that depart from and land at Offutt every day. During the flooding, that unmistakable sound was absent. Now that sound is back at Offutt.

Last week, the runway was certified for operation, and the first of our relocated planes came home.

We should not operate under any misperceived notions that repairing Offutt will happen overnight. This is going to be a step-by-step process. But with the hard work of the Air Force, Congress, and the local community, we can rebuild Offutt Air Force Base even better than it was before.

I wish to offer my thanks to everyone at Offutt Air Force Base who dedicated their time and energy to responding to this disaster. I also want to thank the heroic men and women of the Nebraska National Guard who provided aerial damage assessment during the flooding. Thank you to the countless members of the Bellevue and Omaha communities who donated food, equipment, and offered to volunteer during the flooding.

As we look to the days ahead, I am confident that both Offutt and Ne-

braska will emerge from this disaster stronger.

Now is a time when we must focus on the future. We will rebuild and ensure that Offutt remains Nebraska Strong.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF CHERYL MARIE STANTON

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak in support of my friend Cheryl Marie Stanton, who is well qualified to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division within the U.S. Department of Labor. In her previous role as executive director for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, she gained valuable experience that will prepare her well for the role she is about to take on within the U.S. Department of Labor. She is also someone who has vast experience in labor and employment law, both in public life and in the private sector. She also served as Associate White House Counsel, as liaison to the Department of Labor.

Cheryl currently works at the Social Security Administration as associate to the Chief of Staff. She previously served as the executive director for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, to which she was appointed by then-Governor Nikki Haley in 2013.

Cheryl is someone I have known for more than 20 years. Like me, Cheryl served as a law clerk to then-Judge Samuel Alito on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Although we never clerked at the same time—she clerked the year before, and I got to know her through mutual friends initially and then got to know her independently through that clerkship experience—she is someone who is well regarded within the Alito chambers as being a hard-working law clerk and someone who everyone enjoyed working with and getting to know.

I still remember many years ago, when she was serving at the White House Counsel's Office as Associate Counsel, she took my family and me on a tour of the White House and showed genuine interest in them. This is the kind of person who comes with a lot of academic and professional qualifications. When you add to that this X factor, this intangible factor of being someone who is genuinely interested in people, genuinely interested in their well-being, their welfare, and making sure they are informed and happy, this is exactly the kind of person we would want in a position like this one.

Her academic credentials are, of course, impeccable. She received her

law degree from the University of Chicago Law School and her undergraduate degree from Williams College.

In short, Cheryl Stanton is someone I look forward to voting for and confirming to this position within the Department of Labor. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it seems that every week now, I come to the floor to say the same thing, which is that healthcare is not political; it is personal. There is no part of healthcare that is more personal than the decision regarding if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child. And that certainly is the case when things go terribly wrong, which they sometimes do. These reproductive health decisions need to be made by women in consultation with their doctors, their families, and their faith. That is what the Supreme Court has ruled. They should not be made by politicians—mainly men—looking to score political points from women's personal tragedies. Yet, once again, that is what the Republicans are doing right now.

I have a question. How dare you pretend to care about the health of women and babies when all of your actions suggest otherwise?

Unfortunately, Republicans haven't noticed, but we have a real healthcare crisis involving women and babies in this country. In most of the world, fewer and fewer women are dying from childbirth—not here in the United States. Our maternal mortality rate is climbing. More women are dying. Our infant mortality rate ranks a shameful 32 among the world's 35 wealthiest nations. That means we have more babies who aren't surviving through the first year of their life because of lack of healthcare, nutrition, and other issues.

The Republican majority should be working with us and taking action to improve health outcomes for moms and babies. Instead, they are busy trying to take away their healthcare.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Republican majority in Congress voted to repeal or weaken the Affordable Care Act more than 70 times—7-0. Now the Trump administration has stepped in to help. Last June and August, they expanded access to association health plans and short-term plans. We just call them junk plans because they don't cover so many basics, like prescription drugs, mental health care, and—you guessed it—maternity care.

Let me remind everyone that before the Affordable Care Act, most insurance companies did not cover prenatal care and maternity care as a basic part of healthcare. Women had to go out

and pay extra, get a rider to cover something that is a basic part of our healthcare.

Thanks to these junk plans that don't cover maternity care, and other sabotage, it is estimated that right now comprehensive health insurance costs 16.6 percent more than it otherwise would because of these efforts to undermine, sabotage, and take away healthcare. Does that sound like the Republican majority cares about moms and babies?

Now the Department of Justice has announced that it agrees with the Federal judge in Texas who said the entire Affordable Care Act must be struck down. This is something the President has enthusiastically embraced.

The entire Affordable Care Act is at stake, including Medicaid expansion for low-income workers who want to work but now have to choose between working and having healthcare coverage, children staying on their parents' plans until age 26, and protections for people with preexisting conditions.

In other words, if a baby is born with spina bifida, a heart defect, a genetic condition, or any other health problem, insurance companies would once again, under these plans, be able to deny them coverage or subject them to lifetime limits like we used to have. Does that sound like policies that care about moms and babies?

By the way, to emphasize that they support President Trump 100 percent, 2 weeks ago Senate Republicans passed a budget resolution out of committee on a party-line vote that once again has language to repeal the Affordable Care Act with no replacement. Sorry, moms and babies, you are on your own. And don't go looking to Medicaid for health coverage either. The Trump budget would cut \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid over 10 years—trillion. That is the same Medicaid that covers half of all babies born in America. When you gut Medicaid, you are keeping moms and babies from getting the healthcare they need. Does that sound as though Republicans care about moms and babies?

If our Republican colleagues really care about the health of moms and babies, here is what they should be doing and joining us to do: They would pass a bill to guarantee that every insurance plan covers prenatal and maternity care, like what is available under the Affordable Care Act. They would reaffirm the Affordable Care Act's protections for people with preexisting conditions, not just saying the words but actually making sure people with preexisting conditions are covered. And they would strengthen healthcare for moms and babies through the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid.

A few years ago, the Finance Committee reported out a bill that I led with Senator GRASSLEY called the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act. This bill would create a set of maternal

and infant quality care measures under CHIP and Medicaid—the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid. The goal is simple: improving maternal and infant health outcomes. We need quality standards across the country.

Right now, half the births are through Medicaid. There are not consistent quality standards across the country to make sure there are healthy opportunities for prenatal care and maternity care.

The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act would help make sure that every mom gets the best pregnancy care possible and every baby gets a healthy start. If our Republican colleagues care so much about the health of moms and babies, instead of politicizing issues around reproductive health and women's ability to make their own choices—instead of politicizing what is happening around reproductive health, they would join us in making the Quality Care for Moms and Baby Act a reality.

It is time to stop the cynical, political stunts. It is time to trust women to make the best reproductive healthcare decisions for themselves, their families, and their futures. It is time to take action to resolve the maternal and infant health crisis in this country. It is also time to ensure that every mom and every baby has the healthcare they need for a healthy life.

This is the United States of America; we can do better for our moms and babies than is currently being done. Democrats are ready to take real action to join with our Republican colleagues. It is time they join us in protecting the health of moms and babies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wyrick nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 68 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 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 Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, James Lankford, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, David Perdue, Roger F. Wicker, Lindsey Graham, James E. Risch, Mitch McConnell.

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 Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 69 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	