

Gillibrand	Manchin	Scott (SC)
Graham	Markey	Shaheen
Grassley	McConnell	Shelby
Harris	Menendez	Sinema
Hassan	Merkley	Smith
Hawley	Murkowski	Stabenow
Heinrich	Murphy	Sullivan
Hirono	Murray	Tester
Hoeven	Perdue	Thune
Hyde-Smith	Peters	Tillis
Inhofe	Portman	Udall
Isakson	Reed	Van Hollen
Johnson	Roberts	Warner
Jones	Rosen	Warren
Kaine	Rubio	Whitehouse
Kennedy	Sanders	Wicker
King	Sasse	Wyden
Klobuchar	Schatz	Young
Lankford	Schumer	
Leahy	Scott (FL)	

## NAYS—8

Blackburn	Lee	Risch
Braun	McSally	Romney
Crapo	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Enzi	Toomey
Capito	Moran	
Durbin	Rounds	

The bill (H.R. 2157), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their votes. Even though the final vote might be 5 months late, today is a good day for the Congress, for the Senate, for the American people, and for the Nation.

I have said from the beginning—a position I have taken in all of my decades in the Senate—that any disaster supplemental that passes this Chamber cannot pick and choose which American citizens to help in their time of need. We are all Americans. The American community bands together to support one another when disaster strikes, regardless of where we are from, what our politics are, or what our beliefs are. That is the American way, and it is the role of the Congress to make sure that it is done.

I am glad to stand on the Senate floor today, and I am glad to be here with my dear friend, the senior Senator from Alabama and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator SHELBY, to support what is a bipartisan, bicameral disaster supplemental appropriations bill.

Think of what we have done. This bill will provide long overdue aid to the people of California, Georgia, Florida, Nebraska, Iowa, North Carolina, South Carolina, Hawaii, Texas, Missouri, Alabama, and Puerto Rico just to name a few. Some of these people—they are all American citizens—have been trying to put their lives back together for nearly 2 years—since August of 2017.

It provides \$19.1 billion to help communities in these States and Territories to rebuild stronger than they were before. It includes more than \$2.4 billion in community development block grants, more than \$1.6 billion for the Federal Highway Administration to rebuild roads and bridges, and more than \$3 billion to support our Nation's farmers who lost their crops and livestock in the storms. It also provides

more than \$3 billion to rebuild our military's storm-damaged infrastructure.

It has been no secret that how to help the American citizens of Puerto Rico has been at the heart of our dispute on disaster aid, but I am pleased to report that the bill provides much needed assistance to these Americans, including \$605 million for the Nutrition Assistance Program, and \$304 million in community development block grants to help the island meet the FEMA match requirements.

One thing that we learned when Tropical Storm Irene struck Vermont is that you have rebuild better than you were so you are stronger when you face the next storm. We have included language that requires FEMA to rebuild the island stronger and better than it was before to help mitigate the damage of a future storm. We did this in certain areas in Vermont, and it made all the difference in the world.

This supplemental will unlock billions of dollars that Congress had previously appropriated for Puerto Rico and other communities across the country that the Trump administration has held back in the Treasury.

We reached this agreement because the Republicans and the Democrats came together across the aisle. It is a strong bipartisan agreement. It reflects that we are one Nation in times of need and that all Americans can count on each other. I was happy to see the strong support from the Senators here, but our work is not yet done.

Now we have to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border. We have to help those who are fleeing from violence and persecution in their own countries. The President has requested \$4.5 billion. Some of this money is badly needed. There is no dispute about that, and I will support the part that is badly needed.

Everyone in this Chamber knows these are difficult issues that are often made more difficult given the President's rhetoric and extreme policies. Difficult issues take time. Let's lower the rhetoric, and let's do as we have done here—work together. We have been working day and night to strike a compromise on the President's request. We are close, but we are not there yet. Even as of late, late last night, we were still working on that. When we return, I hope we can negotiate a bipartisan agreement to provide additional humanitarian assistance.

To reach this agreement today, many of the Senators—and I mentioned, of course, Senator SHELBY, my friend, as chairman—and I, as vice chairman, worked together. So did many others, but none of us could do it without the dedicated staff that was involved. I could go home at 9 o'clock and 10 o'clock at night, but they were still there. I am talking about both the Democratic staff and the Republican staff. So I asked my Appropriations chief of staff, Chuck Kieffer, to give me a list.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks the list of names of both the Democratic staff and the Republican staff who worked so hard on this.

I said on a personal basis earlier that I remember when Tropical Storm Irene hit Vermont and how totally discouraged I was by the damage. Yet, within hours, I had texts and emails from Senators in this body—Republicans and Democrats alike. They said: When we were hit by a tornado, by flooding, by an earthquake—whatever it might have been—Vermont stood with us, and we will stand with Vermont.

That is what we are as the United States of America. The Senate did what it should do today. The Senate acted as the conscience of the Nation. We stood together to help all Americans.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LIST SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN LEAHY OF STAFF FOR H.R. 2157, THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Charles E. Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jess Berry, Jay Tilton, Hannah Chauvin, Dianne Nellor, Jean Toal Eisen, Erik Raven, Doug Clapp, Ellen Murray, Scott Nance, Chip Walgren, Drenan Dudley, Reeves Hart, Rachael Taylor, Alex Keenan, Jason McMahon, Tim Rieser, Dabney Hegg, Christina Monroe, Catie Finley, Shannon Hines, Jonathan Graffeo, David Adkins, Carlisle Clarke, Hamilton Bloom, Brian Potts, Tyler Owens, Andrew Newton, Adam Telle, Erny Lesofski, Laura Friedel, Sarah Boliek, Patrick Magnuson, Paul Grove, Clare Doherty.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, all week, Chairman SHELBY and a number of our colleagues worked tirelessly to get a supplemental funding agreement for disaster relief over the finish line. He has prepared one thoughtful, good-faith compromise after another.

In fact, this has been going on for months now: compromise offer after compromise offer from Republicans—constant engagement and good-faith work. So I am pleased that, today, all of this hard work has at long last paid off. Thanks to the efforts from a number of our colleagues and thanks to the leadership of President Trump and his administration—and, I might add, the occupant of the Chair, who has been extremely persistent in this effort over the last weeks and months—the Senate has now passed a compromise solution

for disaster funding, and we have sent it over to the House.

Regretfully, they are gone.

The President has indicated he supports it. So the Senate's bipartisan vote is a big step toward making law and actually delivering the relief that communities across our Nation sorely need.

I am sorry that our House Democratic colleagues blocked commonsense efforts to include funding in this legislation for the ongoing humanitarian crisis down on the southern border. Despite days of negotiations, House Democrats insisted that we could not provide more funding for our overwhelmed agencies, which are running on fumes, without including other poison-pill policy riders. As a result, today's agreement omits those needed resources.

This wasn't money for the wall or even law enforcement. It was money so that the Federal Government can continue to house, feed, and care for the men, women, and children showing up along our southern border—money for agencies that are currently, literally, running on fumes.

This is money that is so uncontroversial—so uncontroversial—that even the New York Times published an editorial titled, "Congress, Give Trump His Border Money."

Even the New York Times blasted the "political gamesmanship [that] threatens to hold up desperately needed resources." That is what they called it—political gamesmanship.

Well, I am sorry to say their political gamesmanship did hold up these resources. Apparently, our House Democratic colleagues heard "President Trump" and the word "border" in the same sentence and decided they preferred no action at all to the sensible compromise that even the New York Times had called for.

It is too bad that partisan spite has infected even such blindingly obvious priorities as the humanitarian efforts on our own southern border. I am sorry that our Democratic friends have become so committed to "the resistance" that they are now to the left of the New York Times editorial board.

Nevertheless, we should celebrate the progress we are making today. The Senate passage of this legislation marks a huge step forward for communities across the United States that have gone far too long without receiving this Federal assistance to help them get back on their feet.

Finally, the millions of Americans who have grappled with nature's worst are closer to receiving the supplemental aid they urgently need for the western communities that are still sorting through the ashes of last year's record-breaking wildfires; our coastal states in the Southeast and Puerto Rico, where hurricane damage punched holes in homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure; the Deep South communities victimized by tornadoes; and for those still grappling with the flood-

waters that have surged over farms and towns across the Midwest and in my own State of Kentucky.

So I am grateful and relieved that Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and colleagues of ours, including Senators PERDUE, ISAKSON, RICK SCOTT, RUBIO, ERNST, THUNE, BLUNT, SASSE, and others have brought us to this point with their tireless work on this subject.

I am grateful to the President for his leadership and focus on getting an outcome. I am glad we passed this legislation and sent it to the House. I urge our colleagues over in the House to support it.

#### SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 78, S. 1332.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 78, S. 1332, a bill to set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2020 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2021 through 2029.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 78 S. 1332, a bill to set forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2020 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2021 through 2029.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Johnny Isakson, Jerry Moran, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, Richard C. Shelby, Richard Burr, Mike Lee, James Lankford, John Cornyn, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Tim Scott, Rand Paul.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 157.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reappointment)

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2025. (Reappointment)

Mitch McConnell, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, John Thune, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 224.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination. The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 David Schenker, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Mitch McConnell, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Tim Scott, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, John Thune, Tom Cotton, Rick Scott, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion is agreed to.