

and overseeing our country's quality assurance system of accreditation—a system this Secretary is currently dismantling.

This position is also responsible for programs that help our low-income students and first-generation students and students with disabilities as they prepare for and try to succeed in college and programs that help support minority-serving institutions.

On these issues specifically, Mr. King's record is particularly concerning. Mr. King blamed students for the daunting challenges in higher education today, even saying students are making "bad economic choices." He also refused to answer questions on whether he believes students face systemic barriers in higher education or whether income inequality plays a role in a student's ability to earn a degree. There are students in higher education who are skipping meals today or living in a car. Mr. King would not acknowledge that problem.

Finally, on an issue that is so important to me and one that is imperative to a student's ability to succeed in higher education, Mr. King blamed alcohol and bad judgment—not perpetrators—for the epidemic of sexual assault on college campuses.

I don't believe Mr. King has the right understanding of what students are facing today to be our Nation's next Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education. I urge my colleagues who are committed to making higher education within reach for all students to join me in voting against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

U.S. WOMEN'S WORLD CUP VICTORY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, Sunday morning, I did what I think most people in this Nation did if they were not in France. I turned on the television to watch the women's national soccer team perform in an incredible showing of talent and commitment on the soccer field. It was an incredible victory for the women's national team, and we are all very proud of what they were able to accomplish. This has been an incredible streak.

Since the Women's World Cup was established in 1991, there have been eight competitions. The United States has won four—and the last two consecutively—beating the Netherlands on Sunday by a score of 2 to 0.

We all congratulate the team. We are very proud. They represented our Nation extremely well. Each of us shares that pride.

As a Maryland Senator, I want to acknowledge Rose Lavelle and Mallory Pugh, who are from the Washington Spirit, which is based in Germantown, MD.

GENDER PAY INEQUALITY

Madam President, this team represents our entire country and the best of our Nation. Their performance highlighted an issue that they raised, which

I hope this body will respond to, and that is the pay inequity based upon gender in this country.

It is shocking that these women soccer players are paid less, receive less in compensation than their male counterparts, even though the women on the world stage have consistently outperformed the men. They have a different pay structure. In 2014, the men's total performance bonus totaled about \$5.4 million, even though they were eliminated in the round of 16. The following year, the women received about one-third less than the men did, even though they were the world champions.

In 2016, this body acted by passing a resolution about the gender pay inequity—to treat all athletes with the respect and dignity they deserve. That was the right thing for us to pass in 2016, and I know my colleague Senator MANCHIN is working on legislation now that will follow that up since, obviously, the soccer league did not respond the way they should have in regard to our women's national soccer team.

In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act. Yet, when you look at what women earn versus men for comparable work, women are paid 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. It is much worse for minorities. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders versus White males are 62 cents versus a dollar; African-American women are 61 cents versus a dollar for a White male; Native Americans are 58 cents; and Latinos are 53 cents. The wage gap affects not only their current earnings, but it puts women behind men in career earnings of around \$400,000 during the course of their careers, which weakens their ability to save for their retirements. It also means there being fewer Social Security benefits. It affects their ability to be compensated fairly—to have the wealth of this Nation and the security of this Nation.

We can do something to change this. I have already mentioned Senator MANCHIN's efforts and that we could do something specifically in regard to the soccer players, but I urge us to do something a little bit more permanent, and that is to pass the Equal Rights Amendment.

I think Americans would be surprised to learn that in the Constitution of the United States, there is no protection for equal rights for women. Most Americans think we already did that. Any constitution of a democratic State that has been created since the end of World War II has contained constitutional protections for equal rights for women. Many of our State constitutions have provisions for equal rights for women, but our Constitution of the United States does not.

In 1972, the Congress of the United States passed an equal rights amendment to the Constitution to be ratified by the States. Originally, Congress gave the States until 1979. Then Congress extended it until 1982. Now 37 States have ratified the Equal Rights

Amendment. We are one State short of the 38 required for the ratification of a constitutional amendment. Yet there is a problem here. We need to get the 38th State, but we also need to extend the time, for the last amendment that dealt with the pay amendments of Congress that was adopted to our Constitution took over 200 years to ratify.

What we are saying—and I have joined with Senator MURKOWSKI in a bipartisan resolution—is to let us extend the time for the ratification of the constitutional amendment for the equal rights of women so we can really do something meaningful for the gender gap on pay that we have.

In this Congress, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage—since women have had the right to vote. Another concrete way to celebrate that milestone is for us to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. How a nation treats its women economically and socially is a sign of that nation's success. Empowering women is one of the most important things we can do for the future of our country. Whether it occurs on the soccer pitch or in the factories or offices across the country, the wage disparity between American men and women is hurting our Nation.

This morning, the U.S. women's national soccer team rolled down Broadway in a ticker tape parade befitting a world championship, and today or tomorrow, the Senate will likely pass a resolution that will commend the team. These are appropriate ways to celebrate the team. Yet, if we really want to honor the outstanding women who have just brought home the World Cup again, we should join their fight for equal pay for themselves and for all women. Pass S.J. Res. 6, and let's finally ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

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. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we begin the 4:30 p.m. vote.

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

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 Robert L. King, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, David Perdue, James E.

Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr.

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 Robert L. King, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, 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.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 198 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Gillibrand	Heinrich	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 39.

The motion is agreed to.

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 John P. Pallasch, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Mitch McConnell, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, David Perdue, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, Richard Burr, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Kevin Cramer, Shelley Moore Capito.

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 John P. Pallasch, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 199 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—5

Booker	Harris	Sanders
Gillibrand	Heinrich	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John P. Pallasch, of Ken-

tucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here to talk about insulin. You may wonder why someone would talk about insulin, given all the weighty and pressing issues we have before us in this Chamber and even more so in the world today. I will not begin to recite them, but insulin for millions of people—in fact, 30 million people in the United States—is a matter of life and death.

Many of us are fortunate because we never have to think about insulin. Our bodies make enough of it to keep us healthy, and we go about our lives without a second thought concerning blood glucose or how our pancreas is functioning, but for those 30 million people—and quite a few of them visited us this morning in our offices, and they were present in the Committee on Aging at our hearing—insulin is a constant worry. It is top of mind. It is always present as an issue for them, in fact, on a daily basis. Patients with diabetes need to carefully monitor and adjust their insulin levels along with managing their physical activities, their diet, stress, pain, sleep levels.

Many of those young people who came to the Committee on Aging today—by the way, I want to thank Senators COLLINS and CASEY for holding that hearing and giving them an opportunity to come to the Nation's Capitol and make us more aware—were wearing monitoring devices, hidden but a constant concern. They depend on insulin as a matter of life and death. It is not a luxury for them. It is not like ice cream or ball games. It is life and death. They are fortunate, too, because they have access to insulin, unlike a lot of people around the world and unlike the whole world, including America, about 100 years ago when diabetes was, in fact, a death sentence, not in a matter of years ahead but right then and there. Diabetes was lethal.

That changed when two researchers, Dr. Frederick Banting and Dr. Charles Best, succeeded in isolating insulin from an animal pancreas in 1921. By the next year, they had collected enough to treat their first patient. He was a 14-year-old boy with diabetes, and he lived miraculously for another year. That was unheard of at the time. It was a tremendous breakthrough—an extra year of life because of their discovery.

So Dr. Banting and Dr. Best filed a patent. They patented their discovery in 1923, and they stated their goal was not to make a lot of money, not to make profit but to make insulin available to the world, make it available to everyone who needed it, make it available to patients, regardless of their means and circumstance. Do you know what they did with that patent? They sold it for \$1—just \$1.

Dr. Banting said: "Insulin does not belong to me, it belongs to the world."