

their needed prescription drugs. Well, I met with a group of community pharmacists who told me how the system worked, and they told me that there were actually gag clauses in their contracts where they were prohibited from sharing with the consumer whether it was cheaper to pay out-of-pocket rather than through insurance.

Well, I am pleased to say, in working with former Senator Claire McCaskill and DEBBIE STABENOW and others, we were able to get gag clause prohibitions enacted into law last year. According to one study, banning these gag clauses could help Americans save money in nearly one out of four prescription transactions. So this is significant legislation.

I talked recently to a pharmacist in Maine who said what a relief it was to her to now be able to volunteer to her patients that there may be a less expensive way for the patient to purchase needed prescription drugs.

One out of four—nearly one out of four—prescription transactions should benefit from the laws that we wrote last year.

Another bill that I authored in 2017 will promote more competition from lower priced but equally effective generic drugs, and it is already showing promise. To date, the FDA has granted nearly 200 application requests under the new, expedited pathway that my law provides, and 10 have been approved. That is a much faster pace than in the past.

As cochair of both the Senate Diabetes Caucus and the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, I know all too well from listening to families in Maine and across the country that the path toward finding new discoveries and treatments is often long and difficult and that success can be elusive, but we must continue our efforts. When pharmaceutical companies start twisting around the incentives that were designed to encourage innovation and, instead, distorting them into obstacles to competition, Congress simply must act, and that is exactly what we are doing.

I want to applaud the work of the HELP Committee. All of us contributed to the bill, and we were ably led by Chairman LAMAR ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY. I also want to recognize the hard work of Senator GRAHAM and Senator FEINSTEIN on the Judiciary Committee for the bipartisan package of reforms they produced last month.

Finally, I want to salute the Finance Committee chairman, CHUCK GRASSLEY, and the ranking member, RON WYDEN, for taking bipartisan actions just last week in passing the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act. That has many important provisions in it that will require more disclosure. It includes a bill that Senator CASEY and I have authored, as well as many other important provisions, including putting a medical inflation cap on certain pharmaceuticals.

I know how much the Presiding Officer personally cares about this issue, and he has contributed greatly to this work as well. My hope is that we can build upon this momentum, that we can seize the moment when three different committees of the Senate have all been successful in reporting to the full Senate three bipartisan bills.

Our HELP Committee bill was reported by a vote of 20 to 3. That is remarkable consensus.

Let us bring all of these bills to the Senate floor this fall—or certainly by the end of the year—so that we can deliver real results to the American people by lowering the price of prescription drugs.

We would then be very proud of listening to our constituents and addressing a problem that affects millions of Americans.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON MICHAEL T. LIBURDI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Liburdi nomination?

Mr. GARDNER. 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.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 236 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Blunt
Blunt	Hawley	Hassan
Boozman	Hoeven	Boozman
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Braun
Capito	Johnson	Burr
Collins	Jones	Capito
Cornyn	Kennedy	Carper
Cotton	Lankford	Collins
Cramer	Lee	Coons
Crapo	Manchin	Cornyn
Cruz	McConnell	Cortez Masto
Daines	McSally	Cotton
Enzi	Moran	Cramer
Ernst	Murkowski	Leahy
Fischer	Perdue	Lee

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Carper	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Feinstein
Brown	Coons	Hassan
Cantwell	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Cardin	Duckworth	Hirono

Kaine	Peters	Tester
King	Reed	Udall
Leahy	Rosen	Van Hollen
Markey	Schatz	Warner
Menendez	Schumer	Whitehouse
Merkley	Shaheen	Wyden
Murphy	Smith	
Murray	Stabenow	

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Cassidy	Klobuchar	
Gillibrand	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Peter D. Welte, of North Dakota, to be United States District Judge for the District of North Dakota.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. 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.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 237 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Burr	Hoover	Rosen
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Carper	Inhofe	Rubio
Collins	Johnson	Sasse
Coons	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheiby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	Manchin	Sullivan
Cruz	McConnell	Crapo
Daines	McSally	Thune
Enzi	Moran	Cruz
Ernst	Murkowski	Daines
Fischer	Perdue	Manchin
		McConnell
Baldwin	Carper	Daines
Blumenthal	Casey	McSally
Brown	Coons	Moran
Cantwell	Cortez Masto	Toomey
Cardin	Duckworth	Ernst

NAYS—22

Baldwin	Cantwell	Duckworth
Blumenthal	Cardin	Heinrich
Brown	Casey	Hirono

Markey	Schatz	Van Hollen
Menendez	Schumer	Whitehouse
Merkley	Smith	Wyden
Murray	Stabenow	
Reed	Udall	

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Cassidy	Klobuchar	
Gillibrand	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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 James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Kevin Cramer, Mike Crapo, Marco Rubio, John Kennedy, Thom Tillis, James M. Inhofe, Rob Portman, Johnny Isakson, John Thune, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, Steve Daines, Richard C. Shelby, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, John Hoeven.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the Hendrix nomination, all postcloture time expire at 2:45 p.m. today and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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 James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 238 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Graham	Risch
Baldwin	Grassley	Roberts
Barrasso	Hassan	Romney
Blackburn	Hawley	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Coons	Leahy	Smith
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Sullivan
Cotton	McConnell	Tester
Cramer	McSally	Thune
Crapo	Menendez	Tillis
Cruz	Merkley	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Udall
Duckworth	Murkowski	Murphy
Durbin		Van Hollen
Enzi		Warner
Ernst		Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wicker
Fischer	Portman	Young
Gardner	Reed	

NAYS—5

Blumenthal	Hirono	Wyden
Brown	Markey	

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Cassidy	Klobuchar	
Gillibrand	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 5.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:53 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Wesley Hendrix, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. MCSALLY. Madam President, I rise today to give my maiden speech as the 14th Senator to represent our great State of Arizona.

It is an honor to be serving Arizona in the United States Senate and humbling to be appointed to serve in the seat held by Senator John McCain. Like most of my life, I didn't take the traditional path, but I am blessed to have been given the opportunity to make a difference for others and stand in this historic Chamber today.

I love Arizona—the Grand Canyon State—its people, and our spirit. Like many Arizonans, I wasn't born there, so this is a love of choice. Also like many Arizonans, I first came to the State on a military assignment in the summer of 1990 to attend pilot training at Williams Air Force Base, now home to a thriving industrial park called Mesa Gateway.

I fell in love with Arizona right away and was fortunate to have the majestic view from the sky as a pilot. What a privilege to live in a land of adventure that I had only read about as a kid, home to one of the seven natural wonders of the world in the Grand Canyon and our diverse landscapes, mountains, canyons, lakes, rivers, sunsets, and the powerful desert lightning.

After an assignment away, I came back to Arizona to fly the A-10 Warthog at Davis Monthan Air Force Base. I can tell you, from experience, there is nothing quite like finishing a demanding training mission on the Barry Goldwater Air Force Range and having a near heavenly view of Arizona's beautiful red sunsets.

It isn't only our climate and beautiful landscapes that make Arizona a great place to live and work. We Arizonans are known for our fierce independence, resilience, heartiness, hard work, faith, and diversity. It is this legacy of service and patriotism that transcends generations.

They say the best comes last, and that couldn't be truer when it comes to Arizona. We were the last in the continental United States to become a State in 1912 and have a history of attracting adventurous hard-working people searching to live out their dreams.

Our State motto is “Ditat Deus,” or “God enriches,” highlighting the importance of faith in God in our past and our future.

The original foundation of our economy is known as the five Cs: copper, cattle, cotton, citrus, and climate. Today, we still have Morenci mine, the largest copper producer in North America, which I recently visited.

Arizona has made history in our own unique way. We are known around the world for the famous town Tombstone and the legendary OK Corral. We gave women the right to vote 8 years before the whole Nation and are the proud home to Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court.

Arizona has always proudly hosted and supported our troops and remains crucial for our defense. Our vast open land, beautiful weather, and airspace makes our State a national security treasure, and Arizonans have always answered the call to serve in uniform and support our vets.

Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized Tribes and has the largest percentage of Tribal geography in any State. The Old Oraibi Hopi Village is