

That is why I am going to continue to fight to protect the A-10 Warthog at Davis Monthan and fight for the F-35 at Luke Air Force Base, plus other amazing military installations that we have and their unique missions in Arizona. It is why, since taking office, I have visited numerous veteran service organizations, like U.S. VETS, where I heard real stories from veterans who struggle with homelessness and addiction who have since been helped off the street and have been able to start a new life for themselves.

Arizonans want us to solve the border crisis and stop playing political games with it. It is a crisis all too real for cities like Yuma, where I saw firsthand the place where over 300 migrants illegally crossed the border due to poor infrastructure and lack of resources for agents, or like Douglas and Nogales, where outdated facilities leave agents overwhelmed with volume and leave our country vulnerable to illegal trafficking of drugs or people.

Arizonans want us to work together to bring down the out-of-pocket costs of healthcare and allow patients, families, and doctors—not the government or insurance companies—to make healthcare choices for them. We can do this by protecting preexisting conditions and supporting initiatives like association health plans, which allow groups like the Southern Arizona Chamber of Commerce Association to partner small businesses together to access health insurance plans that right now only big companies can.

Lives will be saved with the medical innovation that is happening in my State. Arizona is home to many institutions that are leading the way to find new treatments and cures for deadly diseases.

When I visited the Ivy Brain Tumor Center, I was inspired by the story of Catherine Ivy, whose husband Ben passed away from glioblastoma, the same deadly cancer that took the life of Senator McCain. Instead of being consumed with her grief, Catherine searched all over the world for the best place to invest and partner for groundbreaking innovation to conquer this disease.

She found it at the Barrow Neurological Institute right there in our own State of Arizona. Dr. Nader Sanai and his team are doing amazing work and leading in cutting-edge research and clinical trials. We need more investments and less barriers for initiatives like this.

Arizonans want us to continue to tackle the opioid epidemic that is disproportionately impacting our rural communities. During my 15-county tour, I met Jason Kouts, the mayor of Safford, who shared the senseless death of his son Josiah whom his family lost to an opioid addiction. His life and all its potential tragically ended with a fentanyl-laced heroin dose. We mourn for his family and pledge to end this crisis.

Arizonans want us to smartly invest in infrastructure for the long haul, not

in a one-size-fits-all approach. What they need in New Jersey is not necessarily what we need in Arizona. We need flexibility and partnerships with States. Cities in both the West and East Valley of Maricopa County have been tasked with the daunting feat of keeping up with the fastest population growth in the country but without the resources to modernize their streets and freeways. We need bipartisan solutions to modernize our infrastructure, including water infrastructure and rural broadband.

Arizonans want us to ensure that our freedoms and opportunities are preserved for their children and their grandchildren. They want us to ensure that seniors can have retirement security after working their whole lives.

We can solve some of these problems in the days ahead if we choose to—if we choose to work together and do something bigger for those we all serve.

At this moment in history, as John Boyd said, we are at a fork in the road, and we have a choice: Be someone or do something. I choose to act for those I serve. I know you do too. So let's get to work for the Nation.

As Senator McCain once said: “Americans never quit. We never surrender. We never hide from history. We make history.”

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON JAMES WESLEY HENDRIX NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I request the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All time is expired.

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

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

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

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 Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN).

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

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 239 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alexander	Blackburn	Braun
Baldwin	Blunt	Brown
Barrasso	Boozman	Burr

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

NAYS—1

Blumenthal

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Cassidy	Klobuchar	
Gillibrand	Markey	

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 shall 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 Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Kevin Cramer, John Hoeven, Rob Portman, Dan Sullivan, Chuck Grassley, Richard Burr, John Thune, Roy Blunt.

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 Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

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

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 Massachusetts (Mr. MARKLEY), 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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 240 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—36

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

NOT VOTING—10

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Cassidy	Klobuchar	
Gillibrand	Markey	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 36.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean D. Jordan, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, recently, I joined the Senate delegation to visit the southern border and view firsthand the migration and humanitarian crisis facing the United States.

We visited the Donna Holding Facility, the Catholic Charities Respite Center, the McAllen Border Patrol Station, and the Ursula Centralized Processing Center. Earlier this week, I held a roundtable discussion on my trip at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Highlandtown. The group was organized by the Latino Providers Network in Baltimore, which included rep-

resentatives from the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Catholic Relief Services, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and other nonprofits in the community that do work in Baltimore and at our border.

I was impressed by the Catholic Charities Respite Center run by Sister Norma Pimentel. The center provides a warm meal, a shower, a change into clean clothes, medicine, and other desperately needed supplies. These migrants are very lucky to make it there.

What I saw in McAllen, by contrast, was very disturbing. I saw many families huddled together in overcrowded conditions. I saw children behind fencing and, basically, in cages. Some children wore clothing that was soiled and had not been changed since they arrived in the United States. Children and families were supposed to be there in temporary holding only for a day or two, but we heard stories that families are being held for up to 10 to 14 days and, in some cases, even longer.

Why are migrants leaving their homes in the first place? These individuals are desperate. They are desperate because they are fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. These families are often given a terrible choice to have their young son or daughter join a criminal gang or suffer the consequences as a family. That means being attacked, kidnapped, and even murdered. Even though it is a dangerous journey, these families feel they have no choice.

Let me remind my colleagues that these individuals are lawfully seeking asylum at our border and should not be treated as criminals. We need to respect their human rights, their rights under international law, and their rights under U.S. law.

These migrants are not trying to do harm to the United States. Indeed, government officials told us that the vast majority of those screened present no safety risk, such as being on a watch list for terrorist or criminal behavior, and that most migrants have not tried previously to enter the country illegally.

I am gravely concerned about the new metering system used by Customs and Border Protection for those seeking asylum and refuge in our country as part of the expansion of the Remain in Mexico program. Normally, a migrant would present themselves to a Customs or Border Patrol agent at the point of entry and ask to seek asylum. But under the Trump administration's new metering policy, Border Patrol agents will stop migrants at the border, oftentimes halfway across the bridge as they approach a legal border point of entry. Border Patrol will then give the migrant a number, and they will have to then wait for their number to be called before they can formally present themselves for admission at a legal point of entry.

How long is the wait for your number to be called? In some cases, it is weeks or even months. In the meantime, mi-

grants are told to wait in a border town and tent city set up on the other side of the border. One of most dangerous towns in all of Mexico is Reynosa, just across the border from McAllen Border Patrol Station. Migrants staying in these tent cities are subjected to violence, extortion, human trafficking, and even death at the hands of gangs that operate with impunity in the city, which are effectively not controlled by Mexican law enforcement authorities. In fact, the town is so dangerous that U.S. law enforcement personnel are forbidden by our government from visiting there or trying to meet with migrants on the Mexican side of the border. This is outrageous, and America can do better to live up to our values.

Migrants who are desperately fleeing violence and prosecution at home come to the United States in search of safety for themselves and their families. Now they are told they must wait indefinitely on the Mexican side of the border in, essentially, a lawless town where they are at the mercy of criminals, gangs, and traffickers who prey on the most vulnerable.

What happens next? Many of these migrants decide they have no choice but to cross the border illegally so that they can escape the camps in Reynosa. When migrants try to cross the border illegally, they face new dangers of dehydration, drowning, and even death.

Under the Trump administration, the United States is undermining our asylum policy and America's leadership in the world in welcoming refugees and those fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries. Indeed, the Trump administration is deliberately trying to hurt migration and legitimate asylum seekers and refugees by making it more difficult to seek asylum and deter refugees from coming to the United States in the first place. Proposed asylum law changes, such as expansion of the Remain in Mexico and metering policies, will make it more difficult for asylum seekers to apply if they have traveled through multiple countries as they make their way to the United States.

I believe asylum law should be changed to make it easier for migrants to apply in their home country, if safe, and expeditiously get an asylum determination from the U.S. Embassy so that they do not have to make the dangerous journey to the United States and try to cross our border with the uncertainty of what awaits them once they reach the U.S. border.

I am concerned, as well, that migrants who do not ultimately make it through the process of applying for asylum may not receive proper notice of their hearings before an asylum judge to make their case. These are people who are released in our country but have to show up for a hearing. The notices may be given out in English, which many migrants cannot read. The address may be incorrect or outdated in terms of where the migrant is heading in the United States to await their