

going to be focused right across the street on the Supreme Court. They are counting on the Supreme Court to do the right thing and reject President Trump's repeal of DACA.

They are counting on us who serve in the Senate to solve this crisis that the President has created and give this young man and thousands like him a chance. It would be an American tragedy to deport this young man after all he has achieved and send him back to Mexico, where he hasn't lived since he was a little boy.

Will the majority leader give him a chance? I hope so. The Senate should give the American Dream and Promise Act a vote.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### GLOBAL HOSTAGE ACT

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, this week marks the 40th anniversary of the Iran hostage crisis, when 66 Americans were seized by an armed mob fueled by the anti-American ravings of Iran's revolution clerics. Fifty-two of those Americans were held captive for 444 days, during which time they were paraded on television and used as pawns by Iran's theocratic dictators.

Those Americans would finally come home safely, thanks to a pressure campaign of financial sanctions and trade embargoes by the United States and their partners, but not everyone came home safely from Iran. Before the crisis ended, five American airmen and three marines lay dead, killed in an ill-fated rescue mission necessitated by Iran's lawless deeds.

This week's anniversary is a useful reminder of the true nature of the regime in Tehran. Behind Iran's smooth talking, Western-educated diplomats are a band of radical clerics that act more like a criminal gang than the rulers of a sovereign nation.

Consider how the regime commemorated the 40th anniversary of their crime—not with apologies, like a civilized nation might. No, with anti-American rallies where uniformed soldiers—uniformed soldiers, not clerics, not activists—uniformed soldiers led chants of “Death to America” and “Death to Israel.”

In other words, Iran is unreformed and unrepentant. It still takes and holds hostages to this very day—businessmen, professors, engineers, fathers, and mothers, all just bargaining chips to the Ayatollahs. That is why I have a bill to impose new and substantial costs on these kidnappers. The Global Hostage Act would require the President to sanction foreign officials who take Americans as their hostages.

The goal of our bill is clear: If you take Americans hostage, we will make your life miserable. You will not be able to travel here. You will not be able to bank here. You will not be able to send your kids to fancy schools here. You will be treated like the pariah you are, which is precisely what the Ayatollahs remain 40 years after they took their first American hostages.

Mr. President, I ask consent that the following remarks be entered in a separate part of the journal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

#### NOMINATION OF LEE PHILIP RUDOFSKY

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about Lee Philip Rudofsky, the President's nominee to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

In a few minutes, this body will vote to move ahead with this nomination. Lee has a long and impressive resume, from Harvard Law School to the White House Office of Legal Counsel, to Kirkland & Ellis, and beyond. His early career and qualifications speak for themselves. Lee is no stranger to serving Arkansans. He was our State's very first solicitor general. Lee left a good job at Wal-Mart to take that position and face the many challenges that come with it. He also moved 3 hours from his loving wife and three young kids to work around the clock for the people of Arkansas.

That hard work paid off for all of us. According to esteemed members of Arkansas' legal community from both parties, Lee “established Arkansas Solicitor General's Office as one of the finest legal practices in the State of Arkansas.”

He has subsequently become a respected professor and recruiter at one of our State's two law schools, and Lee is also a leader at his local synagogue and a member of the local chapter of the American Inns of Court.

After the Senate votes to confirm him later this week, Lee will draw from this deep well of experience as he continues to serve the people of Arkansas with devotion and distinction. He will bring to the bench his intelligence, character, and, above all, commitment to the rule of law and the administration of equal justice under the law.

I was honored to introduce Lee before the Judiciary Committee earlier this year. I am now honored, again, to speak on his behalf today. Lee is an exceptional selection for the Federal bench. I am happy to call him friend, and soon I look forward to calling him a judge.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to start the votes now.

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 bill 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 Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

Richard C. Shelby, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger F. Wicker, Lisa Murkowski, Mike Rounds, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, Richard Burr, 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 Lee Philip Rudofsky, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas, shall 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.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) 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 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. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 346 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

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

#### NAYS—41

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

## NOT VOTING—8

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Burr	Klobuchar	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 41.

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 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 Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

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 Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

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 North Carolina (Mr. BURR) 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 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. ROMNEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 347 Ex.]

## YEAS—89

Alexander	Cornyn	Hawley
Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Barrasso	Cotton	Hoeven
Blackburn	Cramer	Hyde-Smith
Blumenthal	Crapo	Inhofe
Blunt	Cruz	Johnson
Boozman	Daines	Jones
Braun	Duckworth	Kaine
Brown	Durbin	Kennedy
Cantwell	Enzi	King
Capito	Ernst	Lankford
Cardin	Feinstein	Leahy
Carpenter	Fischer	Lee
Casey	Gardner	Manchin
Cassidy	Graham	McConnell
Collins	Grassley	McSally
Coons	Hassan	Menendez

Merkley	Rosen	Sullivan
Moran	Rounds	Tester
Murkowski	Rubio	Thune
Murphy	Sasse	Tillis
Murray	Schatz	Toomey
Paul	Schumer	Udall
Perdue	Scott (FL)	Van Hollen
Peters	Scott (SC)	Warner
Portman	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Reed	Shelby	Wicker
Risch	Sinema	Wyden
Roberts	Smith	Young
Romney	Stabenow	

## NAYS—3

Gillibrand	Hirono	Markey
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## NOT VOTING—8

Bennet	Harris	Sanders
Booker	Isakson	Warren
Burr	Klobuchar	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 3.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Philpott Wilson, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

## TAX REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I thought it would be appropriate to come to the floor to celebrate the second anniversary of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

For years I heard from Texans who thought that the Tax Code was simply too complex, too burdensome, and that the Federal Government simply took too much of the fruits of their labor.

They were absolutely correct. Our Tax Code hadn't been reformed in more than three decades, and Republican and Democratic Presidents have long pointed out how America was at a competitive disadvantage relative to other countries because of our Tax Code.

Then, of course, there is the drag of high tax rates on our domestic economy—especially following the great recession during the Obama administration—which made jump-starting the economy a top priority last Congress.

The good news is that we delivered. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered the individual tax rates across the board for every bracket. It increased the standard deduction, doubled the child tax credit, and made tax rates for businesses more competitive. Our goal was to make our Tax Code work for the American people, not the other way around.

I know there are a lot of naysayers who said it wouldn't work. Some of them are still saying that. But I think the results speak for themselves.

First, we saw waves of positive headlines announcing that companies big and small were using their tax savings to provide pay raises, pay bonuses, 401(k) match increases, and other benefits to their employees.

I made a point of asking my constituents in Texas about their experience

under the new Tax Code, and here is some of what I heard:

Tejas Office Products is a Hispanic-owned and operated family business in Houston. They were able to hire more workers in Southeast Texas and expand their business as a result of their tax savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

There is American Bank in Corpus Christi. They projected that they could lend an additional \$120 million over the next 5 years in the Coastal Bend, which was absolutely critical, especially following the natural disaster known as Hurricane Harvey.

Then there is Happy State Bank, my favorite name for a bank—Happy State Bank—in Amarillo, which increased wages for more than 600 of its 700 employees. It upped their starting minimum wage and increased their dollar-for-dollar retirement plan match from 6 percent to 7 percent, all of which was good news.

Well, it didn't take long for that good news in these anecdotal cases, for example, to translate into a much improved economy across the board, which helps everybody.

We have seen rapid and consistent job growth with more than 4.3 million new jobs since tax reform became law—4.3 million new jobs.

In September, the national unemployment rate fell to a 50-year low, and Texas unemployment remains below the national average at only 3.4 percent.

The thing I hear the most from employers and job creators in Texas is that they can't find enough qualified workers to fill the good jobs that exist. We have one of the tightest labor markets in decades.

Wages are going up as a result of competition for workers. The poverty rate has hit its lowest level since the turn of the century. American families are seeing more of their hard-earned dollars in each paycheck.

Despite evidence to the contrary, we are still hearing from some of the same old critics who say that tax reform was a flop. The Atlantic, for example, published a story last week with the title "The GOP Tax Cuts Didn't Work." The author claims that tax reform didn't live up to the hype and that because our economy didn't grow as much as some of the estimates believed it would, consecutive, positive growth is absolutely worthless.

Well, that doesn't make any sense at all—not to mention the fact that economic growth has outpaced even the forecast of the Congressional Budget Office prior to tax reform.

This author also mentions that the Institute for Supply Management—or ISM—manufacturing index dipped in September. But the ISM manufacturing index is a survey of purchasing managers who may be swayed by sentiment as much as actual activity. We have seen this index at a similar level before, and the economy continued to grow.