

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the Senator from Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and I have come to a floor to offer a unanimous consent on a bill called the Affordable Prescriptions for Patients Act. We are in consultation with our colleagues on the other side that have another bill that they would also like to offer a unanimous consent request for, and we are going to talk and continue the conversation during these two upcoming votes to see if we can work out holds on their bill, and we certainly would consider to do that.

But Senator BLUMENTHAL and I do expect to offer a unanimous consent on our bill which would lower out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, which is something I thought we were all for. But working in good faith with our colleagues to try to work through these two issues, we are going to give it a little bit of time, as long as we can get that done before we leave today.

I will just say there is no agreement to pair these. If they could pass sequentially, I have no objection to that, but just to say that it would be nice, at a time when we are so polarized here and have put the “dys” back in “dysfunction” here in Washington, DC, that we could actually show that we could work together in a bipartisan basis and pass a bill that passed unanimously in the Judiciary Committee, of which my friend from Illinois is a cosponsor.

I understand they want to use this opportunity to get their bill passed. Again, I have no objection to that and do not intend to object, but there are others who apparently have some concerns that we need to check with.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would say that my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas, has accurately stated the situation, but let me add a few sentences about the bill that we are trying to couple with his effort. I totally support what he and Senator BLUMENTHAL are trying to do. The end goal we all have in mind is to bring under control or at least restrain the increases in prescription drug prices.

The Senators from Texas and Connecticut have their approach. What Senator GRASSLEY—a Republican from Iowa—and I have suggested with this approach is direct-to-consumer advertising. The pharmaceutical industry spends about \$6 billion a year on ads on television. If you have not seen a drug ad on television, you clearly do not own a TV.

We want to make sure that each one of these ads contain, amid all the other

information they give you, one other critical piece of information: the cost of the drug.

We think that will be at least an indication to the pharmaceutical industry that we are watching how much they are charging us. I think some people will be shocked when they see the actual cost of Humira and some other drugs. But that is it, a complementary approach. I hope we can do both. I think the American people want to see prescription drugs become more affordable.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON RUDOLFSKY NOMINATION

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

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 Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that 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), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 350 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Perdue	Wyden
Isakson	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

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

The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2755

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is now several weeks since the President asked our troops to leave a critical sector in northern Syria, and, subsequently, lots of things happened, including at least 100 and probably more ISIS prisoners escaping, an uncertainty as to who is guarding the prisons where ISIS prisoners are kept, and a whole strategy as to how to continue the fight against ISIS.

ISIS is not vanquished. ISIS is weakened but not vanquished, and we all know ISIS can come back. We all know a small group thousands of miles away can do untold damage in our homeland. Yet we still have no plan, that we have heard, from the administration on how are we dealing with ISIS; how are we dealing with the prisoners who escaped; how are we dealing with the prisoners who are still incarcerated; and how are we dealing with ISIS overall.

This is one of the greatest security threats America faces, and I would hope we could pass this proposal, which simply demands that the administration report to Congress on what their plan is to deal with ISIS. It is that simple. That is the immediate danger.

I know my friend, the Senator from Florida, wants to talk about what happened in the past. We can argue that all day long, but the immediate danger is ISIS, the ISIS prisoners who have escaped, the ISIS prisoners who are incarcerated, and the ISIS members who still are around. We don't have a strategy, and it is one of the greatest failings of foreign policy not only of this administration but of any administration.

A resolution passed the House a while ago. It has laid fallow here. All we are asking in this legislation is very simple: to require a report on the strategy to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State.

I hope we will not hear objection. I don't see how anyone could object when the security of America is at risk and when ISIS is still a danger. Every one of us could come up with an amendment to make it better. We know we will not get it done if that happens.

I hope we can move this forward, and then we can debate other issues that are not directly dispositive here because we have an immediate crisis, and we need a report.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, as in legislative session, that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 281, S.

2755, a bill to require a report on the plan to secure the enduring defeat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

I thank the Democratic leader for his concerns about the defeat of ISIS. If there is one thing I hope we can all agree on, it is that Turkey is not our ally or friend right now. Turkey's invasion of Syria is benefiting ISIS, Iran, and Russia, and hurting our great ally, Israel.

The United States must stand up for our partners, the Kurds, who helped us fight ISIS. I am hopeful the ceasefire will last, keeping American soldiers and our partners, the Kurds, safe. Nobody wants our men and women in uniform involved in unnecessary, extended military conflicts.

Bringing our troops home is a goal we all share. In order to achieve that goal, we need to have a fuller understanding of the crisis in Syria and what got us there—with the hope our troops can finally come home.

I also agree that the President should always be clear with Congress on where all U.S. troops are located and the purpose of their deployment. Unfortunately, my colleague's proposal would produce a report that only tells a small part of the story.

In the name of transparency and a fuller understanding of how we got here, I am proposing a modification to my colleague's bill to require a report that includes information on President Obama's plan for Syria.

We didn't get here overnight. The Democratic leader knows that. He said himself it took us 5 years to get here. So I think we all would like to see what the strategy—or lack of strategy—was from the last administration that put us in this position today. Let's get all the facts on the table so lawmakers in Congress and Americans all across the country can have all the information we need to keep Americans and our allies safe.

Reserving the right to object, therefore, I ask that the Democratic leader modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk. I further ask that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Democratic leader so modify his request?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this is a diversion. We can all debate history. Maybe Bush was to blame. Maybe Obama was to blame. Who knows. Maybe Harry Truman was to

blame when they set up CENTO. That is something we can debate at a later time.

We have an immediate crisis. We need a report, and our Republican colleagues keep finding ways so they can object so the President doesn't have to answer. That is wrong. It risks the security of America, and it is not what we should be doing.

So I object, and I urge us to pass the amendment without the modification, which is still as valid as it was a few minutes ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard on the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, reserving the right to object. I am disappointed in yet another political stunt from the Democratic leader. It is clear this is nothing but a political attack on the President.

President Trump's goal is to bring American troops home and keep our partners, the Kurds, safe and our ally, Israel, secure. The Democratic leader is requesting information from President Trump but refuses to join me in asking for information about the sequence of events and the strategy under President Obama that led us to this point.

This is sad, but it is not surprising. It is just another charade in a long list of political games. Americans deserve a safe Israel and a safe Syria, so I stand today to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if they are worried about an attack, it is not on this President or a previous President. That is the political stunt here, I would say to my friend in Florida. He knows what he is doing. He is trying to stop this from happening. The attack we are worried about is an attack by ISIS on the United States.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican, liberal, or conservative, the country needs a plan. All of the diversion, all of the games will not prevent the American people from seeing that we need that, and it is our job as Senators to push the administration to do it.

So I would have hoped we could have passed this amendment without the diversionary, partisan proposal made by the Senator from Florida. I am sorry we haven't been able to move the amendment. It is so wrong for the safety of this country.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant 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 question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Philpott Wilson nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 351 Ex.]

YEAS—88

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

NAYS—3

Gillibrand	Hirono	Markey
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NOT VOTING—9

Booker	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Warren
Harris	Perdue	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Joseph Nardini, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.