

cannabis and hemp businesses have access to the same banking services as any other business. She established the Senate Cannabis Working Group to coordinate the Senate's efforts around this issue.

She has worked to ensure the integrity of our judicial system by vetting the nominations for judgeships and, in one case, produced significant insights and records that resulted in the Senate rejecting the nomination of Ryan Bounds for the 9th Circuit.

In her spare time, Lauren has been fighting to save our democracy. Earlier this year she created my "Blueprint For Democracy" to introduce six specific bills, and she was the point person on my team for finalizing the Senate version of the For the People Act, a comprehensive election reform bill which takes on anti-democratic practices such as gerrymandering, voter suppression, and dark money.

But beyond those accomplishments and many others that I haven't mentioned, she made one contribution that I will always remember and deeply appreciate. As many are aware, I spent a significant amount of time over the last year and a half shining a light on the Trump administration's policy of cruelty toward immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers on our southern border.

Even though immigration issues are not in her portfolio, it was Lauren who inspired me to get involved. I was reading the speech by former Attorney General Jeff Sessions—a speech labeled his "zero tolerance" speech—and the name didn't strike me as unexpected. But when I read the details, it sounded as if the plan was to discourage refugees from coming to our border by deliberately traumatizing children, to rip them out of their parents' arms.

I refused to believe that any American administration would ever actually do this, and, as I was expressing the belief that no American administration would ever resort to hurting children as a strategy to deter immigration and would not resort to a strategy of hurting children to do anything that is not acceptable under any moral code or set of ethics or religious standards, it was Lauren who said: There is one way to find out, and that is to go down to the border.

So I went that next weekend, that next Sunday, and became the first Member of Congress to see the children being sorted into cages after being separated from their parents and to be turned away from any conversation in front of a former Walmart where I had heard that hundreds of separated boys were being held.

The video of that really sent a message to the entire Nation of what this administration was hiding, but the fact that I was there at that processing center and the fact that I was there at that former Walmart, seeking to find out what was going on with those hundreds of boys who had been taken from their parents, was because Lauren

Oppenheimer said: The best way to find out is to go down to the border yourself.

Thank you, Lauren, for playing such a critical role in all of these efforts. You are such a valued member of our team, and you are still valued as a member of our team. You will always be a member of our team, even as you go on to work for our colleague from Alabama.

Our office notices your absence, without the energy and enthusiasm emanating from your desk and your unceasing willingness to take on new challenges and your very valuable work to mentor other team members.

Know that all of us on the team wish you the very best as you continue to fight for a better world in this new chapter of your career.

I am excited that you are returning to your world of expertise, the world of banking. I may be calling you now and then to get your insights on that set of issues that you know so well.

All of us look forward to seeing the insights and understanding you will help us gain from your perspective when you are fully immersed in the banking world. It will be valuable to all of us in the Senate and valuable to our Nation.

I thank you for your service.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON RAY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. WYDEN. 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 Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), 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 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Moran	Sanders
Booker	Perdue	Warren

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 498.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Peter Gaynor, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 Peter Gaynor, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Ron Johnson, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, Kevin Cramer, Pat Roberts, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Tim Scott, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

The Senator from Florida.

IRAN

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, President Trump is working to defend the freedom of our country. He was right to take swift and decisive action to kill one of the world's worst monsters. Soleimani was responsible for the death and maiming of thousands of Americans and tens of thousands worldwide. He ordered the attack on the United States Embassy in Iraq. He had plans to kill more Americans.

There are some in this body who are trying to curtail the President's authority to defend Americans and defend American interests. This is not only foolish; it is fool hardy. Our President does and should have the authority to defend Americans, period, but it is an authority he doesn't take lightly. President Trump is right to use restraint and avoid further escalation unless Iran continues their provocations.

The regime in Iran—a regime that chants “Death to America” and wants to wipe Israel off the face of the map—needs to know that the United States will not tolerate acts of aggression against America or our allies. The death of Soleimani was a strong warning, but they should also know they have the opportunity to become productive members of the world community and bring peace and prosperity to their people. The choice is theirs. We all want peace, and the greatest deterrent to war is our economic and military strength, but Iran must make the choice for peace. It is a choice that is theirs alone.

During this trying time, I want to pause and take a moment to remember the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. We often forget in Washington that the people carrying out the orders of our Commander in Chief are just that—people. They are not pieces on a chess board. They are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters.

I remember my father talking about his experience in World War II—a conflict he certainly had no expectation to return from. He loved his service to our country but never forgot those we lost.

I remember friends going to Vietnam and Korea. I have spent many hours sitting and talking with Gold Star parents. As Governor, I watched Florida National Guard units leave for wars in the Middle East.

The cost of war is great. As Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom is not bought cheaply.” We should never forget that.

I am praying for our brave men and women in uniform—some of them Floridians—headed overseas to protect Americans and prevent an escalating conflict, and I am praying for peace.

These heroes put their lives in danger to defend our Nation, and we cannot thank them enough for their sacrifice and their service. We must recognize the dangers and threats that our world faces today, and we must always stand together united to defend freedom and democracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

REMEMBERING JOCELYN BIRCH BURDICK

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on the day after Christmas, former Senator Jocelyn Burdick died in Fargo, ND, at the age of 97.

Jocelyn served only 30 days, roughly—or 3 months, maybe, at the most—in the United States Senate while she filled the vacancy that was created by the death of her husband, the longtime United States Senator, Quentin Burdick. During those 3 months, Jocelyn was able to cast votes as her husband would have cast them and to support his staff after his death and through the transition to fill the vacancy in a special election. Jocelyn will forever hold a place in North Dakota history as North Dakota's first woman United States Senator.

However, her service in North Dakota goes far beyond those 3 months she served in the Senate. All of us Senators know the importance and the incredible service of our spouses. Jocelyn stood by Quentin's side for 32 years while he served our State here in this important body.

Throughout her life, Jocelyn embraced her place in public life with tremendous grace, dignity, and class. She demonstrated by example how people can be principled in their beliefs, yet friendly, cordial, even affectionate while having different political views. I am honored to be standing here using her desk—Quentin's desk. To be a part of this heritage is a great honor for me.

The impact of her life well lived can be seen in countless ways, especially as a philanthropist, as a political and community volunteer, and certainly as a woman of deep faith. Jocelyn's memory will remain alive in the hearts of all of those who had the privilege to know her.

Kris and I join Senator HOEVEN and Mikey, and many, many North Dakotans in sending our condolences and our best wishes to the Burdick family. We pray that fond memories and the deep affection so many people held for Jocelyn will comfort them in these

days and the days ahead. I pray that God will bless Jocelyn Burdick's memory.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I rise, along with my colleague Senator CRAMER, to honor former Senator from North Dakota Jocelyn Burdick. She was the first woman to represent the State of North Dakota in the U.S. Senate. My wife Mikey and I were saddened to hear of her recent passing, and we want to extend our sincere condolences to all of the Burdick family.

As I said, I, along with Senator CRAMER, have introduced a resolution to honor Senator Jocelyn Burdick and her service to the people of North Dakota and the United States in this body.

Jocelyn was born in Fargo, ND. She attended Principia College and Northwestern University and began her career as a radio announcer in Moorhead, MN.

On September 12, 1992, Jocelyn Burdick became the first woman from the State of North Dakota to serve in the U.S. Senate. She was appointed by then-Governor George Sinner to fill the seat of her late husband, Quentin Burdick, whom she served alongside during his 32 years in this body, the U.S. Senate. The Burdick family has a long history of public service.

During her time in the Senate, she helped to establish the Quentin N. Burdick Indian Health Program at the University of North Dakota, supporting healthcare training programs for Native Americans, and helped to secure funding for the Federal courthouse in Fargo named after her late husband.

Jocelyn was a Sunday school teacher and devoted member of the Christian Science Church. She served as president of the local Parent Teacher Association, recorded public service announcements raising awareness of substance abuse and drunk driving, and was nationally recognized for her philanthropy on behalf of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

I knew Jocelyn Burdick, and she was a fine person. I join with the people of North Dakota in expressing our appreciation for her service on behalf of our State and our Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Senator from Ohio.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, in the fall of 2016, just 4 years ago, I heard Candidate Trump repeatedly promise to get rid of the North American Free Trade Agreement—to pull out of it, to renegotiate it, or to fix it so that it worked better than it did.

I didn't support Donald Trump for President. I think he has been a less than honest President with whom I disagree in terms of his character and in terms of his work product, but that is really not the point. The point was