

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC
WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 4:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, at 12 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST
TIME—S. 3985

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3985) to improve and reform policing practices, accountability, and transparency.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro

tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Reverend Frederick A. Davie of New York.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 18,
2020

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, June 18; further, that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Walker nomination; finally, notwithstanding rule XXII, postclosure time on the Walker nomination expire at 1:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BLUMENTHAL.

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

The Senator from Connecticut.

NOMINATION OF JUSTIN REED
WALKER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here to talk about the nomination of Justin Walker to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, but let's start with Conner Curran. Justin Walker actually has met Conner—not really, but I introduced him to Conner through this picture during his nomination hearing in the Judiciary Committee.

Several years ago, Conner was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a degenerative life-threatening disease which presently has no cure. Most people who have the disease die by their mid-20s. Conner was diagnosed at age 5. I met Conner a couple of years later. There is probably nobody who has inspired me more with his courage, his energy, his strength of character than Conner Curran and his wonderful family who live in Ridgefield, CT.

His parents were told, at the time of his diagnosis, that this beautiful young sweet child would slowly lose his ability to run, lift his arms, hug them, and he would need complex care for the rest of his life. He would need multiple specialists that would cost tens of thousands of dollars each year, which they

could not afford. But they made it possible or, actually, it was made possible by the Affordable Care Act. Now, because of that act, he cannot be denied care. He is alive. He is not giving up. He is fighting for both a cure and the Affordable Care Act.

He is not the only one. There are 1.5 million people in the State of Connecticut alone and millions more around the country living with pre-existing conditions. There are 182,000 children among those 1.5 million people, just like Conner, living with the potentially debilitating and even deadly effects of preexisting conditions, and there are millions more around the country. For them, for Americans, the Affordable Care Act is more than a law; it is a lifeline. Each of them can get the affordable care they need because of that lifeline.

Right now, we all know that healthcare has never been more important. We talk about it every day. We are full of rhetoric on the floor of this Chamber about the healthcare crisis, which has precipitated an economic crisis and about the disproportionate effects of that healthcare crisis—a pandemic of an insidious, deadly disease on poor and, often, communities of color.

At the time of this crisis, the President of the United States has nominated Justin Walker to be an appellate judge, a present district court judge who has said that his main mission is to destroy the Affordable Care Act. Of course, that is perfectly consistent with the Trump administration's view of the Affordable Care Act. It is litigating in court right now against the Affordable Care Act. President Trump has opposed it consistently, constantly, vociferously.

Justin Walker, at his investiture as a district court judge, pledged that he would continue to make destruction of the Affordable Care Act a priority. During his investiture remarks, attended by his mentor, the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, he said:

[A]lthough my legal principles are prevalent, they have not yet prevailed. . . . [A]lthough we are winning, we have not won. . . . [A]lthough we celebrate today, we cannot take for granted tomorrow or we will lose our courts and our country.

That wasn't some law review article that Justin Walker wrote back when he was going to school. It wasn't some speech that he made to a local chamber of commerce. It was literally at his swearing in as a U.S. district court judge for the Western District of Kentucky just months ago, not even a year. He said: "[A]lthough my legal principles are prevalent, they have not yet prevailed." If there were a new meaning to give to the word "irony," this nomination would exemplify it.

During a public health crisis, the President of the United States has nominated someone who wants to take healthcare away from people and deny them health insurance.

The reason Conner is here is really to show that these big principles have real-life consequences. Judges have impact. The law matters. Words matter.

[A]lthough my legal principles are prevalent, they have not yet prevailed. . . . [A]lthough we are winning, we have not yet won.

What does a Justin Walker win look like? For those millions of Americans suffering from preexisting conditions, it means denial of healthcare. And for Conner Curran and his family, it could, in effect, be a death sentence.

That may sound like an exaggeration, but it isn't to those millions of Americans who have preexisting conditions. It isn't to Conner and to his family. They live with the real-life consequences of laws that we make and decisions by the courts that may strike down those laws, like the Affordable Care Act.

The irony here is more than abstract. The outrage here should be real. Justin Walker, very simply, is unfit to be a judge on the Court of Appeals. He was judged “unqualified” to be a district court judge.

I ask my colleagues to reject his nomination.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 AM TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 18, 2020, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ADAM R. GOLDEN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

JAMES M. CALDWELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

NATHANIEL S. SANDERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS CHAPLAINS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

IVAN ARREGUIN
CHARLES K. BANKS
DEBORAH A. BROWN
SIMON J. CHANG
TERRY D. COBBAN, JR.
MARSHALL A. COEN
BERNARD CORNELL
CHAD B. DAVIS
MICHAEL A. DERENZIO
ARCHIE N. DURHAM
WILLIAM I. HARRISON
REGINO R. HERNANDEZ
DANIEL D. KANG
STUART D. KAZAROVICH
JONATHAN J. KNOEDLER
LINDA LESSANE
KENNETH S. LEWIS
PATRICK I. LOWTHIAN
WILLIAM A. MARTIN

KARLYN K. MASCHHOFF
NATHAN P. MCLEAN
JEFFREY S. MITCHELL
TROY A. MORKEN
JOSEPH R. ODELL
GEORGE L. OKOTH
RALPH L. B. PRICE
CHRISTOPHER S. RUSACK
JOHN E. SCOTT
GERALD A. SHERBOURNE
LIGHT K. SHIN
LEONARD R. SIEMS
KURT W. SPOND
MATTHEW W. SPRECHER
JOHN C. VERDUGO
DAVID L. WARD
BARRON K. WESTER
GERALD W. WOODFORD, JR.
SHAY L. D. WORTHY
DOUGLAS A. YATES
CHEUN S. YOO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JAMES C. BIRK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be lieutenant colonel

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THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

JEREMY J. MANDIA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

YUSEF H. ABUHAKMEH
STEPHANIE E. ADAMCHAK
MICHAEL T. AGUILAR
RYAN R. AKRAMI
NOFISAT O. ALMAROOF
ANDREW S. ANDERSON
JAMES E. ANDREWS II
ALEXANDER P. ANGELIDIS
CYRUS A. ASKIN
MATTHEW P. ASUMA
ANNE R. ATALIG
JUSTIN A. BACON
SUNG S. BAEK
AUSTIN T. BAILEY
KATHERINE M. BAKER
FELICIA L. BALZANO
LORAINÉ BALAKI
ALEXANDER F. BARBUTO
JASON M. BARNES
SHANE L. BARNEY
KYLE D. BARTOL
JOHN B. BASS
ELIOT A. BASSETT
CHRISTOPHER D. BAZEMORE
KATIE L. BEAUREGARD
BRIANA E. BEGHLY
LEONID A. BELYAYEV
SALVATORE M. BERTUCCI
GRIFFIN M. BIEDRON
MICHAEL A. BLEYBERG
TIMOTHY C. BLOOD
MICHAEL A. BOEHLER
JEFFREY M. BOLSTRIDGE
WHITNEY B. BOND
MICHAEL B. BOWES
PAUL C. BRICKER
KATHERINE R. BRICKNER
JACOB M. BRIGHT
CEDRIC L. BUCKLEY
JAMES M. BURGESS
ADAM M. BURKETT
SAMUEL H. BURNS
MICHAEL F. BUZZARD
ERIN C. CADDELL
RIAN C. CALO
CURT R. CANINE
CHRISTINE C. CARROLL
BRENNAN R. CEBULA
LAURA A. CHACHULA
JUSTIN D. CHALTRY
ANDREW C. CHAN
STEPHEN CHAN
WILLIAM W. Y. CHANG
JOHN F. CHAVES
CHARLES K. CHILDERS
JOSEPH H. CHIN
JOAN C. CHOI
BENJAMIN C. CLARK
ZACHARIAH Q. CLARK
DONALD F. COLANTONIO
DANIEL E. COMERCI
ERIN M. CONNOR
DAVID L. COOK
MATTHEW R. COOPER
KYLE S. COUPERUS
JOHN W. CRUZ
KYLE L. CYR

JOSHUA A. DAVIS
JAMES B. DEAL, JR.
CAITLYN B. DEKANTER
ADAM L. DELGADO
DANIEL H. DESMOND
ROBERT W. DESPAIN
FRANK T. DICKER
JOSHUA C. DILDAY
CHRISTOPHER J. DIRE
ADRIEL G. DIZON
WOO S. DO
SAMUEL P. DOUGLASS
AUSTIN K. DRAKE
NICHOLAS J. DRAYER
CHRISTOPHER C. DRESCHER
DAVID T. DULANEY
SARA L. ELLING
AUSTIN C. ELLYSON
CHRISTOPHER P. ERDMAN
MATTHEW T. ESPOSITO
KATHRYN T. FEKETE
JILLIAN M. FINDLAY
REMIGIO J. FLOR
BENJAMIN M. FORSTER
DOMINIC M. FORTE
DANIEL J. FRASCA
DONALD R. FREDERICKS, JR.
CHRISTIAN P. GAGE
MICHELLE L. GAINTY
MEGAN B. GARCIA
SHAYAN A. GATES
ARIEL B. GELMAN
PETER J. GERTONSON
PAUL A. GONZALEZ
SARAH E. GONZALEZ
NATHANIEL T. GORDON
JAMES I. GRAGG
CAITLIN M. GRANADILLOS
MATTHEW D. GRANT
CHARLES G. GRAVES IV
JOHN T. GREEN
BRENT T. GRIFFIN
MATTHEW S. GRIFFITH
ROBERT M. GUIDO
ANNE E. GUNTER
CORDELL R. HACHINSKY
BARRETT J. HALGAS
THOMAS P. HAMILTON
SARAH L. HANSON
GARRETT B. HARDY
TESS A. HARMON
DANNY G. HARRIS
MITCHELL C. HARRIS
WILLIAM R. HAYMAN
JACOB L. HEATH
JOHN D. HEATHCOTE
PAUL J. HEESE
CORBIN A. HELLS
ADAM C. HENDERSON
ERIC O. HEPFNER
ALEXANDRIA M. HERTZ
JOSEPH M. HIBBERT
JAREMY J. HILL
ADRIAN P. HINTON
MICHAEL K. HIRATA
ROBERT T. HOARD
WILLIAM G. HOLDER
SAMUEL W. HOPPE
CHRISTIAN L. HORN
JARED W. HORNBERGER
TIMOTHY J. HORRELL
BIANCA J. HOWARD
ALBERT HSU
POWEN HSUEH
ROSS J. HUMES
JOHN J. HUSSELL
CHARLES R. HUTCHINSON
CHRISTOPHER P. IRWIN
KRISTINE L. JEFFERS
JOSEF B. JESSOP
JONATHAN P. JETER
ZACKARY A. JOHNSON
KATHERINE E. JONES
TRAVIS W. JONES
ALEXANDER M. KAPLAN
JOHN M. KEPPLEY
JACQUELINE Y. KIKUCHI
JAMES J. KIM
KATE L. KIMES
ALEX Y. KOO
YOSEPH A. KRAM
CHRISTIAAN F. KROESEN
SABRINA E. KUNCIV
DAVID P. LACHANCE
JOSHUA R. LADNER
NICOLE R. LAFERRIERE
DEVIN H. LARSEN
WILLIAM B. LASSITER
ROBERT T. LAWRENCE
KOREY A. LEAFBLAD
ERIC A. LEE
JOHN W. LEE
JOO B. LEE
PATRICK D. LEIDIG
ANTOINETTE S. LENTON
JEFFREY L. K. LEW
ZHAO LI
TONY J. LOCROTONDO
MATTHEW J. LOEWEN
MEGAN R. LOFTSGAARDEN
JAMIE L. LOMBARDO
ARKADY LORIN
RONALD J. LOVICH
NATHAN L. LOW
KEVIN LU
TREVOR J. LUTZ
KELLY E. MACDONALD