

rule. It is a pretty hard rule to enforce with all the information that Senator ENZI always knew was there and needed to be available in ways that we have not made it available yet.

I just want to stand as a particular friend of MIKE ENZI. We came to the Congress at the same time. I came to the House, and he came to the Senate. He and Diana and I were together on travel fairly early in that we had an opportunity to go to Lithuania, as they were desperately trying to get included in NATO.

And, MIKE, you remember walking on that little square where people had their signs up: We want in NATO. They had been left behind one time; they didn't want to be left behind another time.

But that is one of the many memories I have with MIKE.

Another is just MIKE's incredible capacity to listen. I think without question and by plenty of evidence, MIKE is the best listener in the Senate. In fact, he has listening sessions in his State, where what he does, shockingly, is listen. His talking is at a minimum at those sessions. His interest in taking in input from whoever wants to talk—you can envision MIKE at the front of the room with his notepad, taking notes on what everybody says, and then often the move from one speaker to the next is "Thank you" and "Let's hear what other people have to say," and he absorbs that in a great way.

There are many times when I have come to MIKE in the Senate and said: Tell me what you are thinking about this. And it is amazing how much you can learn by listening. MIKE so often has a different view, a more nuanced view than others do because of that.

I also thought, MIKE, as you were speaking today—I know that your driver in the State is usually Diana. And even describing the return from the Jaycees event back to Gillette, I noticed who was driving, that you spent so many hours together and miles together in a State that maybe doesn't have the most people, but it sure has lots of distance, and I know it was just a challenge to get home to Wyoming every week and then to get to the place you live in Wyoming, in Gillette, as often as you can, and that is not often possible.

But what an honor and privilege to serve with you, to spend these 24 years in the Congress together, and for me to get to spend the last 10 years of your Senate time here in the Senate with you. It is a great honor. It is a great privilege.

I am trying to learn all I can about listening from the master listener who then takes all that information and actually produces, as we have heard here today, real results.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I just want to thank all the people who came and listened, and I hope there were other Senators who were watching on their

televisions and taking notes on the 80-percent tool and other things that I mentioned.

But I just appreciate the friendships that I have had here. I have no qualms about leaving because of the quality of people who will still be here, still solving problems for America.

There is some great teamwork that never gets any publicity but that actually functions around here, and I can't thank my friends enough, particularly Senator BARRASSO, who has been a part of this team and has helped to bring me along. I have learned a lot from him and gotten to do a lot with him, and he and his wife are good friends of ours. It is not all that common to be good friends with the other person in your delegation, but we have a strong delegation and get along well that way.

I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his comments and particularly his promise that he is going to get some reform done so that the committee is actually doing what everybody thinks it does—providing a budget that we will follow. Those were goods reform principles that we put together.

I have always said that the only time we are going to have reform to the budget is if we can do it just before a Presidential election year because nobody knows who is going to be in the majority in the Senate and the House, and nobody knows who is going to be the President. Otherwise, we want to make sure that we can keep all of the control for our party that we can.

I want to thank Senator BLUNT. I actually remember trying to get some local food and running into Senator BLUNT, who was also looking for local food overseas, and so we had local food together. That was our first year in Congress. I have known him for a long time, and I appreciate your comments.

So thank you, everybody. Thank you, all the people from Wyoming.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

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

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled votes commence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT OF 2019—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and consideration of S. 578.

#### VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 2689

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2689.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Leg.]

#### YEAS—48

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

#### NAYS—49

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

#### NOT VOTING—3

Harris	Loeffler	Sanders
--------	----------	---------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2689) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a third time.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 250 Leg.]

YEAS—96

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

NAYS—1

Lee

NOT VOTING—3

Harris	Loeffler	Sanders
--------	----------	---------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (S. 578) was passed, as follows:

S. 578

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. ELIMINATION OF WAITING PERIOD FOR SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS WITH AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS (ALS).**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(a)(1)) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E) by striking “or (ii)” and inserting “(ii) in the case of an individual who has been medically determined to have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, for each month beginning with the first month during all of which the individual is under a disability and in which the individual becomes entitled to such insurance benefits, or (iii)”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to applications for disability insurance benefits filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to re-

consider is considered made and laid upon the table.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume executive session in consideration of the Waller nomination.

The Senator from Arkansas.

**ALS DISABILITY INSURANCE ACCESS ACT**

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I am very pleased the Senate has just passed the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, 96 to 1, a bill that will bring relief to many Americans suffering from a terrible disease.

ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease. People with ALS tragically lose the ability to control their muscles, leading to paralysis and, ultimately, death. There is no cure.

Many are familiar with ALS because of the baseball legend who succumbed to it at the height of his career, Lou Gehrig. Others know Lou Gehrig’s disease because it has touched them or a neighbor or a loved one.

I have been fortunate to know several people with ALS. One of my earliest supporters in my first campaign was the great Tommy May of Pine Bluff. Tommy, amazingly, has lived with ALS for nearly 15 years, beating the odds with courage and good humor. Given the gift of time, he devoted his energy to finding a cure for ALS, serving as a trustee on the national ALS Association board. ALS advocates are lucky to have a fighter like Tommy on their side.

I have also been fortunate to know Kip Jackson of Little Rock and Thomas Galyon of Rogers and others. Sadly, these ALS advocates have passed away, but I know how pleased they would be to see this bill cross the finish line today.

ALS is not like other diseases. It typically appears, without warning, later in life. Its life expectancy within 16 months is only 50 percent—no better than a coin toss. In other words, ALS strikes fast, and it strikes hard.

People with ALS typically apply for disability benefits through Social Security. There is a problem. Disability has a 5-month waiting period. This waiting period is meant to ensure that applicants aren’t suffering from a temporary affliction, and under most circumstances, it is appropriate.

But, of course, ALS isn’t temporary. For those who have it, given the odds they face, every month counts. That is why, years ago, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I introduced the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which will waive this 5-month period for people with ALS. This will ensure they have rapid access to Social Security in the early days of their diagnosis, so they don’t have to worry about benefits and can focus instead on the things that really

matter during what could be their final months on Earth.

On their behalf, I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his partnership over the years. I want to thank Senator BRAUN for what he has done to help get this bill across the finish line today. I am pleased so many of our colleagues supported this bill.

I want to explain briefly my position on the amendment offered by Senator GRASSLEY. I support the amendment in concept, but I opposed the amendment today because the original purpose of this bill has always been to address ALS specifically.

I will support Senator GRASSLEY’s language in future legislation, but to pass this bill in the final days of the 116th Congress, the Senate—and especially in the days ahead in the House—it was vital that we send the unamended bill to the House.

I look forward to working with Senator GRASSLEY in the next Congress to ensure the sustainability of both the Social Security Disability and the ALS trust fund. He has been a great partner in protecting these vital programs, and I know he will be in the future.

Finally, I want to close by quoting Lou Gehrig’s final address at Yankee Stadium in 1939. He had just received his fatal diagnosis. He didn’t focus on the hardships that lay in his future. Instead, he famously exclaimed:

I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the Earth. . . . I might have been given a bad break, but I have an awful lot to live for.

The same could be said of every person living with ALS today. They have an awful lot to live for, and this bill will help them live.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me thank Senator COTTON for his work with me in getting this bill to this happy result.

As the Presiding Officer knows, a bill can look like it was easy to get done when it passes 96 to 1, but that doesn’t mean that the pathway was easy. This has been years and years of effort.

Senator COTTON really helped make it possible, so I am very grateful to him.

I also want to thank Senator BRAUN, who was the first Republican Member to join me in this and who has been a constant ally and source of support and encouragement.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to Chairman GRASSLEY of the Finance Committee. This is a Finance Committee jurisdiction bill. Chairman GRASSLEY was willing to let it go forward as long as he got his amendment—without insisting on his amendment being part of the bill. He got his vote. We voted it down, and the bill has now gone forward, and that reflects a very high degree of forbearance and courtesy from Chairman GRASSLEY, which I respect and appreciate.

I also want to thank the ranking member on Finance, Senator WYDEN,