

So far this year, we have done three things in the Senate: the impeachment trial; the reconciliation bill, the American Rescue Plan by President Biden; and nominations. What do those three things have in common? None of them, not one of them can be stopped by a filibuster. Why aren't we taking up other legislation? Because looming over us is a supermajority requirement of 60 votes to get anything done.

What I have said to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle is, show me that we can make the Senate function. If we can show that with the filibuster, so be it. If we can show it by changing the filibuster, so be it. But let's do something.

We were elected to do things. We were elected to pass an infrastructure bill for America. It has been years since we have done that. We were elected to deal with issues that are fundamental to this country. What about all the student loan debt in this country? Are we going to do anything about it, say anything about it? Nothing is coming to the floor, is it? There are so many issues that we should be taking up that we are not taking up because of the looming specter of the filibuster. That is a reality.

Let me bring that reality close to home. Twenty years ago, I introduced the DREAM Act. I said if you were brought to America as an infant, toddler, child, young person—your family brought you here, you grew up here, you went to school here, and you pledged allegiance to that flag in your classroom every single day—at some point in your life, you ought to have the opportunity to earn your way to be a legal person in America, a citizen in America. I don't think that is a radical idea. In fact, the overwhelming majority of Americans support the idea.

So, DURBIN, let me ask you a question. It has been 20 years. You are supposed to be a legislator. Why haven't you passed this, something that simple and that direct? I haven't made it a law of the land because of one thing: the filibuster. The filibuster. Five times I have brought this measure to the floor of the U.S. Senate and have been stopped by the filibuster; a majority vote every time but never the magic 60, the magic supermajority.

So do I have a problem with the filibuster? Yes, I do. I challenge those who are defending it to show me it can work, to show me we can create bipartisan votes on the floor, actually debate on the floor, amendments on the floor, legislation on the floor. That is not too much to ask. I think that is why we were elected.

I come today to address this issue because the House is expected to vote on the Dream and Promise Act and Farm Workforce Modernization Act. If the Senate is able to join the House in passing these bills, we would be able to make significant immigration legislation progress.

But I want to add that I support comprehensive immigration reform. I be-

lieve it is the only honest answer to what we face in America today. I will do my best to do everything I can. There is no excuse for inaction. This broken immigration system needs to be addressed on a bipartisan basis, and an answer is long overdue for Dreamers in this country. I have told you who they are.

When President Obama created DACA for them, some 800,000 came forward, registered with the government, and received legal status to work and freedom from fear of deportation because of DACA.

President Trump eliminated the program. The battle ensued in court. The Supreme Court said that Trump did it wrong, and we are now in the middle ground.

President Biden supports DACA. He has made it clear that it is open for new people to apply. Yet we don't have the final law.

We are dealing with Executive orders when it comes to this important issue. That is why I have decided to come to this floor and to continue to raise the issues of the people who are involved and to introduce my 129th Dreamer story on the floor of the U.S. Senate, which I have done for years.

Diana Andino. She was born in Ecuador. She came to the United States when she was 11 years old. She grew up in Houston, TX. She was quite a student. She graduated in the top 10 percent of her high school class and went on to earn a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Houston, in biology with a minor in chemistry.

She wrote me a letter, and here is what she said about her dream of becoming a physician:

I found my calling in medicine after volunteering at a local county hospital while I was in college.

Here is what she said about the difference that DACA made in her life:

I graduated from college in 2011, and my dream of becoming a physician was truncated by my lack of citizenship status. However, DACA came in place a year later. I was able to apply to school and was accepted at the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago.

Let me just say, hats off to Loyola and their medical school. They have led the Nation in accepting wonderful students just like Diana. They were the first in the Nation to accept DACA applicants. More than 30 have since attended their medical school, and many of them are practicing in underserved areas.

Diana graduated from Loyola Medical School and now is a third-year resident at Loyola University Medical Center. She treats COVID-19 patients with serious complications, such as stroke or major bleeding.

Here is what she said about the COVID-19 pandemic:

It's been a challenging year not only physically but mentally. Patients with COVID-19 developed multiple neurological complications that we have encountered and continue to learn about. As a neurology resident, I've learned to be flexible as there are so many unknowns we encountered almost daily.

How many times have we said in the last year: Thank God for people just like this woman, who risks her life as a doctor for COVID-19 patients. Our brothers and sisters, our family members, people whom we love are kept alive because Diana is skilled enough and brave enough to go into their rooms and try to save their lives.

We think so much of Diana that we have to debate in the Senate whether she should be a citizen of the United States. There is no debate, as far as I am concerned. She is exactly the kind of person we need in America's future. Send her back to Ecuador? No. Let her stay in her home country of America.

Make the Dream Act a reality. Make it the law of the land. Don't let a filibuster stop it again. When we receive the Dream and Promise Act from the House of Representatives, we will have an opportunity to see if 10 Republican Senators can join us in an effort to finally pass it—I hope more.

As I said at the outset, I support comprehensive immigration reform. I want to try to sit down and have a conversation about the farm labor bill, about those who are here in temporary protected status, about essential workers like Diana who ought to be given a chance to become citizens in this country. That is what the debate is all about.

This empty floor, with no conversation among Senators, is testimony to the fact that this is an aspiration—an aspiration that we can overcome the filibuster, pass the Dream Act and more and do it soon. Lives depend on it. Futures depend on it. The dreams of America are at stake.

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. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent for the RECORD to note that the junior Senator from New Jersey is very dramatic in the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Absolutely, without objection.

Actually, I note one objection from the junior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. SASSE. I ask unanimous consent to begin the vote now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I am sorry I might have seen an objection from the Senator.

No, there is no objection.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON BECERRA NOMINATION

Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

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

Senator SCHATZ and I add up to 22.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—1

Hirono

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Under previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 823

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise in support of legislation developed by our colleague, Senator BROWN, and me to protect \$1.400 relief payments from being garnished by predatory private debt collectors.

We know that millions of American families are hanging on by a thread. They are counting on these payments to make rent and pay for groceries and medicines.

Now Senator BROWN and I want to include these protections in the Amer-

ican Rescue Plan. We wanted to include them, just like we had done in the December relief bill, but the problem was that Senate rules didn't allow Senator BROWN and me to include these protections in the American Rescue Plan, just like we had done earlier.

If the Senate doesn't pass this bill, predatory debt collectors will continue to seize relief payments for everything from credit cards to medical debt.

And as we talk about this right now, I would like to give an example of what this really means. If you have two parents who have lost their jobs, through no fault of their own, and they can't pay the rent because their relief check has been seized to cover a child's outstanding hospital bills—that is what is going to happen if you don't pass the legislation Senator BROWN and I are advocating.

So I think this one is cut and dry. The Senate will either stand today for the working families who desperately need this help, like that couple who are hurting, through no fault of their own, or the Senate is with private debt collectors reaching their hands into those families' pockets.

Now, these protections that we are talking about were included in the December package, with Republicans fully supporting it. Families' financial situations haven't changed so I hope that Republicans will allow for the passage of this measure offered by Senator BROWN and me. It is just common sense.

And I am going to yield now—the minority is aware—to Senator BROWN. He, too, will have short remarks, and then we will engage with our colleague on the other side.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator from Oregon, and I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania too.

We passed the American Rescue Plan, as Senator WYDEN said, to get shots in people's arms, money in people's pockets, get kids back in schools, and people back in jobs. Stimulus checks are already going out the door in Hawaii, in Pennsylvania, in Oregon, and Ohio. More than 100 million checks are already in Americans' bank accounts. We promised in campaigns, we promised in January we would do this and we would do this quickly.

Five million Ohioans are going to get a check. We know predatory debt collectors are already lining up to try to take a cut of those checks. We know it costs more to be poor in this country. So often the debt collectors come after you. Just to cash your check, there often is a fee and all the bank fees that they have.

We passed the rescue plan to put money in people's pockets so they can pay bills and buy groceries and spend money in local businesses. They can buy a washer perhaps made by American workers in Clyde, OH, or new tires

for their cars made at Goodyear in Akron, OH. Maybe they are looking forward to throwing a small high school graduation party in their backyard—after they get their vaccines—with a cake and a barbecue from a local restaurant.

That is why we passed these checks, to support families, to support local economies, not to line the pockets of predatory private debt collectors. That is why I appreciate Senator WYDEN's work with us on this bill to protect Americans' stimulus checks from financial predators.

We know how aggressive private debt collectors are. They harass people. They prey on workers trying to make ends meet, and now they want to take this money before it even reaches Americans' bank accounts.

Last year, as Senator WYDEN said, we joined colleagues GRASSLEY, a Republican from Iowa, and SCOTT, a Republican from South Carolina, to pass bipartisan legislation to protect people's money.

It shouldn't be different this time. We are still in a public health crisis. Whether you voted for or against this American Recovery Act is immaterial. We have a choice. Whose side are you on? Are you going to protect workers and their families or are you going to side with debt collectors?

I yield my time back to Senator WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 823 introduced earlier today. The bill would provide for protection of recovery rebates. I further ask that the bill be 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 an objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my friend, the Senator from Oregon, suggested that the Senate rules precluded this provision from being addressed in the recently passed bill.

It is actually a little bit more complicated than that. So let's remember how we got here.

Last year, Republicans and Democrats worked together, and we passed five bills, adding up to about \$4 trillion, authorizing another several trillion dollars of loans. It was an extraordinary reaction to an extraordinary moment, and Republicans and Democrats came together time and time again.

As the circumstances were changing, we passed new legislation to reflect that—passing a big bill, a trillion-dollar bill nearly, in December. But as soon as our Democratic colleagues had the ability, they decided they weren't interested in any bipartisan legislation