

(Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.)

## YEAS—53

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

## NAYS—40

Barrasso	Grassley	Rounds
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rubio
Blunt	Hawley	Sasse
Boozman	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Paul	Wicker
Daines	Portman	Young
Ernst	Risch	
Fischer	Romney	

## NOT VOTING—7

Burr	Johnson	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	
Hyde-Smith	Moran	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Under the 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.

The Senator from Michigan.

## FOURTH OF JULY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about how far our Nation has come in the past 6 months.

Just for a moment, think back to where we were in January. Every day, hundreds of thousands of Americans were being diagnosed with COVID-19, and on many days, more than 3,000—or even 4,000—of our moms and dads and brothers and sisters and children and friends and neighbors were dying of this horrible disease. Meanwhile, millions of Americans were out of work just 6 months ago, and small businesses were unsure whether or not they could reopen safely. During these cold, dark days, it was easy to wonder if things would ever get better.

But something else happened in January. On January 20, President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS were sworn into office, and with their inauguration came a laser focus on defeating this horrific disease and getting our country moving again.

They had some amazing tools in their arsenals: vaccines that proved to be more effective than anyone could have hoped—thank goodness. And I am so proud that Michigan workers at Pfizer have played a big role in producing these lifesaving vaccines and getting them shipped all over the country.

When President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office, only 5 percent of American adults had re-

ceived at least one shot. Now, only 6 months later, 70 percent of Americans over age 30 have received at least one shot. That is a total of 300 million vaccine shots in only 150 days, and we are seeing the results.

This week, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer was able to drop our State's pandemic restrictions. That is great news for our small businesses and our restaurants and our entertainment venues, just in time for peak travel season in beautiful Michigan.

Nationwide, more than 2 million jobs have been created since President Biden took office—2 million jobs since he took office just 6 months ago. Half as many people are applying for unemployment each month as were in January. And, next month, families will begin to receive advance child tax credits that are going to lift half of the poor children in our country out of poverty—incredible. These monthly payments of \$250 or \$300 per child will help families pay for the things they need to care for their children, and it will also boost the economy.

We have made amazing progress, and it wouldn't have been possible without leadership from the White House, around \$20 billion in funding for vaccines from Congress, the dedication of our medical professionals, the hard work of our small businesses that have done so much to keep their employees and their customers safe, and the willingness of so many Americans to literally roll up their sleeves to protect themselves and each other.

It is true that we have a lot more to do, of course. Many families and communities are still struggling to get back on their feet. We need to continue to support our small businesses that have been through so much.

We know that some States and regions are lagging behind on vaccinations for a number of reasons. That is so unfortunate because we know that these vaccinations are safe, they are free to receive, and they are amazingly effective. The numbers prove it.

On January 23, 3,322 Americans died of coronavirus in a single day, and, yesterday, 370 people died of coronavirus in the United States. Of course, that is still 370 too many lives lost. Each one of those lives was precious, and our hearts are with everyone who is grieving.

There is still a risk that variants will spread and cases could rise again, especially in areas with low vaccination rates, which is why it is so critical that people get vaccinated. It is so important to get vaccinated, not only for yourselves but for your friends, for your neighbors, and for your children.

We have come a long way—a really long way—in the last 6 months. It is really amazing, and it is just in time for the Fourth of July. Americans have a lot to celebrate this Independence Day. It is a day when we give thanks for our Nation and for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, and this year we have a few extra freedoms to celebrate:

the freedom to get together with friends again, the freedom to eat dinner at a favorite local restaurant, the freedom to attend a live music event or go to a movie, the freedom to live our lives with a lot less fear—a lot less fear—and the freedom to give our loved ones a hug. And I know I am cherishing every hug I can give my 95-year-old mom.

All of these freedoms are thanks to science and an administration that believes in science, and the willingness of Americans to trust the science.

To my fellow Americans, thank you for that.

Thank you to our President, and happy Fourth of July.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The majority leader is recognized.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 67.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative 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 Executive Calendar No. 67, Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Ossoff, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ron Wyden, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Duckworth, John Hickenlooper, Jon Tester, Edward J. Markey, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 63.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative 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 Executive Calendar No. 63, Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jacky Rosen, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Raphael Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 24, be waived.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

I yield the floor to Mr. CHRISTOPHER COONS, D., Delaware.

Mr. CHRISTOPHER A. COONS?

Mr. COONS. CHRISTOPHER A. COONS. Thank you, Mr. CHARLES E. SCHUMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

##### GROWING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2021

Mr. COONS. Madam President, today has been great day for the American

people, a great day for our democracy and for bipartisanship. Some of you may know that just hours ago, over at the White House, a determined group of Republicans and Democrats, led by Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA, Senator ROB PORTMAN, Senator JOE MANCHIN, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, and a number of others, announced a deal on an infrastructure package with the White House that represents the largest investment in infrastructure in a generation.

This is a big accomplishment that I will talk about in a few moments, but I also want to bring attention to something that happened earlier today on the floor here that may just go overlooked because of the other important news of the day.

By a vote of 92 to 8, this Senate passed the Growing Climate Solutions Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Michigan Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, the chair of the Agriculture Committee, and my friend and colleague from Indiana Senator MIKE BRAUN, who is my cochair of the Climate Solutions Caucus.

This bill, the Growing Climate Solutions Act, is a great example of how we can bring everyone to the table to find common ground on solutions that will protect our environment, help create jobs, and combat climate change.

It will help farmers and foresters in Delaware, in Michigan, in Texas, across our whole country, and we will benefit from changes in the way that they care for their land or forests, and it will help them to participate in carbon credit markets. It will provide a framework for rewarding America's farms and forests, and those who tend them, for climate-smart practices.

This is a commonsense, broadly bipartisan bill that will help us create a more sustainable future for our communities, our country, and our planet, with our farmers and our agriculture community taking the lead.

It reminds me of another signature moment that happened just at the very end of last year when, in December, the bipartisan Energy Act of 2020 was passed. Senators MURKOWSKI and MANCHIN shepherded that into law late last year, and it modernizes our country's energy policies across a dozen different major areas.

Each of these bills—the Growing Climate Solutions Act and the Energy Act of 2020—were, in part, fostered by the bipartisan Senate Climate Solutions Caucus. Founded in 2019, this caucus has held more than 30 events and meetings, including many focused on natural climate solutions such as the Growing Climate Solutions Act.

Every Member, all 14 Members, of this bipartisan caucus cosponsored the Growing Climate Solutions Act, and I applaud Senators STABENOW and BRAUN for building a significant coalition here in the Senate to support it, a coalition that ranged from some of the most engaged and active environmental groups to the American Farm Bureau, one of

the strongest voices for America's agricultural community.

Our work on climate is far from done. Members of the Climate Solutions Caucus have introduced a whole series of bipartisan bills that would promote natural climate solutions. Senator PORTMAN and I have the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act; Senator SHAHEEN is leading the Forest Incentives Program Act; Senator RUBIO, the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act; and many more.

We should advance these and many other bipartisan bills that every Member of our caucus supports and on which we are taking the lead. Let me be clear. I support bold action on climate. I support President Biden's climate agenda. And there are many more things we can and should do, but I think it is possible for us to both move ahead on those things that have enduring bipartisan support in this Chamber and across the country and to move ahead on those things that perhaps do not yet enjoy bipartisan support but where the need to act is urgent.

##### INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. COONS. Madam President, let me also, if I can, speak for a few more moments about the historic deal reached earlier today on infrastructure.

This is about creating jobs. This is about investing in our economy and our communities and our country, and this is about strengthening the United States globally against our adversaries and competitors.

I need not remind you that just 1 year ago public health and economic crises created by the COVID-19 pandemic were ravaging communities all over our Nation. And today, under the leadership of the Biden administration, COVID-19 cases and deaths are down by over 90 percent. More than 70 percent of adults over the age of 30 have been vaccinated. As a result, businesses are opening, communities are opening, States are opening, our unemployment rate has come down significantly, and our economy is recovering at a robust pace.

But if our economy is going to be sustainable, if it is going to be long term, if it is going to be robust, we have to make long-overdue investments in infrastructure. Globally, the United States now ranks 13th in infrastructure. In every State, we have roads, bridges, tunnels, and water systems that are crumbling or aged. Just in my little State of Delaware, we have more than 200 miles of highway deemed in poor condition.

And as the climate continues to change, low-lying States like mine are particularly susceptible to increased damage. We had more than 10 extreme weather events causing up to \$2 billion of damage in the last decade, and a lot of that damaged our infrastructure because it is built right up against the waterways, the coasts, the bays.

We have one of the most important rail lines in the entire country, the