

be a Kansan. My chest puffed up, full of pride. It just made me so very proud to be there with the Kansans to see this is what a Congressman, a Senator, is supposed to look like.

For months, as we led up to that event, his family and friends watched as he struggled to regain strength after several more health setbacks. I remember the family didn't think he would be able to attend, but much like the wounded Bob Dole in the forties, he was able to accept that award personally. He miraculously recovered, like he had so many times before.

At that marvelous ceremony where he got to hear the gratitude of a nation, the song "You'll Never Walk Alone" was played. I was close enough that I could see him mouth the words to the President: "This is my favorite song." And I was close enough that I could hear his voice—a voice we were all familiar with—sing along, softly sing these lyrics:

When you walk through a storm
Hold your head up high and don't be afraid of
the dark
At the end of the storm there's a golden sky
and the sweet silver song of a lark
Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on
Walk on with hope in your heart and you'll
never walk alone
You'll never walk alone.

For so many of us—Kansans, veterans, the poor and hungry around the world, farmers, the disability community, and more—we never walk alone. We thank you, Senator Dole, for walking beside us, always giving us hope. We love you, we miss you, and we thank you.

God bless America.
I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL

UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO "COVID-19 VACCINATION AND TESTING; EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD"

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to S.J. Res. 29.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 29) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing; Emergency Temporary Standard".

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the provisions of 5, United States Code 802, there will now be up to 10 hours of debate, equally divided.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator CASSIDY be allowed to complete his remarks before the next scheduled vote.

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

Mr. RUBIO. 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. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, we have a crisis here in the United States, which we cannot keep ignoring. After the pandemic hit, we took our eyes off the issue of opioid and other drug overdoses.

We have made tremendous progress over the previous 4 years. The Trump Administration made it a priority. Congress has made it a priority. We have funded multiple programs, and we have seen that the incidence rate of drug overdose was decreasing and for opioids in particular.

But with the lockdown and the personal stress this led to, we have seen an uptick once more in these opioid deaths. From April 2020 to April 2021, we saw over 100,000 overdoses linked to opioids and other overdoses beyond that, and fentanyl causing 64 percent of them.

Now, we talk about statistics, but we sometimes, in those statistics, lose the human dimension. I remember a 911 call I once heard, and in it there was a frantic woman calling because her husband was overdosed: Please come help. And that is tragic, but you almost become used to it. What brought tears to your eyes was that in the background you heard the baby crying.

Now, it is easy to imagine, one, what that child's life is now—the child of an addict—but it is also easy to imagine what the child's future is with a single parent having to deal with the death of a father and all that means.

It is not just the opioid death. It is the opioid family that has to bear the burden of the loss: first, to addiction and then, secondly, to death.

Now, there is a unique role here for the country of China. We don't know that it is the Chinese Government, but we certainly know it is the country of China.

Fentanyl is a synthetic poison that is taking the lives of so many of these who die from opioid addiction—certainly true in my State, Louisiana. The country of China's role in this opioid crisis is by providing the chemicals to the Mexican and South American cartels, which take those raw chemicals and make them into the

fentanyl that then comes into our country. And this is what is causing the addiction.

Now, by the way, opioid addiction is incredibly powerful. In another story from when I was a practicing physician, in the emergency room, at 3 in the morning, where the grandmother was there with the addict daughter, and the child—grandchild of the grandmother, child of the addict—was crying because the grandmother was taking the child away from his mother. The mother didn't care. And it struck me that if something is so powerful to disrupt the relationship between a mother and her child, the power of that cannot be ignored.

So when we look at these drugs that people are addicted to, we have to understand the hold they have upon their physiology, their emotional life, their psychology—in a sum, their whole life.

So what can we do? We can't just give up. We have to make a pushback for the sake of those who are in addiction and the family members that they have. So we need to modernize our customs process. I have a Customs Modernization Act, which will crack down on the illicit trade, if you will, the way that the cartels are financing and moving drugs across the border. If we can address that, we can address the supply, and we can decrease the number of people who have access to these drugs.

Today, I introduce the HALT Fentanyl Act to make permanent the temporary schedule I of fentanyl analogs. What this means is that in an effort to evade our laws, the cartels will make some little analog—just a little bit different from regular fentanyl, which is regulated—but, nonetheless, has the addictive potential and the ability to kill of regular fentanyl. And this will allow us to combat the criminals and to hold the companies in China responsible.

The next thing we have to do is start by closing down our southern border. It is not just the migrants who are coming across but tens of thousands of pounds of drugs. We are now seizing more fentanyl and meth than we ever have before. Even the DEA Administrator, Anne Milgram, agrees that drugs flowing across the border are fueling the opioid crisis.

She said this on national TV: "The real problem are the criminal drug networks in Mexico." She says fentanyl and meth are being "mass produced in Mexico," sourcing chemicals mostly coming from China, and they are "driving the overdose deaths".

We have a responsibility to our fellow Americans. Perhaps I feel it more acutely as a physician who has been with those patients and their families who are fighting addiction, but we should all feel the pain of that child crying as her mother was calling for 911 to come assist the father who had stopped breathing from an overdose. So let us redouble our efforts and hope others will join on both the Customs Modernization Act and the HALT

Fentanyl Act in order to, in one more way, protect Americans from the deadly scourge of these drugs coming from China, through Mexico, across our border and, unfortunately, into the bodies of those who are dying.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 585, Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Bernard Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Gary C. Peters.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 485 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—50

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

Thune	Toomey	Wicker
Tillis	Tuberville	Young

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50. The Senate being evenly divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Texas.

DEMOCRAT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to take just a few moments to go back to March of this year. After a very tough year fighting COVID-19, the American people had many reasons to be optimistic about the future. Millions of people were being vaccinated every day. The winter surge was fading away, and travel was slowly ramping up. Families were able to get back together who hadn't seen their loved ones, particularly those who were the most vulnerable to the virus. People were able to visit face-to-face and resume their lives, gradually discovering what I will call the new normal.

We knew the war against the virus was not over, but our communities were well-resourced to keep up the fight, thanks to the five bipartisan bills that were signed into law in 2020.

Yes, it is true. Just last year, we passed five bipartisan relief bills with broad bipartisan support—in some cases, unanimous consent support. My, how quickly things changed. After President Biden was sworn into office, our friends on the other side of the aisle began to view things quite differently. Where Republicans saw progress, Democrats saw, as one House Member put it, a “tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit [their] vision.” Democrats tried to capitalize on the pandemic to check items off their liberal wish list. They crafted a nearly \$2 trillion bill that included some of the far-left's highest priorities and tried to brand it as pandemic relief—backdoor funding for Planned Parenthood, a blank check for mismanaged union pension funds, money for “climate justice”—whatever that is. Less than 10 percent of the money for COVID-19 was directly related to the pandemic, and less than 1 percent supported vaccination efforts.

In addition to being wasteful and irresponsible, this level of spending has brought with it serious risks. Leading economists who are Democrats, like

Larry Summers and Steve Rattner, warn this level of spending could trigger inflation. Most of the young people who were not alive during the seventies, during the tremendous inflation in the country, have never experienced anything like that or even like what we are experiencing today. But Larry Summers presciently warned that this level of Federal spending could “set off [some] inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation.” Still, our Democratic colleagues couldn't be persuaded to change course.

They moved forward with their nearly \$2 trillion spending bill, and lo and behold, guess what happened. Well, Larry Summers was right, and the Federal Reserve that called inflation transitory was wrong. We are now experiencing inflation at a level we have not seen in a generation, exactly as Larry Summers predicted.

In October, inflation hit a 31-year high. Consumer prices jumped 6.2 percent compared with a year ago, making this the highest inflation rate we have seen since 1990. If you were to ask the average Texan if they were surprised by this news, they would say: Not at all.

Month after month, families have adjusted their budgets as prices ticked up. They are now paying more for everything from gasoline to groceries, from cars to Christmas gifts.

And our Democratic colleagues seem to think the only solution is to add more fuel to the fire. They put together a second partisan spending spree, which will cost approximately \$5 trillion. That has already passed the House of Representatives.

Taxpayers will be disappointed by what they get for so much money: tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires—that is in the House bill—cuts to healthcare for low-income and uninsured patients, special favors for organized labor and union bosses, and taxpayer-subsidized electric vehicles for the well-off.

Our colleagues have worked diligently, I must confess, on this bill all year, and this is what they have come up with. Meanwhile, they have ignored some of the most basic responsibilities of governing.

So far, the Senate has not passed any regular appropriations bills. There are 12 of them that routinely we pass. They are deliberated in the Appropriations Committee, voted on, on a bipartisan basis, and ultimately come to the floor and pass as part of the most basic function of governing.

We haven't done that this year. Our colleagues have delayed the National Defense Authorization Act, and we are just 1 week away from a deadline that Secretary Yellen has given us for a potential debt crisis. Our colleagues have failed to do the bare minimum.

Why on Earth are they pouring every ounce of their time and energy into this damaging partisan spending spree when they can't even cover the fundamentals of governing?