

as checkpoints or opportunities for the many volunteers to basically gather. There is about 1,500 people who volunteer to put this race on. So for those who set the trail markers, who set out there with their snow machines to mark that trail, it is nothing more than like wood markers that you would get at Home Depot or Lowe's, with a little painted orange on it. That is the sophistication of this. This is what guides the team in a blizzard.

The veterinarians are there. Four to five vets cycle through each checkpoint, because each dog needs to be checked every time they go through their checkpoint.

All of these folks come from all around the country to volunteer. They pay for their flights up. They take a week off work, and they are there. They are there to support not only the race, but they are there to support gold-standard canine care.

And so it is also a celebration about the volunteers. This is such a great part of our State's heritage, our culture. Again, you can tell I get a little enthusiastic about it. Even my necklace is a dog sled with a musher on it. So this is the time of year that I like to celebrate it.

So this morning at 5:39 a.m., Alaska standard time—so about 9:30 here in DC—8 days, 14 hours, 38 minutes since beginning a roughly 1,000-mile race, Brent Sass and his team of 11 dogs crossed the finish line.

So here is Brent with his two dogs, yellow roses flown in from—I don't know where those yellow roses came from, but they certainly weren't from Nome, AK.

But that man has traveled with his team for 8 days now, 14 hours, 38 minutes to win the 50th Iditarod.

I had a chance to talk to Brent by phone just about an hour after he went in to Nome. He sounded pretty vibrant, pretty excited, pretty happy.

I had talked to him in the starting gate on Saturday, and I said: Brent, I think this is your time. I think this is your time because you have proved yourself year over year in the Iditarod and certainly in the Yukon Quest.

Brent lives in Eureka, AK, on a homestead that was established back in the 1970s. He is a pretty seasoned musher. He took part in his first Iditarod back in 2012. He got "Rookie of the Year" that year. He is a three-time 1,000-mile Yukon Quest champion.

So the Yukon Quest runs a different race, from Canada into Alaska. It is also a 1000-mile race. It is equally arduous and extraordinarily difficult. He took first place in the Yukon Quest in 2015, 2019, 2020, and also first in this year's abbreviated 350-mile Yukon Quest.

So a couple little quick stories here, because I know I don't have much time, but this guy is pretty exceptional. He is not only a strong competitor, but the care that he provides his dogs is amazing.

One story from 2016: Brent was getting ready to leave the White Mountain

checkpoint. It is about 77 miles from the finish line in Nome. He was teed up here to win third place, and depending on where you are in the rank is how much of the purse you will take home. And if he was going to make third, it was going to be about \$44,000 in prize money. But he is getting ready to leave the checkpoint and his dogs said: Nope, we are not moving.

So think about it. You are that close to \$44,000. You are 77 miles from the finish, and your dogs have said: This has been a long trek, and this is where we are stopping to just rest.

So Brent Sass didn't push those dogs. He waited as they rested, and when they were ready, he took it slow, he took it steady, he brought them to the finish line, and he ended up placing 20th instead of 3rd. And he did that for his team.

And for that, he was recognized twice with the Vet's Choice Award for the care that he shows his dogs.

But it is not just his team that Brent is known for taking care of. He is also known for taking care of his competitors along the trail.

There was a headline a few years back that said "Sass to the Rescue . . . Again."

And time after time, Brent has been highlighted for acts of heroism on the trail. In vicious storms, he has helped mushers and their dog teams reunite after becoming separated on the trail. And keep in mind, there is no rescue team out there. It is you, and if you are lucky enough to have somebody else come upon you—fortunate.

But during one race, a fellow musher was at risk for scratching the race, and instead of leaving him behind, as many competitors might have done, Brent helped him scale Eagle Summit so he could stay in the race.

But one of the most notable rescues took place in 2011 on the trail of the Yukon Quest. Hans Gatt, a four-time champion, was stalled out. He wasn't able to clear the summit. The weather conditions were awful. So Hans did the only thing that he could do, which is to hunker down into a sleeping bag in these horrible winds, the driving cold snow.

Brent's sled comes upon Hans, sees that he is on the verge of hypothermia. He hooks his sled to the back of his own, and he hauls both teams up over the summit. And Brent credits his then-lead dog Silver for guiding them to safety in these awful and harsh conditions. As a result of their teamwork and heroism, the Quest created the Silver Legacy Award in Silver's honor. Brent claims that to be one of the proudest moments of his life.

I wish that I could have been there this morning at 5:39 in Nome to watch Brent cross the finish line as a first-time Iditarod champ with his team. But even from afar, we can hear the Alaskans celebrating Brent for his incredible feat.

So to Brent Sass, we celebrate you. We thank you for the care that you

show your dog team, your character, how you show what it means to be a true competitor and for representing the great State of Alaska so well.

And to all the others that are still on the trail, we wish you well and safety and Godspeed.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to support the historic nomination of Shalanda Young to be the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Young brings deep experience with the Federal budget process to her role at OMB, having served as staff director of the House Committee on Appropriations. She has been serving as Acting Director of OMB for the past year, and her top-notch performance in that role leaves no doubt that she is eminently qualified to be confirmed as OMB Director.

Ms. Young came into OMB in March 2021, the same month that Congress passed the American Rescue Plan. This was a time when the Nation faced an uncertain future, with coronavirus vaccines just starting to go out and unemployment remaining stubbornly high at 6 percent. Under Ms. Young's leadership, OMB played a key role to implement the American Rescue Plan to fight the pandemic and move our economy forward. The results have been widespread vaccinations, millions of new jobs, unemployment falling to 3.8 percent, and the fastest economic growth in nearly 40 years.

We have achieved a great deal during the first year of the Biden administration, but we must recognize that there is still so much left to accomplish. Shalanda Young is the right person to have at the helm of OMB to craft responsible budgets and turn the policies we craft into actions that make a real difference for the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 minutes.

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Shalanda Young's nomination to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Young has done an exemplary job serving as OMB's Acting Director for the past year. She is a dedicated public servant and a proven leader.

She has played a key role in the administration's efforts to help the Nation recover from the pandemic. She has worked closely with Congress to pass the historic bipartisan infrastructure package, and she is truly committed to making the Federal Government work better for the American people.

I have absolutely no doubt that Ms. Young is the right choice to lead the OMB going forward. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Shalanda Young to be the Director of OMB.

VOTE ON YOUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 80 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Burr	Kelly	Shelby
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warnock
Cramer	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Murphy
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wicker
Grassley	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—36

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Inhofe	Rounds
Braun	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Lankford	Sasse
Cornyn	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Paul	Tuberville
Fischer	Portman	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Feinstein	Shaheen
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION RELATING TO "REQUIREMENT FOR PERSONS TO WEAR MASKS WHILE ON CONVEYANCES AND AT TRANSPORTATION HUBS"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 37, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 37) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to "Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 37, which we are now considering and which we will vote on at 5:30.

This is a resolution that would use the CRA process to undo the CDC guidance requiring use of masks on transportation: planes, buses, trains, and some transportation hubs.

I think this is an issue that should be discussed, and, possibly, to use a medical metaphor, a scalpel should be used to make it just right. Unfortunately, the CRA process is a meat cleaver, and this is not the kind of thing we should be using a meat cleaver against.

If S.J. Res. 37 passes, it could lead us to be extremely vulnerable if there were a resurgence in coronavirus cases, as we are seeing in other nations like Germany.

Let me explain. The CDC imposed a mandate to wear masks on transportation in February of 2021—again, planes, buses, trains, and train and bus stations, as well as airports.

We all know that the CDC has recently examined the caseload of COVID-19 in the country and dropped their mask recommendations for most of the Nation. About 98 percent of the American population now live in communities where there is no mask recommendation, thank goodness—not even indoors. That is great.

But in some parts of the country, some parts of my Commonwealth, infection rates are still so high that the mask recommendation for wearing indoors is still one that the CDC strongly recommends.

The CDC mandate, with respect to masks on transportation, was set to expire on March 18, Friday. On Friday, March 18, it was set to expire. After the CDC dropped the recommendation about wearing masks indoors, the CDC decided to extend the mask requirement on transportation for 1 month, from March 18 to April 18.

Why did they do that when they were dropping the mask recommendation indoors for much of the country? Well, the reason was pretty obvious, and they explained it.

Here is the problem with transportation: You might board a bus, plane, or train in an area with low infection but pass through areas of high infection and end up in an area of high infection. So transportation is a little bit different than what should the rules be in an indoor venue in my hometown of Richmond or in communities in Connecticut, where the Presiding Officer lives.

So what the CDC said is, we are going to take an additional month, and we are going to analyze the science around closed spaces—transportation venues—and we are going to look at this issue of traveling from one community to another, and then we will come up with a best recommendation and best guidance with respect to mask mandates in transportation. That sounds very reasonable to me, very reasonable to extend the mask requirement by 1 month.

I would argue to my colleague Senator PAUL—this is his resolution—we should be weighing in with the CDC and giving them best guidance—and, obviously, they are considering what science is recommending; they are in dialogue with the transportation industry that has strong feelings about that—and then seeing what guidance the CDC comes up with in April before the April 18 deadline, to which they have extended.

That would be reasonable, but what this resolution does is not reasonable. It not only wipes out the mask requirement; it wipes it out forever. It states that the CDC no longer will have the authority to impose a mask requirement in transportation unless or until this body passes new legislation allowing them to do so.

That legislation in the Senate would require 60 votes. I would venture to argue that there is no way, in the politicization of COVID, that a piece of legislation giving the CDC the power to do mask mandates in transportation would get 60 votes in this Chamber.

So if S.J. Res. 37 passes, we will have taken away from our premier health authorization the ability to impose a mask mandate if it is necessary.

Now, I pray that it is not necessary. I am happy to see the reduction in COVID caseloads in Virginia and across much of the Nation. But there are parts of Virginia where the caseloads are still high and where masks are still recommended. And there are parts of every one of our States or Commonwealths where the infection rates are still high, and masks are still recommended.

So it is fine to wish that COVID is going away. I mean, Lord, do we all wish that it is going away, but we know that in some parts of the country it isn't. And we also know, if we are looking at the data internationally, that China is experiencing a significant upsurge; Germany is experiencing a significant upsurge.

So what if—what if—we face a new COVID variant that starts to wreak havoc on us, just as Delta did when we thought we were in a decline, just like Omicron did when we thought we were in a decline? What if there is a new variant that comes and starts to wreak havoc more broadly across the country? Wouldn't we want the CDC to have the power immediately, upon an upsurge of COVID nationally, to impose a mask requirement on transportation? If S.J. Res. 37 passes, they will not have the ability to do that.