

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to support Julia Gordon, who is very, very qualified.

There is a pattern of Republicans blocking very qualified women in this body—very qualified women nominees for all kinds of jobs. We see it night after night after night. I could cite lots of examples. They will say, “Well, we support women for jobs that aren’t quite as important,” but these really key, extraordinarily important jobs—the Federal Reserve, FHFA, the Ex-Im Bank, certainly this job at HUD—we know—we can read between the lines. Let’s just leave it at that.

Ms. Gordon made clear that she doesn’t support defunding the police. People have done all kinds of things on social media on both sides, left and right. We can make all our decisions based on something somebody retweeted, but it is not the way to run a government. We know that.

I urge my colleagues to support Ms. Gordon, who is highly qualified—decades of experience—and has broad support from the Mortgage Bankers Association, the Manufactured Housing Institute, and Habitat for Humanity. Her support is bipartisan. Brian Montgomery, FHA Commissioner under George W. Bush and HUD’s Deputy Secretary under Donald Trump, wrote in support.

Ms. Gordon served as president of the National Community Stabilization Trust, the nonprofit that supports neighborhood revitalization and affordable home ownership. Before that, she served as the manager of the single-family policy team at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA, working to help families stay in their homes.

She has devoted her life to housing. She has helped people get an opportunity to live decent lives in clean, affordable, safe housing.

She has led a whole team of policy analysts overseeing all aspects of single-family mortgage policy at Fannie and Freddie. Hundreds of thousands of homeowners and seniors with FHA loans and reverse mortgages are at risk of losing their homes, either because they are falling behind or they are exiting forbearance. At this critical time, we need her on the job immediately.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee thought it important to delay, delay, delay, to slow-walk, slow-walk, slow-walk, to boycott, boycott, boycott. The Presiding Officer today has seen it up close as a member of that committee.

Her breadth of experience will help her work with a variety of stakeholders to design policies across the Office of Housing that will strengthen families and communities and help us bring down the cost of housing.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Julia Gordon today. Let’s do our jobs. Let’s focus on the results Americans care about and expect from their public servants.

WOMEN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of keeping Roe v. Wade, the legislation that the Senate failed to pass earlier today. I will enter my remarks in the RECORD. I just want to highlight a couple of things that we don’t want MITCH MCCONNELL, we don’t want Governor DeWine in my State making personal health decisions for Ohio.

I want Ohio women to make those decisions. I certainly don’t want the State legislature in my State making those decisions, when these decisions are the most personal decision that a woman and perhaps her religious counselor, perhaps her doctor—her doctor and her partner should be making those decisions.

Men often don’t understand how women’s bodies work and how preventive care like birth control works. This is not just about Roe. This ruling would open the door to all kinds of other government interference into people’s most personal, private decisions.

I would—and I have seen—a State legislator in Ohio said if a woman is raped and gets pregnant, there is an opportunity for that woman. That was said by sort of a typical far-right legislator in Ohio, and she is one of the leaders in the next step—what they are going to do on issues of women’s health in my State legislature. It is important we act.

I know there are other things we are going to do in this body, and I will support those efforts to make sure that women—not MITCH MCCONNELL and Mike DeWine—make decisions about women’s health.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GORDON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gordon nomination?

Mr. BROWN. 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.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 172 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Durbin	Luján
Bennet	Feinstein	Manchin
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Markey
Booker	Hassan	Menendez
Brown	Heinrich	Merkley
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Cardin	Hirono	Murray
Carper	Kaine	Ossoff
Casey	Kelly	Padilla
Coons	King	Peters
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Reed
Duckworth	Leahy	Rosen

Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema

Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeben	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	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	

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 50.

The Senate being equally divided, the Vice President votes in the affirmative, and the nomination is confirmed.

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 actions.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Philip Nathan Jefferson, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2022.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 1 minute prior to the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF PHILIP NATHAN JEFFERSON

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to vote for Dr. Philip Jefferson.

Dr. Philip Jefferson is one of the country’s leading thinkers on the economics of poverty, and he will be a key voice on the Fed as it tackles inflation. He is the vice president for academic affairs, dean of faculty, and a Paul B. Freeland professor of economics at Davidson College. He will serve alongside Dr. Cook. It will mark the first time ever that two Black Governors will have served on the Board at the same time. Dr. Jefferson grew up here in Washington in the shadow of RFK Stadium. His first job out of school was to work at the Federal Reserve. He literally wrote the book on the economics of poverty.

He was voted out by the presiding officers of my Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, unanimously, on a strong bipartisan vote. He will fiercely guard the Fed’s independence.

I urge my colleagues to vote for Dr. Philip Jefferson for the Federal Reserve.

VOTE ON JEFFERSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jefferson nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Risch
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Booker	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown	Johnson	Sanders
Burr	Kaine	Sasse
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	Kennedy	Schumer
Cardin	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Sinema
Coons	Lee	Smith
Cornyn	Lujan	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Markey	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Ernst	Moran	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young
Hagerty	Peters	
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—7

Boozman	Hawley	Tuberville
Braun	Paul	
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—2

Blunt	Carper
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY).

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 actions.

The Senator from Washington.

CONFIRMATION OF ALVARO M. BEDOYA

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise tonight to highlight the significance of the vote we took earlier today, and that is to confirm Alvaro Bedoya to be Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

Not only is this a critical moment for us to act and help American consumers, Alvaro Bedoya is the right person to get this job.

The FTC is the first line of defense for consumers. And if a company is lying to its customers about their

products and what they can do or teaming up with competitors to keep prices high, the FTC is the officer on the beat to stop bad actors and to protect those consumers.

Now we need the FTC more than ever. We needed them during the COVID pandemic when scammers were looking to capitalize on the pandemic and stole \$5.9 billion out of the pocket-books of Americans. That is just the amount that was consumer reported. It doesn't include people who never knew they were scammed or were too embarrassed to report their losses.

Just as we needed them then, we need them to continue to help us during the pandemic to stop scammers from selling fake cures and counterfeit masks. We need them to tackle rising prices that threaten all of us today.

Protecting consumers is a bipartisan issue. In the Senate, we worked across the aisle to support the FTC, and Congress pumped the FTC's power at the end of 2020 when we passed the COVID-19 Consumer Protection Act to help root out the promoters of dangerous fake treatments and cures. We also gave the FTC \$30 million in the American Rescue Plan to protect Americans against these scams.

Today, we will take this important step in helping to protect consumers by having Mr. Bedoya fill the last seat on the Federal Trade Commission. He has the right experience to tackle some of the most complicated and pressing issues that we have, that we are facing regarding a variety of issues from privacy to online privacy.

Being the Founding Director of the Center of Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law where he was a professor, he did amazing work. And prior to joining Georgetown, he served as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law.

Many of my colleagues know Mr. Bedoya; and I am glad his nomination finally has passed here in the Senate, and we look forward to working with him.

NOMINATION OF ADMIRAL LINDA L. FAGAN

Mr. President, I also want to speak about the historical significance of another nominee that will be voted on shortly. Tonight, hopefully, in the wrap-up, we will be passing on the nomination of Admiral Linda Fagan to be the next Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard serves the American people by safeguarding life at sea, protecting the environment, and ensuring our national security.

The role of Commandant is to lead the Coast Guard's approximately 55,000 Active Duty, reserve, and civilian workers, and approximately 26,000 volunteers in the execution of the Coast Guard's 11 different missions.

From managing vessel traffic, to tackling drug smugglers, to saving lives in rough seas, to protecting endangered marine life, no military service does more with fewer resources. Yet the Coast Guard's mission is only

growing. The Coast Guard faces unprecedented environmental and geopolitical challenges.

Due to the increasing threat of climate change, men and women of the Coast Guard must respond to increasing and frequent severe weather disasters. In the Arctic, where melting ice sheets provide new opportunities for shipping and tourism and transportation, it is very important that the Coast Guard play a major role in making sure that we know how and have the capacity for the United States to lead in icebreaking capacity through the Arctic.

Admiral Fagan assumed the role of Vice Commandant in June of 2021, and she led the largest modernization and shipbuilding effort of the Coast Guard fleet since World War II.

But I want people from the Northwest to know she started her career on the *Polar Star*, a 399-foot icebreaker homeported in Seattle. During her career, she served on all seven continents.

She has held numerous leadership positions, including more than 15 years as a marine inspector and commander for Sector New York, commander for Coast Guard District 1 where she led all Coast Guard operations in New England, and Commander of the Pacific Area in charge of Coast Guard operations across the entire Pacific.

She has an impressive science background, with a bachelor's degree in marine science from the Coast Guard Academy and two master's degrees—one of which is from the University of Washington—in marine affairs.

In addition to her extraordinary qualifications, Admiral Fagan will be the first woman and mother to lead the Coast Guard. She will also be the first woman to lead any branch of our armed services.

Now, more than ever, we must have a strong, tested leader as Commandant. It is clear from her record that Admiral Fagan is the right woman to do her job.

I look forward to working with her to ensure the men and women of the Coast Guard have the tools they need to execute their mission and support their families. And it means continuing to make investments on shore infrastructure, aircraft, and, as I mentioned earlier, our polar icebreakers.

But just as we have fought hard to work with the Coast Guard and their people, it is time to work with Commandant Fagan to continue the hard work to expand paid family leave policies, to improve access to childcare, to champion efforts to retain women and underrepresented minorities serving in the Coast Guard.

Recently, we helped secure \$429 million for the Coast Guard infrastructure in the infrastructure bill and \$120 million of that investment will go to construction of onsite childcare facilities.

As our working mothers and working daughters serve in the Coast Guard, Admiral Fagan knows the realities of a