

We can work to better support officers in the communities they swear an oath to protect.

It is why I am working with colleagues of both parties on legislation to support them as they do their jobs.

I joined my colleague Senator GRASSLEY to introduce the Fighting Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Act. It would increase mental health support for police, fire, emergency medical, and 9-1-1 personnel as they cope with the stress of responding to crisis situations.

These Ohioans deal with some of the most tense and life-threatening situations in our communities—car accidents, fires, family disputes, people in mental health crises.

So often our local police and fire departments don't have the resources to offer comprehensive mental health support. The Grassley-Brown bill will help us do that.

I also introduced the Expanding Health Care Options for Early Retirees Act, a bill that would allow retired police officers and other first responders to buy into Medicare beginning at age 50.

Police officers and other first responders wear their bodies out protecting our families and communities. They should have access to affordable healthcare when their service comes to an end.

This simple solution would ensure access to healthcare for police officers who are forced to retire but aren't yet eligible for Medicare.

I am working across the aisle with Senator THUNE and others to fix outdated IRS rules that prevent public safety officers from making tax-free withdrawals from retirement accounts to cover healthcare premiums.

We need to make sure police and fire can retire with dignity. Part of dignity of work is retiring with dignity. At the very least, that means they should be able to afford the healthcare they need.

This Police Week, let's offer more than empty words. Let's honor the memories of these women, these men who laid down their lives in service of their communities by getting their fellow officers the tools they need, the training they need to do their jobs and to build trust with the communities they are sworn to protect.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote be called immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON WATSON NOMINATION

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

Mr. BROWN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cramer	Rosen	Van Hollen
Menendez	Sullivan	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Trina L. Thompson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

VOTE ON THOMPSON NOMINATION

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "No."

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Blunt	Rosen	Young
Cramer	Van Hollen	

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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The clerk will report the Sykes nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Sunshine Suzanne Sykes, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

VOTE ON SYKES NOMINATION

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. 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 Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—4

Blunt	Rosen
Cramer	Van Hollen

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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

VOTE ON LOWMAN NOMINATION

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

Mr. BENNET. 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 Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. SUL-LIVAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 94, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 189 Ex.]

YEAS—94

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

NAYS—1

Hawley
NOT VOTING—5

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, in tracking through what is happening on our southern border, it is interesting I still have folks that catch me and say, "I don't see anything about it in the news anymore, so what is happening?"

So I try to periodically come here to the floor to be able to describe what is happening. Interestingly enough, just yesterday, the leadership of CBP did their news release that they normally do to kind of outline what is happening at the border.

In their news release they released out:

CBP works to secure and manage our borders while building a fair and orderly [im]migration system.

This is what they put out yesterday—while we build an orderly and fair migration system.

Interestingly enough, this was a picture taken the day before their press release. This was taken in the Eagle Pass area of Texas in the Rio Grande Valley, and, yes, that line you see are people coming across the river in Eagle Pass.

Now, you don't catch everything because you can't see how much farther it goes this way and how much farther it goes that way.

This was the day before CBP released this statement: We work to secure and manage our borders while building a fair and orderly migration system.

Earlier in the report, the very first page of the news release, CBP leadership said:

After many months of planning, we are executing a comprehensive strategy to safely, orderly, and humanely manage our borders. CBP is surging personnel and resources to the border, increasing processing capacity, securing more air and ground transportation, and increasing medical supplies, food, water and other resources to ensure a humane environment for those being processed, screened, and vetted.

By the way, just south and west of this, just the day before this was taken, Border Patrol picked up two child sex predators, four MS-13 gang members, and an 18th Street gang member—just right before this, just the day before this was released.

This is our frustration with the administration right now. Because the media has turned away and decided they are not going to look at this, that they are not going to pay attention to it, everyone seems to think everything has just gotten fine.

What is really happening on our southern border, again, from current statistics right now, they are only able to handle 44 percent of the flow coming across the border. At 44 percent of the flow, right now, they are releasing thousands of people directly into the country with a notice to report saying: "Turn yourself in to an ICE facility anywhere in the country, and they will process you there," because they can't handle the backlog of the thousands of people coming across.

What are we talking about, thousands of people? Well, remember last year when the cameras were all focused on the southern border? Last year, there were 6,500 migrants coming across a day at this time, and all the cameras were focused on the southern border because it was such a massive influx of people because 6,500 migrants were crossing a day. Right now, 7,800 migrants are crossing a day—7,800 a day.

Last month, the CBP released that almost a quarter million people illegally crossed our southern border in 1 month. That beat the old record of the month before when there was just under that by a couple thousand people—a quarter million people a month illegally crossing the border.

Now, to their credit, about half of those are turned away under what is