

yet again—and not just another tragedy. In this case, the death of the 19 children and 2 adults, at least that is the latest reporting, but also indicating that the deaths took place because an armed gunman came into a school with body armor protecting him from the response from any law enforcement.

So we have another example, in barely less than a week, where a gunman goes into a setting in a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, and now into a school where second graders, third graders, and fourth graders are killed because he has a high-powered weapon, and he is fully protected from any law enforcement or any other response. And we are supposed to just get used to this, I guess. That seems to be the response here in Washington.

Now, this isn't a problem of Congress, more broadly, or the executive branch of our government. This is a problem—the failure to address this problem, even to pass something as simple as background check legislation—this is a problem in the Senate of one side. You have got 50 U.S. Senators who are Republicans who have refused now for years to pass anything remotely resembling commonsense gun measures.

I would support a whole series of bills that we could talk about. We don't have time today. But at least the U.S. Senate should be able to pass a background check bill supported by 90 percent of the American people.

And you have to ask, why is that? And it is not simply that you have so many Republicans who are beholden to the gun lobby. That is obvious. That is right in front of us.

The other problem is—and I think it is related to the question of the power of the gun lobby in one party—you have got a whole party that seems to want to surrender to this problem, to throw up their hands and say: “There is nothing the most powerful Nation in the world can do, nothing at all the most powerful nation in the world can do to stop the killing, over and over again, of Americans,” and especially in the context of the horror—the unspeakable horror—yesterday of second, third, and fourth graders being gunned down in a manner that is so horrific that some of them can't be identified because of the power of the weapon and the number of bullets that can be discharged in a matter of seconds. So even if law enforcement gets there and isn't confronting body armor, no law enforcement is fast enough to get to a scene in seconds to prevent a horrific mass shooting.

So we are supposed to accept the fact, as Americans—I guess this is what the Republican position is—that we should surrender to this problem. The most powerful Nation in the world can't stop second, third, and fourth graders from being murdered in schools. The most powerful country in the world, I guess, can't prevent the shooting we saw in Buffalo. And you can go down the list of other tragedies.

This is a uniquely American problem. No other country that is similarly situated—has an economy like ours as a country even close to what we have—no other country has this problem and has any kind of change or reform or action being blocked by one side. And I know there is work that has to be done at the State legislative level and all that.

But right here, we could vote this week on a background check bill, and it would be supported overwhelmingly.

But think about this, and I will end with this. Think about if we had the same attitude about 9/11. What if someone said right after 9/11: “You know what, there is really nothing we can do as Americans to stop a foreign terrorist from taking an airplane into a building or crashing an airplane into the Pentagon or the plane that went down in Pennsylvania. There is nothing we can do about that so we just have to get used to that reality of terrorists doing that to our country”? No one would say that—then or now. We created an entire new Agency, the Department of Homeland Security. And guess what, a lot of those reforms that we made to protect Americans against terrorism worked. Just like no one said years ago, when we had these viruses and the potential of pandemics, that we shouldn't do anything about it even though we have the knowledge and the skill to create a vaccine.

We invested. We did what Americans do—confronted a big problem and did something about it.

What if during World War II, what if everyone stood up and said: “You know, the Axis nations are pretty powerful. Those nations are pretty powerful. They have the most well-funded, sophisticated armies in the world, and there is nothing we can do in 1941 to take on the Axis powers”? We didn't say that.

It is un-American to surrender—to surrender to a problem. Now you have an entire political party in this Chamber that has not just surrendered to the lobby—that is objectionable and insulting enough—but they surrendered to the problem; that there is nothing we can do about it. That, I would submit, is un-American. And it is about time that the Republicans in the Senate begin to be part of the solution to do something that Americans do all the time—confronting evil, like we did after 9/11; confronting terrorism or disease or whatever it is; and in this case to confront gun violence and do something about it, not sit around and pretend that there is nothing we can do. That is un-American.

We don't surrender. We are Americans. We take on tough problems like our entire history has shown. But we haven't taken on this problem.

What we should be saying to these families, in addition to offering our sympathy, is: Your government has failed you. Your government at the Federal level and your government at the State level, it has failed you. And

in this case and in this Chamber it has failed because one side will not even entertain the idea of passing any gun measures. They have surrendered.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Evelyn Padin, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

VOTE ON PADIN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Padin nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. WYDEN assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. PADILLA assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. BENNET assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Reed
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). 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 nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte N. Sweeney, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

VOTE ON SWEENEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sweeney nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Reed
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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. 806, Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Thomas R. Carper, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 202 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Burr	Cramer
Blackburn	Capito	Crapo
Blunt	Cassidy	Daines
Boozman	Collins	Ernst
Braun	Cotton	Fischer

Graham	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Grassley	Marshall	Shelby
Hagerty	McConnell	Sullivan
Hawley	Moran	Thune
Hoeven	Paul	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Portman	Toomey
Inhofe	Risch	Tuberville
Johnson	Romney	Wicker
Kennedy	Rubio	Young
Lankford	Sasse	
Lee	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Reed
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF SANDRA L. THOMPSON

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support Sandra Thompson's historic nomination to be the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Ms. Thompson is an exceptional nominee, with decades of experience in mortgage markets and Federal financial regulation.

Since June 2021, Ms. Thompson served as Acting Director at FHFA, where she has played a vital role in promoting access to mortgage credit, to overseeing and supervising Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the 11 Federal Home Loan Banks, and to protecting the safety and soundness of the housing finance system.

Before being designated as Acting Director, Ms. Thompson served for 8 years as a Deputy Director for the Division of Mission and Goals at FHFA, so she is clearly very qualified.

She spent 18 years at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. While there, she worked for seven different chairpersons, obviously, from both political parties and in senior-level positions.

She will be the first woman. She will, notably, be the first Black woman confirmed to lead FHFA.

For the first time, we have an administration and a Senate Banking and Housing Committee that understand how important it is to have economic leaders who reflect the country, who look like the country and think like the country—people who make it work.

She will join a growing list of experienced, talented Black women who have come through our committee—MARCIA FUDGE, who was my Congresswoman in Cleveland. She is now Secretary of HUD; Cecilia Rouse, Chair of the Council on Economic Advisers at the White House; Reta Jo Lewis, a CEO of the Export-Import Bank; Lisa Cook, first Black woman ever in 109 years—109 years, the first Black woman—at the Federal Reserve; Alanna McCargo; Alexia Latortue, just to name a few.

Ms. Thompson has proven she will work and she will listen to lenders, and consumers, and both sides of the aisle.

Before the pandemic, housing was too expensive and too hard to find, even before the pandemic. Whether you are looking to rent or to buy, FHFA has an important role to play in bringing