

been rejected. The Air Force approved fewer than 130 of the more than 9,000 religious requests submitted by airmen.

It is time for this administration to do what is morally right and patriotic, what is decent and sensible and prudent for the readiness of our military, and drop this vaccine mandate. Further, the Defense Department should reinstate those servicemembers who have been expelled for this reason, return them to their previous positions, and provide backpay for time missed.

But until they do so, I will continue to object to this nominee. And, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, very briefly, the fact that my colleague is objecting to the consequences of not adhering to the requirement for vaccination is not within the purview of Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez. So, therefore, their objection as to this particular nominee is misplaced and, in my view, irrelevant.

I again call on my colleagues to enable this nominee to come forward under unanimous consent.

VOTE ON PRESSMAN NOMINATION

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

Ms. HASSAN. 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Crapo	Merkley
Bennet	Feinstein	Moran
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Murphy
Blunt	Graham	Murray
Booker	Hassan	Ossoff
Brown	Heinrich	Padilla
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Peters
Capito	Hirono	Portman
Cardin	Kaine	Reed
Carper	Kelly	Risch
Casey	King	Romney
Collins	Klobuchar	Rosen
Coons	Luján	Rounds
Cornyn	Markey	Schatz
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Schumer
Cramer	Menendez	Shaheen

Sinema	Toomey	Whitehouse
Smith	Van Hollen	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	Young
Tester	Warnock	
Tillis	Warren	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Grassley	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cruz	Kennedy	Sullivan
Daines	Lankford	Thune
Ernst	Lee	Tuberville
Fischer	Lummis	Wicker

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Inhofe	Murkowski
Duckworth	Leahy	Sanders
Durbin	Manchin	Sasse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1068.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Wilson Hanes, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 1068, Elizabeth Wilson Hanes, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, Jeff Merkley, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Luján, Mazie K. Hirono.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, July 28, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, the fate of the CHIPS Act, our collective effort to shore up the vulnerable semiconductor supply chain, was in limbo. Republicans said we would not move forward with what was then known as USICA, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, while Democrats were crafting a partisan reckless massive tax and spending bill behind closed doors.

Then Senator MANCHIN, the Senator from West Virginia, made a decision that angered most of his Democratic colleagues—he slammed the door on the climate and tax provisions and reconciliation. He said:

Until we see the July inflation figures—

Which we haven't seen yet—

until we see the July Federal reserve interest rates, then let's wait.

He noted that families were struggling to buy such essentials as gasoline and groceries and added:

I can't make that decision basically on taxes of any type.

That was what I will call the old Joe.

After we received assurances privately from some Senate Democrats, including the staff of the Senate majority leader, that the tax and climate provisions were off the table, we were able to move forward with USICA and the funding of this vulnerable semiconductor supply chain that is an important part of the bill that the House is voting on today.

So Republicans and Democrats went to work, negotiating in good faith to reach an agreement because we recognized that the vulnerability of our semiconductor supply chain was an economic and national security existential threat because 90 percent of the advanced semiconductors in the world that power everything from your cell phone to the F-35, to the Stinger or the Javelin missiles that are being used in Ukraine today—90 percent of those come from overseas, and the United States makes zero percent of them. That was the vulnerability and the risk we were exposed to, so that is why we worked so hard on a bipartisan basis to pass what used to be called Endless Frontier. I guess it has had about four or five different names so far, but it started, in my mind, with the CHIPS for America Act that Mr. WARNER, the Senator from Virginia, and I introduced in June of 2020.

So we all celebrated with a bipartisan press conference just in the LBJ Room over here, but then shortly after that bipartisan announcement, we learned some astonishing news: The climate and tax provisions apparently

were never off the table despite what we had been told.

Apparently, Democrats—specifically, the majority leader and Senator MANCHIN—just moved those discussions out of the public eye, into a secret back room. And I pretty much believe that other Democratic colleagues were not clued in on those negotiations. That is my impression. It was a secret deal between the majority leader and Senator MANCHIN.

Well, as I said, the CHIPS Act was part of this larger China competitiveness bill passed around 1 o'clock, and it was just 4 hours later that Senator MANCHIN sent out a press release that "Build Back Broke" was now on track. After saying repeatedly he would not support such reckless policies, he has done an Olympic-worthy flip-flop, and there is simply no denying it.

Let me talk about the new JOE.

It simply can't be overstated how dramatic this reversal is. Democratic Senators called me and texted me yesterday after Senator MANCHIN's announcement.

One said:

I am so shocked and upset.

Another said:

I am appalled.

A member of the President's Cabinet said:

I hope you know and trust that I had absolutely no idea this was going on.

Just 2 weeks ago, Senator MANCHIN said he wouldn't support the climate policies and tax increases out of fear that it would fan the flames of inflation.

Last month, as we will recall, inflation hit a new four-decade high. Everyday expenses for food, groceries, and other necessities of life were up more than 9 percent from just a year ago. Our colleague from West Virginia said he told the Democratic leader it would be "wrong" and "not prudent" to move forward while inflation was at a record high. Unfortunately, it didn't take long for that sense of fiscal responsibility to fade.

I don't know the details about the secret deal between Senator MANCHIN and Senator SCHUMER that resulted in this reversal, but I have to say, it was ugly. Now Senator MANCHIN not only supports the "Build Back Broke" bill, he now said it is his proposal—he, in effect, wrote it—and it includes the same policies that he previously opposed.

Tax hikes on working families and small businesses, Green New Deal climate policies, socialist price controls on prescription drugs, things like subsidies for wealthy purchasers of electric vehicles—forget the fact that somebody who can't afford an electric vehicle, who has to drive an old clunker, perhaps, or buy a used car—they are the ones subsidizing wealthy people buying electric vehicles—it is all in there.

Democrats could not have picked a worse time to push this reckless, irresponsible bill. This morning's news on

the state of the economy confirms what millions of Americans have known for months: that the Biden recession is officially here. Our economy is not just stuck in the mud; it is sinking. Families and small businesses deserve better than a toxic combination of higher prices and feeble economic growth. Instead of helping the people survive this recession, our Democratic colleagues want to push them even deeper into the hole.

In 2008, Senator SCHUMER himself, the majority leader, said that raising taxes during a recession was a bad idea.

President Obama said exactly the same thing. In 2009, President Obama—in the aftermath of the great recession due to the financial crisis in 2008—President Obama said virtually the same thing that Senator SCHUMER said:

The last thing you want to do is raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

And that is exactly where we are.

The following year, in 2010, Senator MANCHIN agreed with Senator SCHUMER and President Obama. He said:

I don't think during a time of recession you mess with any of the taxes or increase any taxes.

That is the old JOE. That is the same Senator who is now proposing to raise taxes on families in the middle of a recession.

Now, here is the real joke, but I guess the joke is on all of us: They are calling it the Inflation Reduction Act. What an insult to the intelligence of the American people. Do they think anybody will be fooled? Do they think the American people are so stupid that they will believe this is an honest attempt to address inflation? There is not a chance. This proposal is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Our Democratic colleagues can try to rebrand the "Build Back Broke" bill that they tried to pass earlier this year all they want, but it is filled with the same rotten policies that will hurt families, small businesses, and energy producers, while the President, by the way, goes to Saudi Arabia hat in hand, asking the leader of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to produce more oil overseas rather than encourage domestic production here in America.

If this bill were to pass, it would eliminate any chance we had of escaping the recession policies that Democrats have landed us in.

Families are being crushed by the worst inflation in four decades. For every dollar you have, it is worth 91 cents in purchasing power because of the broken policies of the Biden administration. But it is not the politicians who pay the price; we are doing just fine. It is the working families all across this country who are paying the price for Democrats' war on American energy, for example. And they are sick and tired of being told by Washington Democrats that you can tax and spend our way out of this mess.

I have some bad news: If the Democratic leader can manage to keep all 50 Democrats on board, it is going to get

worse. Our only hope is that a single Democratic Senator will oppose this massive, irresponsible bill, and it only takes one in a 50-50 Senate.

Not only will this bill have a devastating impact on the American people, it will absolutely paralyze this Chamber.

There have been recent discussions about, well, amidst polarization, there is possibility for bipartisan cooperation, and I have been proud to be a part of some of that bipartisan cooperation. I think we have done some important things for the American people.

But the Senate functions on trust. There are only 100 of us, and the relationships and the confidence that we have that when somebody looks you in the eye and tells you something, that they are going to stick with it, is important to negotiating in good faith and building consensus that is necessary to pass legislation. That is the only way we can pass legislation—work in a bipartisan, candid, good-faith way to get things done, like our mental health and school safety bill recently. That trust was eviscerated yesterday.

Senators MANCHIN and SCHUMER did not draft this 725-page bill in the 4 hours between the passage of the CHIPS Act and Senator MANCHIN's press release. They have been working on this the entire time, when they told us it was off the table. How is this Chamber supposed to function if we don't have at least some modicum of trust in what our colleagues tell us? How can we negotiate in good faith, compromise where necessary, and get things done together after the majority leader and the Senator from West Virginia pull a stunt like this?

The American people are sometimes left to wonder whether our institutions, including this one, can work anymore. Well, I can only speak for this Senator when I say: This betrayal is an absolute declaration of political warfare.

For years, many of our Democratic colleagues have claimed that the Senate is broken because of the filibuster. They act as though a procedural vote with the 60-vote threshold is an end of democracy as we know it. But look where we are now. The Democratic leader is crafting secret deals in back rooms. He is keeping members of his own political party in the dark, such that they have to apologize to people like me who have been willing to trust that what people say—that their word is their bond.

Look, if somebody can't agree with me, I would prefer they tell me outright, and then we can figure out where we can agree if we can't agree in some areas. But to look you in the eye and tell you one thing and then to do another is absolutely unforgiveable.

Now the majority leader is trying to abuse the rules of the Senate to pass a \$700 billion partisan spending bill in the next week, in the next matter of days—a bill that was only announced in a press release yesterday.

The Senate is not broken, but I am afraid, if this stunt pays off, Democrats are about to break it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

NATO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today, colleagues, to urge the Senate to proceed quickly—quickly—to the consideration of the accession protocols for Finland and Sweden to join NATO.

Once again the Senate has been given the responsibility of offering advice and consent to ratifying the accession of two new members to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We have been advising aggressively for quite some time, and it is time now to move to the consent portion of getting this done. NATO is the most successful political-military alliance in history. It helped bring down the Soviet Union, and it united Europe so it could rebuild economically.

The Senate has the opportunity to expand NATO and bring both Finland and Sweden into the alliance. Over the years, these countries never sought membership. They were content to just partner with NATO, but they did not join. However, Putin's attempt to rewrite the security landscape in Europe with his invasion of Ukraine convinced the people of Finland and Sweden that they should become formal members of NATO. Why wouldn't they?

After the past 2 weeks—and really the entire summer—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has carefully considered and discussed the prospective membership of our longtime partners, Finland and Sweden.

The Senate has already shown bipartisan support for Finland and Sweden joining NATO. As my colleagues and I have laid out in a resolution of support in public statements at Senate Foreign Relations Committee meetings and hearings in June and in the committee report submitted to the floor along with the protocols, Finland and Sweden will make model members of the NATO alliance.

Once approved by all 30 current members of NATO, these two nations will become integral members of the alliance. Both have strong and capable militaries and are already net contributors to the security alliance. Although militarily unaligned for decades, Finland and Sweden have long defended Europe's high north—a region becoming even more important with the competition from Russia and China in the Arctic.

Both have already demonstrated the interoperability and commitment necessary to join the alliance. Finland already spends more than 2 percent of its GDP on defense, and Sweden laid out its plan to reach that mark shortly—both requirements for joining NATO.

These countries also bring additional capabilities to NATO. Both are intimately familiar with the north and east flank of Europe. Finland also trains U.S. forces in cold weather oper-

ations and the Finnish Navy is especially suited to operate and defend the Baltic Sea, where some Navy ships have less maneuverability, being a blue-water Navy.

They have both participated in NATO missions in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Iraq. In fact, these countries operated with less restrictions on their militaries in these missions than other NATO members. Finland and Sweden also share our democratic values, have strong military and defense industries, and extensive experience in Russian matters.

One only has to take a look at a map to see the benefits of adding Finland and Sweden to NATO. With their proximity to the Baltic States—the Baltic States, which are small—they are well-positioned to provide support, if needed, to our current Baltic NATO allies, just as the rest of NATO would if the Baltic States have a problem with Russia.

Adding these two nations as full members to our alliance will further deter any temptation by Russia to engage in military adventurism in the Baltic area or the Arctic regions. Although my sense is Russia has already learned this year of the ineptitude, clumsiness, and just plain inabilities of its way-overrated military, which can't even win against a small, substantially less-equipped adversary, even when Russia used barbaric medieval tactics. Russia's efforts have been pitiful and, at the same time, despicable.

Many Senators have already given firm statements of support for this succession, and we deserve the timely chance to make our support known through a vote. Let's get on with it.

There are few things more important than voting on accession for Finland and Sweden to NATO. This accession process is an important chance for the United States to demonstrate leadership in NATO and commitment to its modernization and, very importantly, NATO's future.

When the shooting is over in Ukraine, it won't be over. There is no doubt that NATO is going to take a long, hard look at what it is doing, what its priorities are, and, very importantly, hardening the eastern and northern flanks.

Since this wave of NATO enlargement was first announced, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has carefully consulted and coordinated with our NATO allies, the governments of Sweden and Finland, with the administration, and within the Senate itself to ensure this process can move as efficiently and quickly as possible. I can't count the number of meetings and conversations we have had in this regard.

We now have only one step left until ratification, and it makes no sense to dillydally at this stage. There should be no issue with moving this treaty as quickly as possible. The Senate's quick ratification of Finland and Sweden as new members of NATO will both send a strong message of transatlantic unity

to a now foundering Russia and will strengthen NATO against Russia's growing threat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

CHIPS ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the CHIPS and Science Act, a bill approved by the Senate yesterday and, I am told, just approved literally in the last several minutes by the House of Representatives, a bill that I am proud to be able to support, along with many of my colleagues.

This bipartisan legislation will invest in our Nation's semiconductor industry, strengthen America's manufacturing competitive edge over foreign competitors, and reduce supply chain burdens that exist with respect to our country and our people. Yesterday's vote marked an important step in providing America the authority to set the rules of the road for a 21st-century economy.

I was pleased to join so many of our colleagues in support of this bill so that States like Delaware and like Nevada can continue to punch above our weight in the global economy for years to come.

We probably all heard the saying before: "Today, they don't make cars like they used to." Well, some of my colleagues know and many folks in Delaware know I can attest to that personally. For two decades, I drove a 2001 Chrysler Town and Country minivan, a silver one, affectionately called by many the Silver Bullet. It had 600,000 miles on it.

When I went to the DMV and took with me the young man who wanted to buy it, they asked me how much I was going to sell it for.

I said: \$1.

The lady there at the desk at the DMV said: Well, what you have to do, you have to turn it over and sign on the back of title "\$1."

So I wrote "\$1," and I signed the document, as did the purchaser.

Then the lady at the DMV said: There is a transfer fee you have to pay for the vehicle.

I said: What is it?

She said: 3 percent.

I said: 3 percent of \$1?

She said: Yes.

I pulled a nickel out of my pocket and gave it to her and said: Keep the change.

But my old minivan is more popular and famous in my little State in a lot of places than I was.

But anyway, that vehicle had seen every corner of the First State, with some 600,000 miles to her name. She carried "Carpertown" staffers, constituents, family members, and even a future President—even a future President.

When it came time to retire her early last summer, through anguish and heartache, I opted for a slight upgrade: a red Tesla Y that maybe someday will have 600,000 miles on it. We will see.