

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR DOMESTIC TRAFFICKING VICTIMS' FUND.

Section 3014(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "September 11" and inserting "September 30".

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—Continued

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

FLOODING IN KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Eastern Kentucky is again facing the threat of stormy weather and flash floods this weekend. Emergency responders have been on the ground since the flooding began and will continue their critical role in the coming days. We are making sure the Federal Government is stepping up as well.

In addition to the Governor and State lawmakers, I have been in personal contact with the President, Secretaries Mayorkas and Becerra, and FEMA Administrator Criswell going back to the beginning of this emergency.

FEMA has been on the ground since day one, providing enormous help with search and rescue operations. Once rebuilding begins, their role will only be more important.

With the President's major disaster declaration, FEMA is now authorized to send financial assistance directly to the flood victims. These funds will be critical to those who lost their homes in the flooding, especially since many lack flood insurance. To reach remote residents, FEMA representatives are going door-to-door and speaking directly to survivors in shelters to make sure everyone who qualifies for help actually receives it. The Agency has already approved hundreds of thousands of dollars for affected Kentuckians.

FEMA is also helping pull together a wide swath of Federal Agencies to supplement the Kentucky National Guard and State agencies. The Forest Service is already on the ground, clearing debris from roadways. The Small Business Administration is issuing loans to help employers rebuild. The Army Corps of Engineers is ensuring all dams in the region remain operational.

The Federal response so far has been extraordinary.

I have been proud to stand with the Governor and Kentucky's entire congressional delegation to help expand the number of counties receiving assistance and streamline the aid. Kentuckians can visit my official website

to see the full list of services offered by our Federal disaster response Agencies.

The Federal Government has done an excellent job so far. The crisis is far from over.

Soon, I will visit the region myself to meet with flood victims and listen to their concerns, and then I will take what I hear from my constituents back to Washington and ensure we stand by their side as we rebuild bigger and better than before.

INFLATION

Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, a year and a half ago, Democrats misread a 50–50 Senate as a mandate for \$1.9 trillion in party-line reckless spending. The result has been the worst inflation in 40 years.

With Democrats in charge, working families are having to spend thousands of extra dollars each year just to tread water. Grocery costs are through the roof. Energy bills are skyrocketing. Gas prices are more than \$1 higher than on Inauguration Day. American families are trapped in an inflation spiral, where many workers have earned pay raises on paper, but even those bigger paychecks buy them less and less every time they go to the store.

Because of Democrats' historic failure on the economy, the American people have lost their patience. Ninety percent say they are feeling anxious about inflation. Only 28 percent like what President Biden is doing about it, and just 22 percent think we will be in any better shape after another year of Democratic leadership. But, amazingly, Senate Democrats are misreading the American people's outrage as a mandate for yet another—yet another—reckless taxing-and-spending spree. Democrats have already robbed American families once through inflation, and now their solution is to rob American families yet a second time.

Democrats want to ram through hundreds of billions of dollars in tax hikes and hundreds of billions of dollars in reckless spending—and for what? For a so-called inflation bill that will not meaningfully reduce inflation at all and will actually make inflation even worse in the short term; for a so-called economic bill that will kill American jobs and hammer our manufacturing sector; for a so-called climate bill that will have no meaningful impact on global temperatures whatsoever; for a so-called prescription drug bill that will result in fewer lifesaving medicines and higher prices for the new cures that are invented. Every fact I have just laid out has come from non-partisan experts and academics.

Democrats' bill will do nothing to meaningfully cut inflation. Hundreds of billions of dollars in tax hikes on a struggling economy will help kill American jobs everywhere, except the IRS, that is, where the bill would fund the hiring of—listen to this—86,000 new tax collectors plus new cars and new computers.

Jacking up Americans' electricity bills and gas prices in order to sub-

sidize rich people buying luxury cars and new appliances will not make one dent in the future trajectory of global temperatures.

Democrats will choke off the development of new lifesaving medicines if they pretend that making things cheaper is as simple as passing a law saying they ought to be cheaper.

Survey after survey, poll after poll has proven that none of this nonsense is what American people want Democrats to focus on. The American people don't want hundreds of millions of dollars in Green New Deal waste. They want less inflation, not more. American families don't want tens of thousands more IRS agents. What they would like are more Border Patrol and ICE agents. American families don't want Democrats policing what kinds of stoves and clothes dryers they can put in their homes. What they want is for Democrats to actually start policing our city streets.

Democrats have decided their first economic disaster justifies a second economic disaster. The working people of this country feel very, very differently.

Now, on a related matter. I want to drill down on Democrats' plan to take a buzz saw to the research and development behind new lifesaving medical treatment and cures. The American people have enough common sense to know that the government can't actually make something cost less by making it illegal to raise the price. Let me say that again. The government can't actually make something cost less by making it illegal to raise its price. This was the logic of college sophomore socialism. It is not fair that a certain thing costs more than we like. Why doesn't the government simply pass a law making it cheaper?

Well, the world would be a lot easier for everybody if things actually worked that way. It would certainly be easier to be a member of Congress. We could just vote to set the price of everything in America, snap our fingers and everybody in the country would enjoy \$5 smartphones, \$10 TVs, and \$100 pickup trucks. What a concept. Why hasn't anybody thought of this genius idea before?

Well, of course, people have thought of it before. Plenty of governments have tried crude price-fixing—Cuba, Venezuela, the old Soviet Union, not exactly thriving paradises, not pinnacles of prosperity, well-being, or innovation; not the examples we would want to follow.

Everybody wants prescription drugs and complex medicines to be more affordable. Everybody wants to help struggling families. That is the goal we all share. But you know what would not achieve that goal? Empowering some Biden administration bureaucrat to sit down at a desk and arbitrarily name the price that manufacturers can charge.

Democrats' policy would not bring about some paradise where we all get

amazing new innovations we would have gotten anyway, but at a lower cost. Their policy would bring about a world where many fewer new drugs and treatments get invented in the first place as companies cut back on R&D.

By one analysis, if Democrats' price-fixing scheme had already been in place, 104 of 110 major new medicines released in the past decade may never have made it to the market. We would literally have fewer lifesaving cures and treatments. More Americans would die and die young under Democrats' policy. And the new drugs that did still get invented would be more expensive when they hit the market. That is according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

During the Obama administration, I worked with then-Vice President Biden on a project he was especially passionate about. I was proud to help launch his Cancer Moonshot within the 21st Century Cures bill. But according to one expert's calculation, the bill President Biden wants Senate Democrats to ram through this weekend would reduce cancer research spending by more than nine times as much as our Cancer Moonshot expanded it. I will say that one more time. According to one expert, this far-left takeover of America's medicine cabinets would destroy nine times as much cancer funding as we provided with the Cancer Moonshot.

We are talking about a tidal wave of Washington meddling, wiping out future treatments and cures for Americans suffering with rare diseases. What a terrible, terrible and tragic part of their reckless plans.

VOTE ON MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 285 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—39

Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Blunt	Hagerty	Portman
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—10

Braun	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Burr	Risch	Tillis
Daines	Rubio	
Hawley	Sasse	

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Constance J. Milstein, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

VOTE ON MILSTEIN NOMINATION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I yield back all time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time is yielded back.

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

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr.

SASSE), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Portman
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Romney
Booker	Kelly	Rosen
Brown	King	Sanders
Burr	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cantwell	Leahy	Schumer
Cardin	Lujan	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Sinema
Casey	Markey	Smith
Cassidy	Menendez	Stabenow
Coons	Merkley	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Moran	Tester
Duckworth	Murkowski	Tuberville
Durbin	Murphy	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murray	Warner
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warnock
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—34

Barrasso	Fischer	McConnell
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Rounds
Boozman	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hoeven	Shelby
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Thune
Cornyn	Inhofe	Toomey
Cotton	Johnson	Warren
Cramer	Kennedy	Wicker
Crapo	Lankford	Young
Cruz	Lee	
Ernst	Lummis	

NOT VOTING—9

Braun	Marshall	Sasse
Daines	Risch	Scott (SC)
Hawley	Rubio	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, on rollcall vote No. 286, I voted no. It was my intention to vote yea. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not change the outcome.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). 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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business for debate only until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; and that Senator SCHUMER be recognized at 3 p.m.