

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	Luján	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markley	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	Hoover	Romney
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Ernst	Lummis	Tuberville
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
	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 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
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Leahy	Schumer
Carper	Luján	Shaheen
Casey	Smith	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markley	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—34

Braun	Cortez Masto	Sullivan
Blackburn	Duckworth	Tuberville
Blunt	Durbin	Murphy
Boozman	Feinstein	Warner
Capito	Gillibrand	Warnock
Cassidy	Inhofe	Whitehouse
Cotton	Johnson	Young
Cramer	Kennedy	Wyden
Crapo	Lankford	
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.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I rise briefly to speak to a unanimous consent request that I am going to make in just a moment. I am pleased that we are about to consider the nomination of Dr. Monde Muyangwa, to be Assistant Administrator for Africa for USAID.

This is a critical post, one we cannot afford to leave vacant at a time when the humanitarian needs, the development opportunities, the strategic challenges that we see in Africa need to be met by an outstanding development professional.

As the ongoing Russian aggression in Ukraine continues to cause skyrocketing fertilizer costs, widespread food crises, the people of Africa need to know that the people of the United States will support them, will work with them, and will be a great partner in their development.

I am about to ask unanimous consent for the confirmation of a nominee who has a long and deep experience in this area. The director of the Wilson Center Africa Program, long-time dean of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, a professor, a nonprofit leader, a development professional, a Rhodes Scholar—someone who will represent us very well.

Madam President, with that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the follow nomination: Calendar No. 815, Monde Muyangwa, to be an Assistant Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Monde Muyangwa, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION—Continued

Mr. COONS. With that, I yield to my colleague from the State of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, first, let me say I am joining in with the action just taken by the Senate, led by Senator COONS, who has shown an extraordinary gift of understanding of the importance of the African continent and the people that need to be part of its future.

I wholeheartedly support the effort which he initiated on the floor this afternoon. And I believe that Dr. Muyangwa is going to be a valuable asset to AID and to Africa, and I thank him for his leadership in bringing this issue before us today.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the United States has done some good, important, even historic work this week. On Tuesday, we passed the PACT Act, expanding VA healthcare to an estimated 3.5 million veterans. Their service to our Nation exposed them to potentially deadly toxic chemicals from Agent Orange in the Vietnam conflict to toxic burn pits, which were found to be ubiquitous in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It took too long: 12 years. Toxic exposed veterans and family members had to stand on the steps of the Capitol, literally camped out for 5 days and nights to remind us that the veterans suffering from toxic exposure deserve care as surely as veterans injured by bullets and bombs.

But in the end, thank goodness, we did the right thing. The vote to pass the PACT Act was 86 to 11—86 votes in a 50-50 Democratic/Republican Chamber. It was a remarkable, bipartisan rollcall.

And then we made history this week when the Senate voted to ratify the entry of Finland and Sweden to NATO. Vladimir Putin gambled that Russia could seize Ukraine in just a few days, could use his victory to shatter NATO's unity and to deepen divides around the world.

Vladimir Putin, again, was dead wrong. NATO is more united, larger, and more powerful than ever, while Vladimir Putin has become an international pariah. Russia's military is bogged down in Ukraine, suffering heavy losses. And the Russian economy is staggering under the weight of global sanctions imposed by the freedom-loving nations of the world against Russia.

The Senate vote in favor of enlarging NATO to include Sweden and Finland was 95 to 1—95 votes in favor of it in a body that is divided equally, 50-50. Two major achievements in just 2 days, both with huge bipartisan majorities. That is proof for the doubters that the Senate can work together when the need is urgent and the solutions are just.

Now we are debating another historic plan that should have the support of both parties. I listen to the speeches each day on the floor of the Senate. And every day our Republican col-

leagues stand on the floor and say it is about time we did something about inflation. They know that is exactly the way the American families feel—and I feel, as well. And then, sadly, when given a chance, as they will be in just a few minutes, my Republican friends try to stop legislation that will lower the cost and give American families a break on their cost of living. All the speeches notwithstanding, they refuse to vote for a provision which will actually lower families' living costs.

They oppose cutting taxes for families. They oppose banning price gouging by oil companies. They oppose cutting healthcare premiums. They oppose extending the Child Tax Credits. They oppose lowering prescription drug prices. But we are going to give them another chance to do the right thing.

They are going to have a chance to actually lower some of those big ticket costs which they gave all their speeches about and—listen to this bonus—reduce the deficit at the same time. Yes, the Democrats have a proposal which will reduce our national debt by \$300 billion. Our plan is called the Inflation Reduction Act. It does exactly what it says and even more.

The Inflation Reduction Act will cut energy costs, now and in the future, by deploying American-made clean energy and by making the biggest investment to battle the climate crisis in U.S. history.

You can't miss on the news the terrible things that have happened in the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the last week. Horrible things. Thirty-seven people—at least 37 people—have lost their lives with the flooding in that State. They go to these remote, rural villages. It just breaks your heart to look at the devastation.

And the reporters go to families still, I guess, trying to get back on their feet, trying to imagine tomorrow and do these interviews. And many times, the people are clearly in pain and distraught over their personal losses.

There was one man I remember yesterday, particularly. He did not appear to be the kind of person who spends a lot of time thinking about Congressional issues or even great political issues. He was a fellow, a hardworking fellow, who just lost his home. And you know what he said? He said: This is climate change; what you are looking at here is climate change. I have lived in this town for 40 years. And I have never seen anything like that. And I can't imagine if it comes again.

For him to use the words "climate change" really was an eye opener for me, because it means that he is sensitized to the reality that we face in this world. Extreme weather has become the norm in our country, whether it is an extreme drought, an extreme flooding situation, more tornadoes than ever at different times of the year. The list goes on and on.

Some people think it is just God being restless. I think there is more to it. I think we—those of us who inhabit