

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF BRADLEY N. GARCIA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Brad Garcia to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Garcia is an accomplished appellate litigator and public servant whose breadth and depth of experience will make him an outstanding addition to the D.C. Circuit. A graduate of Johns Hopkins and Harvard Law School, Mr. Garcia began his career with clerkships for judges appointed by Presidents of both political parties, Judge Thomas Griffith on the D.C. Circuit and Justice Elena Kagan on the U.S. Supreme Court.

After his clerkships, Mr. Garcia joined the appellate practice of O'Melveny and Myers, where he ultimately became a partner. During his time at the firm, he drafted dozens of briefs in Federal and State appellate courts and delivered 13 appellate oral arguments, including one in the Supreme Court and 10 in the Federal courts of appeals.

Throughout his career, Mr. Garcia has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono work, advocating for clients in cases implicating the rights of immigrants and criminal defendants, reproductive freedoms, and free and fair elections. In three cases, the Fourth Circuit appointed Mr. Garcia either as amicus counsel or to represent indigent criminal defendants, a testament to his impartiality and effectiveness as an appellate attorney. Mr. Garcia currently serves as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, where he has continued to demonstrate his commitment to public service and defending the rule of law.

If confirmed, Mr. Garcia will be the first Latino judge on the D.C. Circuit. He was rated "well qualified" by the ABA and has received support from leaders across the political spectrum, which reflects his well-established credibility in the legal community.

Mr. Garcia is an exemplary pick for the D.C. Circuit. I strongly support his nomination and urge my colleagues to join me in voting for his confirmation.

VOTE ON GARCIA NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARDIN. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH),

the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—40

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—7

Barrasso	Risch	Stabenow
Cotton	Rubio	
Moran	Scott (SC)	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). 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 Senator from Ohio.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, each year during Police Week, we honor the law enforcement officials who make the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities, to our State, and to our country.

This year, we will add the names of five Ohioans to the National Law Enforcement Memorial, all who laid their lives down last year: Deputy Sheriff Daniel Kin, Deputy Sheriff Matthew Eugene Yates, Police Officer Dominic Francis, Agent John Dale Stayrook, Deputy Sheriff Terrence Nicholas Bate.

Sadly, we already know of one more name that will be added to the memorial next year: Officer Timothy James Unwin III of the Springfield Township Police Department.

Each one of these losses is a tragedy for a family, for a community, for their fellow officers. These Ohioans' lives are a reminder of the ideals we should strive for. We need officers who are true public servants in the best sense of the word, people who give themselves to their communities. And these Ohioans gave so much.

In their memory, I want to reminisce for a moment about each of them and

tell my colleagues why this is so important and who these public servants were.

Deputy Sheriff Daniel J. Kin was a devoted husband and father to two young children. He was known for his easygoing personality and being a colleague and friend whom everyone could count on.

Deputy Kin was a Sandusky native—a community on Lake Erie—and helped his father run their family farm in his free time. He gave his life while serving as deputy sheriff at the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Matthew Eugene Yates served his community for 15 years at the Clark County Sheriff's Office as a member of their special operations team. His colleagues remember Deputy Yates for his joy but also his strength and his bravery. He mentored younger deputies and children in their community.

Our thoughts are with his wife, his daughter, his stepsons, and his father, who also served in the Clark County Sheriff's Office—a long history of public service in that family.

Police Officer Dominic M. Francis grew up in Bluffton, OH, and returned home to join the Bluffton Police Department after playing football at the University of Findlay and serving at the Findlay Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. Officer Francis received the Officer of the Year award twice, multiple letters of commendation, the Chief's Leadership Award, and the Bluffton Police Department Lifesaving Award. He was honored by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers as Top Cop and earned the Ohio EMS Star of Life multiple times. He loved spending time with his wife and two children at Indian Lake and served in law enforcement for 19 years.

In honor of his memory, a portion of I-95 that runs near Bluffton has been renamed the "Officer Dominic Francis Memorial Highway."

Agent John Dale Stayrook was a dedicated husband, father, and grandfather and devoted to the communities he served. He worked with the Medina County Drug Task Force, Northeast Ohio, and the Medway Drug Enforcement Agency, serving for 19 years. He enjoyed woodworking and spending time in nature with his family and his friends.

In February 2022, Agent Stayrook passed away after contracting COVID-19 in the line of duty.

Deputy Terrance Nicholas Bateman was a Cleveland native and—it is difficult—often a Cleveland sports fan who served with Franklin County Sheriff's Office for 25 years. Deputy Sheriff Bateman was well-respected and adored in his community. He supported his colleagues and always had a kind word to offer. He loved cooking for family and friends—his wife, his five daughters, and two sons and two brothers.

We can't begin to repay the debt we owe these officers and all these families, but we can work to protect more

officers in the communities they swear an oath to serve. That is why I am working with colleagues of both parties on legislation to support law enforcement as they do their jobs. I am joined by Arkansas Republican Senator COTTON to reintroduce our Protecting First Responders from Secondary Exposure Act to protect first responders when they encounter dangerous substances like fentanyl on the job. We introduced the Providing Officers With Electronic Resources Act to help State and local law enforcement organizations secure high-tech, portable screening devices to detect fentanyl—similar equipment and detection devices that our men and women serving us at the border have.

Our law enforcement officers are on the frontlines of the addiction crisis. They are dealing with evermore dangerous forms of fentanyl on the job. It is why I work with Members of both parties on a plan to target the illicit fentanyl supply chain, from the chemical suppliers in China to the cartels that transport the drugs in Mexico.

I am pleased the Presiding Officer today is someone who has great expertise in that, representing his State of New Mexico in that part of the world.

I will keep fighting to make sure police officers can retire with dignity. My bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act will ensure that Social Security benefits will be there when officers retire from a life of dedicated service—officers who pay into the State retirement system but also paid into Social Security.

I will work to ensure first responders have the support they need to cope with stresses of responding to crisis situations.

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

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I am pleased to be joining my colleagues on the Senate floor today to discuss the importance of Medicaid to American families.

Right now, Republicans in the House of Representatives are pushing a scheme that threatens Medicaid coverage for over 20 million Americans.

Over the course of the evening, my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee and I will make clear why this is a bad deal for all Americans. Democrats in the Senate won't stand for it.

Now I am going to turn it over to Senator CASEY for his remarks, and I believe we will have other Senators from the Finance Committee coming next. And I will wrap it up.

Senator CASEY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking Chairman WYDEN for his leadership on a range of issues that are important to vulnerable Americans, Medicaid being in the lead of that.

Over and over again, Chairman WYDEN has led us to ensure that we don't provide the kind of cuts that have been proposed in this debate about the next steps on ensuring that America doesn't default. And there is no question that not just people on both sides of the aisle but the American people want us to ensure that we do not default.

The consequences of default—I won't itemize them. I think Americans are well familiar with them, but the consequences of default in a word would be "catastrophic" for every family, for every community in the country, and the consequences are too numerous to cite for tonight's purposes.

But here is the problem: Even as most Americans want to take default off the table—most Members of Congress do—there are still some Members of the House, House Republicans, who want to keep default on the table or, in order to agree with the consensus, their pathway to avoiding default is to cut and cut and cut and decimate programs that are important to vulnerable Americans.

They would cut tens of billions, for example, from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the TANF Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. There are tens of billions just in those programs alone.

And then, as Chairman WYDEN made reference to, Medicaid. The proposed cuts by House Republicans would devastate so many Americans who rely upon Medicaid: children, seniors, people with disabilities.

It would also, at the same time, not just be cuts of millions or tens of millions, it would be a \$100 billion cut to Medicaid over 10 years. That is the proposal. That is what we are supposed to accept as the only pathway, the only pathway to avoiding default.

Everyone knows that is a lie. Everyone knows that that is throwing sand in the eyes of the people so that they can't see the truth right in front of them. We must reject any bill that will increase poverty and take away healthcare from Americans.

What is Medicaid? I think we found out a lot more about what that program means to so many Americans over the last 10 years, when there were proposals over and over again to cut by 10 billion a year or 20 billion or 50 billion a year, proposed by House Republicans over and over again.

Medicaid tells us who we are as a people, as a country. It also tells us whom—whom—we value. We value our children, whether they live in rural

areas or small towns or in cities or suburban communities. We value those children. And that is what Medicaid is all about, making sure those children have healthcare.

We value people with disabilities. We say to ourselves as a people, we have to help folks who have a disability so they can lead a full life. Medicaid does that by providing healthcare to people with disabilities, especially children with disabilities. We found that out in a very real way when we were debating the proposal right here on the Senate floor in the summer of 2017.

When some said we should get rid of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the consequence of that, of course, was to devastate children on Medicaid who have disabilities.

Thirdly, of course, Medicaid tells us who we are because it protects seniors; it provides healthcare for seniors; it allows seniors to have long-term care. Now the same crowd, Members of Congress, who were proposing cutting Medicaid by \$100 billion over the 10 years, that is the same crowd who voted on a tax bill in 2017. Right around Christmastime, in December of 2017, they voted and passed a tax bill that gave away the store to very wealthy Americans and big corporations.

Now, they didn't have any compunction then about revenue. They said: We have got plenty of revenue so we are going to cut taxes for wealthy people and big corporations.

Now they come to us and say: Oh, we need to make cuts. We need to make cuts, and the cuts go to programs that help the most vulnerable.

Here is what Medicaid does for three groups of Americans: It makes it possible for one-third of all women in the United States of America to receive consistent, comprehensive prenatal care to increase the likelihood of having a healthy baby born at full term.

The House Republican bill puts one-third of pregnant women at risk of losing—losing—prenatal care. Here is what it means for Pennsylvanian families, women, and their children: About 43,700 births in the State of Pennsylvania each year are paid for by Medicaid, covered by the Medicaid Program. So that is one-third of Pennsylvanians or Americans who happen to be women who are pregnant.

Second, Medicaid provides healthcare and services for about half—about 45 percent—of all the adults in the country with disabilities. That is 10 million people in America who are benefited directly by the Medicaid Program.

The House Republican bill would expand the waiting list for home- and community-based services for seniors and people with disabilities. That is what they would do, make that waiting list, which is intolerably too long right now, make that longer.

Third, Medicaid pays for two-thirds of all long-term care for older adults who need nursing home or home care services. Again, the Republican House bill would cut funds for two-thirds of