

Rosen	Smith	Warnock
Sanders	Stabenow	Warren
Schatz	Sullivan	Welch
Schumer	Tester	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Wyden
Sinema	Warner	

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—1

Murray

The nomination was confirmed.
(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

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.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:30 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

NOMINATION OF DILAWAR SYED

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I have come to the floor today to express my support for Dilawar Syed, and his nomination to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

This Republican obstruction has gone on long enough. I ask my colleagues from across the aisle to join me in supporting this important nominee. Dilawar Syed is more than qualified to serve in this role at the Small Business Administration. He is an entrepreneur and a job creator, with decades of firsthand experience in business entrepreneurship and community engagement.

He has experience working directly with small business owners and has led efforts to drive economic growth at the local, State, and Federal levels.

Simply put, at the SBA, he would be an asset to our Nation's small businesses and would bring a critical voice to the Agency which currently lacks a fully staffed leadership team.

The SBA has not had a Senate-confirmed Deputy Administrator for more than 5 years. This is a critical mistake. This high-level absence weakens the Agency and inhibits the SBA's ability to serve the millions of small business owners looking to the Agency for resources, assistance, and capital to start and grow their businesses.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have launched unfair and baseless attacks against Mr. Syed and have held up his nomination for years. They have even repeatedly failed to show up to vote on his nomination in the Small Business Committee.

These partisan attacks are simply efforts to undermine President Biden and his administration at the SBA, as well as their ability to successfully serve our small businesses nationwide.

These Republican attacks also unfairly disparage Mr. Syed, who is not only a successful business leader and community organizer, but also, importantly, a first-generation immigrant who fully exemplifies the American dream.

With this unique and important background, Mr. Syed would bring an influential new voice and perspective to help the SBA improve its outreach to immigrant communities that have been traditionally overlooked and underserved by the Federal Government.

My friends on the other side of the aisle know the importance of filling this vacancy at the SBA. Yet they have continued to play their partisan games.

Ahead of this vote on Mr. Syed's nomination, I ask you to join me in supporting this eminently qualified nominee. Let's do our jobs and finally get this nominee confirmed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in strong support for the confirmation of Dilawar Syed to fill the long vacant role of Deputy Administrator for the Small Business Administration.

After more than 2 years since President Biden first nominated Mr. Syed, the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship finally reported Mr. Syed's nomination out of the committee earlier this year.

Mr. Syed was nominated to fill a position that has been vacant for nearly 5 years. The vacancy has caused harm to small business owners throughout our Nation who depend on the SBA to be fully staffed in order to access capital, contracting opportunities, and entrepreneurial development training.

In an entrepreneurial career spanning over two decades, Mr. Syed has experience starting businesses and advocating for inclusion entrepreneurship at the international, Federal, and State level.

He currently serves as the Special Representative for Commercial and

Business Affairs at the United States Department of State, where he advances trade, commercial, and economic policies through commercial advocacy.

Prior to his position at the State Department, Mr. Syed was CEO at Lumiata, a healthcare technology company, and president at Freshworks, where he helped scale the software company's products to reach thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses.

Mr. Syed has also held a number of civic positions. In the Obama administration, he served as chair of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Economic Growth. And in California, he chaired the California Entrepreneurship Task Force under Governor Gavin Newsom's Office of Business and Economic Development.

With experience at the State Department as Special Representative and leadership roles in business, entrepreneurship, and public service, he is very well-positioned to help the SBA meet this critical moment small businesses face across the Nation.

As our small businesses continue to recover from the pandemic while facing new challenges, it is essential that the SBA is fully equipped to meet their needs.

During the pandemic, the Agency provided relief to millions of existing small businesses. Now, record levels of new businesses are being created under the Biden-Harris administration. SBA has the unique opportunity to foster the continuation of this small business boom, making sure that entrepreneurs have the resources, assistance, and capital that will create economic prosperity for communities across the country.

While the SBA has worked tirelessly to provide this assistance, the pandemic exposed a clear need for modernization, technical upgrades, new resources, and reforms at the SBA. That is why we need a Deputy Administrator today more than ever. The skills and qualifications Mr. Syed possesses are a perfect fit for the SBA's needs. He has broad support from dozens of small business organizations that understand the needs of entrepreneurs.

They know that Mr. Syed is an individual who will endlessly continue to advocate for and support our small businesses. Allowing the position of Deputy Administrator to remain empty for so long is a great disservice to our Nation's small business owners.

His confirmation process has been fraught with unacceptable delaying tactics, unfounded accusations, and unrelated controversies.

Throughout it all, however, Mr. Syed has shown only patience and perseverance. I am honored to stand here today, finally, to support his nomination for the position of SBA Deputy Administrator. I am confident that America's small businesses and the communities they support will benefit from him in this role.

I urge all my colleagues to support his confirmation. This is what our small business community needs. I would urge my colleagues to ratify his nomination.

With that, I would yield the floor.

Madam President, I would ask consent that we proceed with the vote immediately.

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

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 bill 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. 81, Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Gary C. Peters, Jeanne Shaheen, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed.

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 Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Boozman	Britt
Blackburn	Braun	Budd

Capito	Hoeven	Romney
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cotton	Johnson	Rubio
Cramer	Kennedy	Schmitt
Crapo	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lee	Scott (SC)
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tillis
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Graham	Moran	Vance
Grassley	Mullin	Wicker
Hagerty	Paul	Young
Hawley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Murray	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54 and the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the confirmation of the Syed nomination be at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader on Thursday, June 8.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I ask that the Senate resume consideration of the Silfen nomination.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

RURAL PROGRAMMING

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, 46 million Americans live in rural areas. This includes 35 percent of the residents in my home State of Nebraska.

Often, in the government, we focus on the majority of Americans living in urban population hubs, but we have just as much of an obligation to the millions of rural citizens in our country.

Communications access is foundational to our quality of life, especially in rural areas where the closest neighbor can be many miles away. And that is what I want to focus on today.

As a member of the Senate Commerce and Agriculture Committees, I have the privilege of regularly advancing

communications policy that benefits all Americans, including those in rural areas.

I have led multiple pieces of legislation to improve broadband mapping to benefit unserved rural areas, including the broadband funding map that the President signed into law as part of the bipartisan infrastructure package. It is vital that every last mile and acre of our country has access to reliable internet, whether for telehealth appointments or to make use of the more efficient agricultural technologies.

But broadband isn't the only type of communication rural communities rely on, especially for households without internet service. They rely on television programming to keep updated about the world around them. The well-being of rural Americans and a robust media made up of diverse viewpoints are important to me, and they are important to Nebraskans throughout the State. And access to rural and agricultural programming benefits all Americans.

Farmers and ranchers in Nebraska depend on this content for relevant news, information, and lifestyle programming. We are talking about everything from in-depth reports on weather patterns, agribusiness news, and commodity market swings, western sports, and a lot more.

This programming delivers essential information to producers that directly impacts the way that they manage their operations and the way they plan for the future.

At the same time, Americans on the coasts and in major urban and suburban areas also benefit from programming that helps them understand major issues affecting the country that originate in the heartland. And we both know that rural programming doesn't mean old reruns of "Green Acres" or of "The Beverly Hillbillies."

Rural and agricultural programmers are in a unique position to educate the public and what it means to be a family farmer or a rancher, on how producers are some of the best stewards of our natural resources, and on what the future of agriculture and producing the food that we all need looks like.

This is one reason that I was pleased, as ranking member of the Rules Committee, to recently approve RFD-TV to be added to the Senate TV network. RFD-TV is one of the preeminent sources of rural news in the country.

Networks like RFD-TV work hard to cover issues affecting the agricultural sector and rural communities. The senior Senator from Minnesota and I approved its addition to the Senate TV network because that unique perspective and that expertise is a must-have here in Washington, where we all work on policies affecting rural America every single day.

And it is not just TV programming that provides critical news and information to rural communities. Millions of Americans use AM radio to stay up to date on what is affecting them.