

have opportunities to succeed if we face those challenges together.

(Applause, Senators rising.)  
I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF RACHEL BLOOMEKATZ

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Rachel Bloomekatz to an Ohio seat on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ms. Bloomekatz is a longtime appellate litigator who has represented a diverse range of clients, across the political and ideological spectrum, throughout her career. She received her bachelor's degree from Harvard College and her law degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, before clerking for Judge Guido Calabresi on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Following this role, Ms. Bloomekatz clerked for Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and spent 1 year serving as an assistant attorney general in the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. She then clerked for Justice Breyer on the U.S. Supreme Court.

She later entered private practice, where she focused on protecting voting rights and holding government actors accountable. During this time, she represented a wide variety of clients on appellate matters, including, in one case, representing one of our Republican colleagues in the Senate.

Today, Ms. Bloomekatz works as a solo practitioner. And throughout her legal career, she has amassed significant experience briefing and arguing dozens of Federal and State appeals. In each matter, irrespective of her client, she has proven herself to be an effective advocate and has regularly won praise from opposing counsel.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Ms. Bloomekatz "well qualified," and she has the strong support of Senator BROWN.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, it is my honor today to rise in support of Rachel Bloomekatz to serve as a judge on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. People often think of the courts, especially the circuit courts—this comes from a nonlawyer, keep in mind—as something like an ivory tower, detached from everyday people's lives.

We know the decisions judges make affect Ohio's workplaces and affect Ohioans in their paychecks and in their own personal freedom about how to live their lives. That is why it matters so much whom we promote to these important jobs.

We want our brightest talent. We need our brightest talent on the bench. We need thoughtful judges—thoughtful judges who adhere to the highest ethical standards, who follow the letter and the spirit of the law. We need judges who are compassionate, capable

of recognizing and understanding the many different perspectives of the people who will come into their courtrooms. And we need judges with wisdom and with a love for our country's core values.

Rachel Bloomekatz will be all of those things. She will protect the rights of all Americans, not just the powerful and the privileged—something, unfortunately, we see far too much of in the Nation's highest courts.

Ms. Bloomekatz brings with her not only impressive legal credentials but the empathy, the intellect, and the deep commitment to justice required to serve the people of the Sixth Circuit.

Rachel had an impressive academic career, to be sure. She clerked for highly respected judges on the State supreme court, in the Federal district, and in circuit levels, and she clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court. Rachel has a robust and successful litigation practice where she has advanced the cause of justice.

Throughout her career, Ms. Bloomekatz sat on both sides of the table. She represented people across the ideological spectrum. She has represented companies and consumers. She has argued on behalf of the government and for the rights of private citizens.

She has been recognized for the breadth of her practice, which includes work on both civil and criminal matters, both types of cases she will see as a judge on the Sixth Circuit.

She has worked with women's groups, and she has worked with veterans groups, seeking justice for women harmed while giving birth on Active Duty at military hospitals. She helped to represent our colleague Senator MARCO RUBIO with an amicus brief, arguing in support of his legislation providing protections for victims of human trafficking.

Don't just take it from me. Listen to the chorus of people from all across the ideological and political spectrum who enthusiastically support Rachel Bloomekatz's nomination. Twenty fellow Supreme Court clerks, including several Scalia clerks and Kavanaugh clerks, wrote to the Judiciary Committee saying:

We hold diverse opinions on many areas of law. We are united in our view, though, that Rachel is an extraordinary nominee who will uphold the best traditions and defining attributes of the Federal courts, the rule of law, equal justice, fidelity, and the Constitution.

They are joined by 25 Ohio appellate lawyers—again, from across the political and ideological spectrum—who also wrote in support. They said:

Some of us will no doubt disagree with some of the opinions Rachel will author or join on in the Sixth Circuit. We are united, though, in urging the Judiciary Committee and the United States Senate to confirm her to the Sixth Circuit.

The letter goes on:

Rachel has the right temperament to serve as an Article III judge, and her intelligence, diligence, and respect for the rule of law will

make her an excellent addition to the Sixth Circuit.

Perhaps Ms. Bloomekatz's most powerful endorsement is from the judges already on the Sixth Circuit who have appointed her to represent clients in serious cases with fundamental rights at stake.

Ms. Bloomekatz is supported by Jewish leaders who represent the breadth and diversity of Ohio's Jewish community—Eric Fingerhut, former Member of the House, the president and CEO of Jewish Federations of North America; Howie Beigelman, the executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities, who recently brought a group of his colleagues to Washington, last week, to talk to Members of the Ohio delegation in both parties about the evil scourge of anti-Semitism.

Rabbi Kanter, Rachel's rabbi when she was a child in Nashville, said:

Rachel's deep values, informed by her Biblical faith, have led to her compassion for people and her commitment to justice and to the law. I can think of no better endorsement than that. I can think of no better candidate to serve the States of the Sixth Circuit—my State of Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, and Tennessee. There is no better candidate than Rachel Bloomekatz.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting Rachel Bloomekatz's confirmation.

VOTE ON BLOOMEKATZ NOMINATION

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

Mr. BROWN. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Budd	Cotton
Blackburn	Capito	Cramer
Boozman	Cassidy	Crapo
Braun	Collins	Cruz
Britt	Cornyn	Daines

Ernst	Lee	Rounds
Fischer	Lummis	Rubio
Graham	Manchin	Schmitt
Grassley	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	McConnell	Sullivan
Hawley	Moran	Thune
Hoeven	Murkowski	Tillis
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Tuberville
Johnson	Ricketts	Vance
Kennedy	Risch	Wicker
Lankford	Romney	Young

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Fischer	Padilla
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Graham	Reed
Blumenthal	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hassan	Rosen
Britt	Heinrich	Rounds
Brown	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Shaheen
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Sinema
Casey	Kaine	Smith
Cassidy	Kelly	Stabenow
Coons	King	Tester
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Thune
Cotton	Lujan	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Welch
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fetterman	Ossoff	Young

Ways and Means Committee and was ultimately passed in the House of Representatives by a voice vote. It was originally put forward by Ways and Means Committee Chair SMITH and Ranking Member NEAL, as well as Senator CRAPO and myself as chair and ranking member of the Finance Committee.

Before I make this unanimous consent request on the bipartisan, bicameral bill called the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act, I want to highlight, for just a couple of minutes, why this bill is so important.

First, the reason behind this proposal, first and foremost, is that the U.S. Congress fully supports deepening our trade relationship with Taiwan and wants to ensure that the recent agreement covering trade facilitation, anti-corruption, and small business is legally sound and durable.

Not only is Taiwan a critical market for U.S. exporters, it is a democracy that shares our values and has strong ties with Oregonians and Americans across the land.

Next, this body wants to be clear that trade agreements are within the constitutional authority of the Congress. One of the ways the Senate demonstrates that is by approving trade agreements like this one.

Finally, the legislation requires greater transparency and consultation, as well as public review for future Taiwan trade agreements. Our workers, our farmers, and our businesses deserve the opportunity to read a trade agreement and understand how it affects them before it is signed by a government official and declared the law of the land. Trade agreements that affect millions of Americans can't be done in the dark. Congress and the American people need to know what is in these agreements and how they benefit American interests.

I look forward to working with the USTR, our point person for trade, to negotiate the bigger-ticket items with Taiwan—issues like digital trade, labor, environment, and agriculture, as outlined in the negotiating mandate. Future agreements need to bulldoze barriers to trade for Oregon exporters and American businesses everywhere, including by cutting red tape like labeling rules and making sure that Taiwan's technical standards don't make it tough for exporters to sell their goods. Involving Congress and the public is going to help the administration identify issues and hold them accountable for breaking down barriers.

This is a proposal that brings both sides together. The Taiwan trade agreement approval bill, as I indicated, passed unanimously in the other body. This trade agreement legislation is a can't-miss opportunity for the U.S. Senate to support Taiwan, clarify Congress's role in trade, and call for more transparency and consultation in future agreements.

NOT VOTING—2

Mullin Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). 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.

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 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jon Ossoff, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Kelly, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla.

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 motion to proceed to S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 25, as follows:

NAYS—25

Blackburn	Lankford	Sanders
Booker	Lee	Schmitt
Budd	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Cornyn	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Vance
Hawley	Paul	Warren
Johnson	Risch	
Kennedy	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—3

Cardin Mullin Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 25.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a moment, I am going to put forward a unanimous consent request to pass an important bill exercising Congress's constitutional authority and approving the first modern agreement regulating trade between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill was cosponsored by all 48 Democrats and Republicans on the