

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 10, Ana C. Reyes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark Kelly, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, 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 nomination of Ana C. Reyes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 18 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—1

Casey

(Mr. MERKLEY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The yeas are 52, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana C. Reyes, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, before I begin some remarks, I would like to advise the desk that I will deliver a portion of my remarks in Spanish.

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

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today profoundly humbled by the people of California for placing their trust in me to serve and represent them for a full term in the U.S. Senate.

It is a tremendous honor to return to this body, and I also recognize that it is also a tremendous responsibility.

To the people of California, thank you, and please know that I will work hard every single day to uphold that trust.

And to my colleagues who have helped me hit the ground running since my first day in the Senate 2 years ago, thank you, and that includes California's senior Senator, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, who has served the State of California for over three decades as a trailblazing public servant and a model for principled leadership, whom I have been honored to serve alongside.

And I will always be thankful for my parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla, for all they did for my brother, my sister, and me growing up.

And, of course, I could not be here without the love and support and often the patience and understanding of my wife Angela and our three boys, Roman, Alex, and Diego.

Now, as the first Latino elected to represent California in our State's history, it is not lost on me what this moment means for millions of people back home. I understand that my family's story is a reflection of what so many other hardworking families have experienced.

As I have shared many times before, my parents emigrated from Mexico. They came to the United States in search of a better life. For 40 years, my dad worked as a short order cook and my mom cleaned houses as they raised the three of us in the proud, working-class community of Pacoima, CA, in the San Fernando Valley.

I am proud of our family's journey, but it wasn't without our share of challenges. I remember what it looked like to see our neighborhood neglected, navigating everything from buckled sidewalks to drug dealers as we walked to and from school.

I remember what it was like for our family to live paycheck to paycheck—my mom, at times, bartering the mechanic, offering some of her homemade tacos for just a little bit more time to pay the bill.

And when it came time to figuring out how I was going to pay for college, I remember filling out the financial aid forms and realizing that tuition alone at MIT was a larger amount than my dad's W-2.

But it is because of their hard work and sacrifices that I stand here today. The very idea that a first-generation son of a short order cook and a housekeeper is now serving in the U.S. Senate is proof of the American dream.

But that dream has never been about passive participation. It is made possible by those who work for it and by those willing to defend it and expand it. It is about hopeful goals for a better future and the ambition to work towards them. It is about the drive to get up each morning before the sun rises, to put on a white apron, and push through tired eyes and a sore back because you know that someday your kids can have it better.

And if my parents are my inspiration for being here, then my children are my motivation for fighting to keep the dream alive. I am one of the few Members of this body blessed to still have young kids at home. So when we talk about the future of our country or the future of our planet, it is not in the abstract. I think of Roman, Alex, and Diego and their generation. They are the generation who will carry on these monumental tasks and fight for equality and opportunity in the future.

So, colleagues, we have to be focused on doing the work today to make sure the American Dream is alive for them tomorrow.

So I ask: Who is willing to defend the dream? And what are we willing to do to defend it?

(English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Who is willing to defend the American dream?

Today, I am here before you as the first Latino elected to represent California in the Senate. It is a dream come true because my family's story reflects what many working families have lived in this country.

My parents, Santos and Lupe Padilla, emigrated from Mexico to this country in the sixties.

For 40 years, my father worked as a cook, and my mother worked cleaning houses.

I am here today thanks to their sacrifices, and they continue to be my inspiration.

Now it is our turn to defend the dream for the next generation.

When we talk about the future of our country, or the future of our planet, I think about my sons Roman, Alex, and Diego.

They are my motivation to continue working for a better future, and to continue defending the American dream.

(End of Spanish translation).

You know, my first 2 years in the Senate, we have made real progress to keep the dream alive for millions of Americans—from giving families the extra support they needed to get through a once-in-a-century pandemic to lowering healthcare costs to passing the largest investment in history to confront the climate crisis—but we can't stop now.

American prosperity over the next 6 years—the survival of the American Dream—means keeping up the fight to level the playing field, and that starts with addressing some of the most urgent threats standing in the way of that dream.

You know, just last month, over the course of 3 days—3 days—my home State experienced three back-to-back-to-back mass shootings that claimed the lives of 19 Californians.

I was returning home from visiting a victim resource center in Monterey Park, CA, when I received word of the two additional shootings in Half Moon Bay and in Oakland.

Americans are sick and tired of the Republican excuses and the gun lobby rhetoric. No one can deny that we have a gun violence problem in America. When gun violence is the leading cause of death for children, how can we say they have the opportunity to achieve their dreams?

So I refuse to grow numb to the epidemic of gun violence. And I still have hope that we can prevent future tragedies with commonsense policies like universal background checks and an assault weapons ban that has been proven to save lives.

This winter California also experienced a relentless stream of severe weather—rain storms, flooding, and mudslides—that caused over \$1 billion in damages. I welcomed President Biden and Vice President HARRIS to survey the storm damage in California, and they have been exemplary partners both in disaster response as well as efforts to rebuild our communities. But the process to rebuild is ongoing, and we will need to work together to get the impacted areas the resources they need.

Let me be clear that, despite the record rainfall that dominated the news last month, California and our fellow Western States are still suffering from a crippling drought. Californians know all too well that natural disasters and extreme weather whiplash have become the new normal in the 21st century. Each year we brace for increasingly frequent and devastating wildfires, catastrophic flooding and mudslides, and searing droughts. They all point to one thing: the need for climate action.

Our very survival depends on our ability to combat the climate crisis. We must continue to step up our efforts to protect our planet. Yes, that means eliminating carbon pollution and transitioning to a clean-energy economy, and it also means fighting for clean air and water, particularly for the more vulnerable communities disproportionately impacted by environmental pollution. And it means protecting and managing our Federal lands and waterways.

At times, that means making difficult and innovative decisions to preserve our resources and protect our communities. For Western States that rely on the Colorado River, that means coming together to find consensus on a water agreement that prevents disaster and preserves the human right to water.

We must also reform our outdated immigration system and do so in a way that better reflects our values. That means creating a pathway to citizenship for the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who live in daily fear of deportation from the only home they have ever known and for all the essential workers who kept us safe and our economy going throughout the pandemic.

It means making sorely needed updates to our legal migration system by addressing the crippling visa backlog that keeps families apart and denies our economy the workforce that it needs. And it means ensuring that individuals and families who are fleeing horrific conditions in their home countries and seeking asylum in the United States are treated humanely and provided due process.

Our Nation is also confronting a serious mental health crisis. Now, this crisis existed well before COVID, but we saw the pandemic exacerbate the crisis. Demand for healthcare is way up, while we have an increasing shortage of healthcare professionals available.

This is also a critical opportunity to fundamentally end the stigma surrounding mental health. You know, if a family member or a friend breaks their arm or leg, we don't judge them for going to the hospital to seek help. Nobody looks down on somebody for going to the dentist for regular checkups. We need to treat mental health the same way.

And, finally, at a time of rising nationalism around the world, we must secure the foundations of democracy. For those who say that legislation to protect the sacred right to vote in America is too partisan, they are only right in the sense that attacks on our right to vote are partisan.

We must denounce Republican candidates across the country who choose to divide the American people with lies and conspiracy theories. As long as Republican-led State legislatures work to pass voter suppression laws across the Nation or election deniers put our election workers in danger, we have more work to do.

And as long as millions of eligible Americans have yet to exercise their right to vote, including the roughly 80 million who did not vote or were unable to vote in an otherwise record-setting 2020 election, we have more work to do. That work includes bolstering our cyber security efforts, not just to secure the infrastructure of elections but to combat disinformation from bad-faith actors.

Now, I am not naive about the challenges ahead. After 2 years of historic achievements, an extreme wing of Republicans now hold progress in the House of Representatives hostage. This group has shown that they would rather undermine our democracy than defend it. They would rather risk a first-ever default by the Federal Government than serve the interests of the American people.

At stake for millions of Americans are programs that they have spent decades paying into, like Medicare and Social Security, American institutions that define how we take care of one another and how we provide dignity for seniors.

And they have set their crosshairs on a woman's right to make her own decisions about her own body.

So we have a tall task ahead of us. But to the people of California, please know that I didn't seek out this office because I thought it would be easy. I did so because the issues are too important, and I am ready—I am ready—for the difficult fight ahead because today we have a responsibility to write the next chapter of American progress into history, to join so many who came before us who made the American dream possible.

When “huddled masses” came to our shores with the belief in a better future, immigrants put in the work to build our country and our economy and to make the dream a reality. When we celebrate America as the land of freedom and equality, we recognize generations of civil rights activists who risked everything for the right to vote and to expand the dream to groups often denied it.

And when a man from Jalisco and a woman from Chihuahua immigrated to Los Angeles in search of a better life, it was them—Santos and Lupe Padilla—who toiled and sacrificed to secure the dream for their children.

They are the American story. They are the American dream.

In closing, I just want to share that, over the last 2 years, countless people have asked me if becoming a U.S. Senator is a dream come true. My honest answer is no. You see, for me, when I was a kid growing up, I never dreamt that anything like this was possible.

But, now that I am here, I promise I will not take a single day for granted, and I will never stop fighting to keep the dream alive for future generations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

CRIME

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today to discuss yet another one of the consequences of this President's failed policies, and that is out-of-control crime.

Many Democrats have championed a soft-on-crime agenda that has contributed to soaring crime rates.

According to the Major Cities Chiefs Association, since 2019, violent crime is up 26 percent, aggravated assault is up 34 percent, and homicides are up a staggering 43 percent. This is not only unacceptable, it is terrifying. Repeated calls to defund the police, for open borders, and reduced sentencing or bail requirements have led to a crime increase so overwhelming that America's fear regarding crime in their communities is at a 50-year high.

Though President Biden bears ultimate responsibility here, in many ways he is following the direction of his party when it comes to crime. We have seen a lack of leadership from the White House, an overly politicized Department of Justice, and district attorneys who refuse to prosecute crimes.

The Biden administration has insisted on nominating radical, soft-on-crime advocates to Federal judgeships. While this is an utter disregard for law and order, it is deeply concerning, and it is a trend that we have seen over the last 2 years.

Despite previous efforts to defund the police, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are now walking back their claims that less law enforcement makes us safer. As many Democrat-led cities across the country heeded these calls, the United States experienced the biggest rise in murder since the start of national recordkeeping in 1960.

On top of this, we are experiencing record numbers of police officers who are quitting their profession or they are heading for retirement. Seattle has lost more than one-quarter of its police force in the last 2½ years. Just a short drive from here in DC, in Fairfax County, VA, their police chief declared a personnel emergency and staff shortage last June and installed mandatory overtime to keep their communities protected. Small communities across this country have seen their entire police force quit all at once. And perhaps very alarming, the New York City Police Department saw 3,701 police officers retire or resign in 2022. That is the most since 9/11.

My small State of West Virginia, my home State, is not exempt from these challenges as well. In 2021, the Morgantown Police Department began dealing with a 20-percent reduction in staffing. Our police chief said this was due to the danger associated with being an officer and an overall growing stigma of officers being aggressive or biased. The West Virginia University Police Department is experiencing a similar shortage, with a turnover rate that is still much higher than it was previous to the pandemic.

I live in Charleston, WV. The Charleston Police Department has been

offering large financial incentives to attract officers they desperately need. And the pride of West Virginia, our West Virginia State Police, continues to struggle to keep our State troopers.

We rely on our police for a multitude of services and protection, and in this era of out-of-control crime, we cannot afford to see these shortages continue.

On top of all this, the border crisis continues to fuel the fire of crime and spread illicit narcotics in our communities. Last year, we seized almost 15,000 pounds of fentanyl at our border. Well, in this first quarter, we have already seized 12,500 pounds just this fiscal year. That is only in a quarter of a year.

I see the ramifications of Biden's border crisis in my State, which is disproportionately impacted by the fentanyl and addiction crisis. In 2022, we sadly lost 1,135 West Virginians to overdoses. We have the highest rate of overdose deaths per capita of any State in the Union. There were 6,916 emergency room visits related to overdoses, with our EMS teams responding to another 9,205 suspected overdose calls.

Last week, in Wheeling, WV, local prosecutors indicted drug traffickers who served as "one of the largest suppliers of illicit substances to West Virginia," according to our U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District. And I congratulate Bill Ihlenfeld, who is the U.S. attorney in that office.

There was an original drug bust last October that recovered approximately 75 pounds of cocaine, 19 pounds of methamphetamine, and 5 pounds of fentanyl, which is very lethal in very small doses. Investigators found that these traffickers had drugs shipped from the U.S.-Mexico border to Ohio via tractor-trailer or they used cash payments to give to people who flew from California to the Pittsburgh International Airport. The connection between the crisis at our border and the drug epidemic we are seeing at home doesn't get any clearer than that.

Here in our Nation's Capital, amid surging violent crime and police shortages, DC's City Council is attempting a dangerous and irresponsible rewrite of their criminal code. Reducing the penalties for violent crimes—carjackings, robberies, and even homicides—as these numbers rise is incredibly tone deaf to local calls for increased safety and policing. This is happening right in the President's backyard.

So I commend my colleague Senator BILL HAGERTY from Tennessee for introducing a resolution of disapproval to block the DC City Council's dangerous and irresponsible Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 from taking effect. The DC City Council's legislation is the complete opposite of what we need to control this out-of-control crime.

While I have been talking about concerns for the types of crimes we can see, there are also increasing threats from crimes that could be described as

unseen. These threats emphasize the vulnerability of our children as recent years have pushed their lives into an increasingly digital space. Because of the pandemic, children are learning digitally and have more access to devices than ever before, putting them at an increased risk for luring, grooming, and exploitation.

The data here is incredibly disturbing. One in twenty children will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18. That statistic increases for young girls, with one in five experiencing some form of sexual abuse before the age of 18. Ninety percent of child abuse victims know their abusers, and 60 percent of child sexual abuse victims never tell anyone.

Well, I am a mother of three and a grandmother of eight now, and this is incredibly upsetting to me. We must safeguard our children from things that no child should ever have to experience.

So I would tell President Biden: I hope these statistics are a wake-up call.

Now more than ever, American families are asking for law and order in their communities and peace of mind in their neighborhoods. We as Republicans stand ready to continue our push for solutions that make our country safer and a stronger place to live.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to let these comments be made before the vote, and I will keep them brief.

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

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, yesterday, I spoke about a new law passed by the DC City Council. This law lowers penalties for crimes like carjacking and robbery. Thankfully, Congress is stepping in to stop this legislation.

DC, Washington here, should be an example of our American ideals. Sadly, it is becoming an example of the crime we are experiencing across the country in our larger cities. In Chicago, the Midwest, there are new records being broken in the wrong way each week, in New York, and even in places like my State capital of Indianapolis. It should be a wake-up call to crack down. Yet city governments keep going the other way.

The first priority of any government should be the safety of its citizens, especially at the local level, where you live each day. We know a big part of this is not about the laws we have. We have a lot of laws on the books. They are not enforced. In my State capital of Indianapolis, I have a prosecutor who will not enforce those laws, and even in the heart of our country, the Midwest, you have the same issue.

I guess the most disturbing part of all of this is the hatred for our police. They place their safety at hazard to protect ours. Too often, they pay the ultimate price in doing so.