

a hit. Let's say that an AI system, such as Jukebox, which is there on GPT—let's say you are going to train that system to sound like one of our Nashville hit makers. Then that means you are going to use their name, their image, their likeness, and their voice. It is a concept called voice cloning, and it is something we should be paying attention to.

Is there good that can come through artificial intelligence? Of course, there is. Think about what can happen as you are using it for predictive diagnoses in medicine, as you are using it for predictive disease analysis in medicine. Think about how you can use it for remote surgeries. There are good uses—the same thing for logistics, the same thing for manufacturing—all of which we see in our State. But there is also harm that can come for entertainers, for singers, for songwriters, for authors, for publishers. We need to realize that there can be good, but there also can be harm.

We also know that regimes that are hostile to the United States are doing everything that they can right this minute to exploit that technology, another of the adverse uses of artificial intelligence.

Here is an example. China has long used social media platforms like TikTok to push propaganda in the United States. Now, the Chinese Communist Party—the dear old CCP—they are at it again, using generative models to make these campaigns even more convincing. And it is not just those of us in Congress who see this. Microsoft recently released a report showing us exactly how the Chinese Communist Party is doing it.

We also know that authoritarian regimes will use AI to enhance their surveillance capabilities. The CCP, again, is already doing this. They are using it to surveil the Uighurs, tracking them. They are doing the same with the Tibetans and the Mongolians.

Then you look at Iran. They are using this to track and follow and use facial recognition to identify women, making certain that they are properly dressed and wearing that hijab in public. If they are willing to weaponize it against their own people—think about it. They have weaponized this technology. They are tracking and following and monitoring and surveilling individuals in their daily lives. If they are doing it to them, of course, they are going to do it to us.

Before we lead on AI, the United States must be technologically superior, but even the tech execs who came to Capitol Hill last week admit that there is a role for Congress to play in addressing privacy, national security, and other concerns. U.S. regulations must not hurt the ability of U.S. companies to dominate, but the lack of any governing standards can be just as damaging.

For example, because the United States doesn't have a data privacy law, we have fallen behind our counterparts

in the European Union on AI regulation. Back in February, Commissioner Vestager described for me, in a meeting that we had, how the GDPR has allowed the EU to move forward on AI.

The difficulty of installing guardrails while still encouraging freedom and innovation is not unique to AI. We have done this in the past, and we are going to need to do it again so that we retain that superiority in artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

NOMINATION OF VERNON D. OLIVER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am very pleased and proud to speak to my colleagues today about Vernon Oliver, whose nomination is before us. We will vote on it shortly. I anticipate that he will be approved, and I hope it will be with bipartisan support because Vernon Oliver represents exactly the kind of jurist, lawyer, public servant whom we want on the Federal bench.

Judges on our Federal trial courts are often the face and voice of justice. All too often, litigants are there for justice, and it is the end of the road for them one way or the other because they don't have the resources to appeal to the courts of appeal, which sit in other States, far away often, requiring expenditure of resources. So that district judge sitting in the court where, often, they live is the person who represents justice—the face and voice of justice—for them.

Vernon Oliver is exactly the kind of person who will be trusted to give justice. He grew up in Bridgeport, with not a lot in his home in the way of financial resources. He worked hard, went to the University of Connecticut for his B.A. and then for his J.D. The University of Connecticut prepared him for a life of public service, and that is what he has done, with a brief break for private practice and as a temporary assistant clerk for the Hartford Judicial District.

He joined the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, serving in the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, and then as a prosecutor in the Bristol Superior Court.

Then I had the great honor to hire Vernon Oliver to be an assistant attorney general. And I say I had the great honor because when I knew him first, when I met him, I knew he was the kind of person who would be a really superior, extraordinary assistant attorney general.

He went to work in the child protection unit, which essentially tries to protect children from abuse and neglect, tries to hold families together or reach some resolution when there is violence or other kind of dispute that divides them.

Here is what I learned about Vernon Oliver: He has a strong mind, he has a big heart, and he has a passion for justice. He handled dozens, hundreds, thousands of those cases over the time that he served as an assistant attorney general, and each one of them required him to focus his mind and his heart and that passion for justice. He took every one of them seriously, the same seriousness for every one. They are often extremely demanding, not just intellectually but emotionally, and he stepped up. He showed the fiber of his character.

He was nominated in 2009 to be a judge on the Connecticut Superior Court. His nomination was done by a Republican Governor, Jodi Rell. Throughout his 15 years on the bench, he has presided over numerous civil and criminal cases, including approximately 30 bench trials, approximately 20 jury trials, and thousands of hearings.

You don't really need to listen to me about Vernon Oliver; you can go to his colleagues, the legal community of Connecticut. A group of Connecticut attorneys, many of whom have practiced in front of Judge Oliver, wrote that he has "an exceptionally keen legal mind" and "is committed to the fair and impartial administration of justice." The George W. Crawford Black Bar Association noted that "[Judge Oliver's] decisions are well reasoned and thoughtful" and that "[p]ut simply, he is a phenomenal judge."

He is a phenomenal person, not just an extraordinary judge. That is why Connecticut State Representative Christie Carpino, a Republican, wrote this to the committee, our committee, the Judiciary Committee: "[Judge Oliver's] breadth of knowledge in both criminal and civil law, as well as the diversity of his judicial assignments, makes him uniquely qualified to be appointed to the federal bench" and that "he has the demeanor one could only hope all jurists possess."

I take this time to talk to my colleagues because I think we need to be mindful of a standard, a standard of excellence on our Federal bench. I thank and commend President Biden for this

nomination because he has recognized the importance of diversity, as well as high performance intellectually, and he has enabled us, I think, to raise that standard.

Judge Oliver is a perfect example of that standard, and he is the gold standard we are seeking to achieve and I believe we are achieving when we confirm him and others who have those same qualities.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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 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. 265, Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy.

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 Vernon D. Oliver, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 229 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—40

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

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Kelly	Risch
Hoeven	Moran	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING WW HOMESTEAD DAIRY

•Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize WW Homestead Dairy of Waukon, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded by Tom and Paul Weighner and Tom Walleser in 2011, WW Homestead Dairy is a creamery that features a retail shop in Waukon, IA. With over 90 years of dairy industry experience between the three founders, WW Homestead Dairy offers nonhomogenized milk, butter, cheese curds, and block cheddar cheese. The cheese curds are available in nine flavors and are made, along with the block cheddar cheese,

by creamery manager Bruce Snitker. For ice cream options, they offer over 30 flavors with 16 dipping options. WW Homestead also has a rotating menu of seasonal ice cream flavors, and the ice cream is made fresh once a week.

WW Homestead Dairy supports the Northeast Iowa community. In the past, they have hosted a chili cook-off to benefit vocational education training at Waukon High School and coordinated the Cheese Curds for Schools fundraiser. They also host a "Drive-In Moo-vie" night during the summer and the annual Corn Days Car Show. In 2023, the Corn Days Car Show celebrated its 10th anniversary, and WW Homestead Dairy celebrated its 12th business anniversary.

WW Homestead Dairy's dairy products have also been recognized, with their cheese curds sweeping the top three prizes at the 2022 Iowa Quality Dairy Products competition. Their best-of-show ranch peppercorn, second-place grilled steak and onion, and the third-place white cheddar cheese curds were all on display at the State fair. In the same competition, they also took home best of show" and second place in the Cow Cheese category with their Chipotle Morita cheddar and medium cheddar respectively. Finally, in 2021, at the World Dairy Expo, their chocolate milk tied for second in the skim chocolate milk class.

WW Homestead Dairy's commitment to providing high-quality dairy products in Waukon, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Tom and Paul Weighner, Tom Walleser, and the entire team at WW Homestead Dairy for their dedication to the Waukon community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on The Judiciary.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:26 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1435. An act to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of internal combustion engines.

H.R. 1450. An act to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of