

defend its sovereignty and protect its people in a very, very dangerous neighborhood. Israel is the lone beacon of democracy in the Middle East, and we have a national interest in supporting one of our most critical allies as it responds to this terrorist invasion.

Our second goal is to prevent this war from widening. Hamas does not operate in a vacuum. It is a beneficiary of funding, weapons, and training from Iran—the world's leading sponsor of international terrorism.

I have been disturbed as I have read some press reports where Biden administration officials have said: Well, we don't see Iran's fingerprints on this attack. But that is like looking at this situation through a soda straw—ignoring history; ignoring the fact that Iran has been at war with the West, including the United States, for decades, killing American soldiers in Iraq by providing explosively formed penetrators, using proxy groups like Hamas and Hezbollah to commit terrorist attacks. So Iran's fingerprints are definitely on this attack. They may have been surprised about the timing of the attack, but attacking Israel and killing innocent Israelis is the way they do business.

As I have said for years now, Iran has provided Hamas with the money, the weapons, and the military training that it uses against Israel and other allies of the United States. According to the State Department, Iran provides up to \$100 million a year to the Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas—\$100 million a year. And people in the Biden administration have said: We don't see Iran's involvement in this attack.

Give me a break. It doesn't matter if Iran called the plays for the attack or knew about the specific timing. Tehran has bankrolled Hamas's arsenal and its capabilities and is cheering on Hamas as it kills innocent Israelis—men, women, and children.

Iran gave Hamas the tools it needed to attack Israel and to further its goal of eliminating the Jewish State. The question now is, Will Iran use this opportunity to escalate? That is why U.S. warships are positioned in the Mediterranean—to provide the deterrence necessary to deter Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, from joining the conflict.

Our second goal must be to prevent this conflict from widening outside of Israel. The United States has a long and proud history of supporting Israel, and it is important for Hamas and its allies to understand that America's support for Israel is not just about empty words. We are committed to providing Israel with the resources it needs to defend itself whether that comes in the form of weapons, intelligence support, humanitarian assistance, or anything else.

Israel has received longstanding support from the United States and our allies, and I hope that Iran and Hezbollah recognize the high cost of expanding this conflict.

In an era of near-constant division and disagreement in Congress, I am glad this is an issue that has garnered broad, bipartisan support. Republicans and Democrats are united in purpose, as are the American people. We are committed to aiding Israel's fight against these terrorists and defending democracy in every corner of the globe.

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.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. 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 Delaware.

NOMINATION OF JENNIFER L. HALL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my support for Jennifer Hall's nomination to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for Delaware.

Before I describe what makes Jennifer Hall particularly well suited for the role, let me just take a moment, if I can, to describe our approach to filling court vacancies in the First State.

For over a decade, my colleague—my wingman, if you will—from Delaware, Senator CHRIS COONS, and I have relied on a collaborative process for putting forward U.S. district court recommendations to the White House, regardless of who is in the White House. With the help of a judicial nominating commission, Senator COONS and I have worked to identify some of those qualified individuals in Delaware in order to recommend them to the President, regardless of political party. The process serves Delaware well, it serves our Nation well, and it has yielded yet another extraordinary nominee before us today.

As I often say, justice delayed is justice denied. Justice delayed is justice denied. It is critical that we act swiftly to confirm Jennifer Hall to Delaware's U.S. district court. It is one of the busiest if not, maybe, the busiest district court in the Nation.

I also want to take a moment to thank Judge Rich Andrews for his service to this court and also to our State and to our Nation. I know that when he takes senior status at the end of this year, Jennifer Hall will be well prepared to help take on an enormous workload before the court.

I would like to share just a little bit more, if I could, about her with our colleagues today. Jennifer grew up in Minnesota and is a proud graduate of the University of Minnesota—home of those Golden Gophers—where she earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. She then made her way to Yale, where she met her husband Dave and earned not one but two degrees—a master's and a Ph.D. in both molecular physics and biochemistry. But apparently three degrees weren't enough, so she continued her studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Law School,

where she graduated magna cum laude and immediately began a successful legal career.

In the years that followed, she had the distinction of clerking for two Federal judges appointed by President George W. Bush.

Jennifer went on to work at Fish & Richardson, a Wilmington, DE, law firm, where she focused on patent law and other complex business issues.

After 3 years in private practice, she felt called to serve the people of Delaware and of America. She spent the next 8 years at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Delaware. Then, in 2019, Jennifer was selected to serve as a magistrate judge at the U.S. district court for Delaware—the same court to which she has now been nominated to serve as a Federal judge.

The last 4 years have given her some of the best preparation and on-the-job training that anyone could ask for. Magistrate Judge Hall has impressed her colleagues on the bench both with her intellect and her work ethic, and she has a deep respect for and knowledge of the law.

Her background as a scientist, as a legal scholar, and as a magistrate judge has prepared her well for this new role. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote to confirm Magistrate Judge Jennifer Hall to serve as the next U.S. district court judge for Delaware. I am certain she is going to be ready to hit the ground ready on day one, especially in a district court as busy and as important as Delaware's.

Before I yield back my time, I am going to be joined here momentarily, I believe, by Senator COONS, my colleague from Delaware, who serves on the Judiciary Committee and with whom I serve and enjoy the opportunity to serve with him for our State. We have, I think, probably not the kind of close working relationship when it comes to judicial nominations that you find in most other States. We do it as a team. We have great help from the folks on the nominating commission who help make sure we not only identify excellent candidates but actually are able to present them for confirmation to the Senate.

The Presiding Officer, as my friend, I think you know that I am a recovered Governor. I served as Governor of Delaware for 8 years. As Governor in Delaware, the Governor gets to nominate people to serve on the court of chancery, superior court, family court, supreme court, and to submit those names to the legislature for their consideration—to the Senate, rather.

I always looked for three or four qualities, if you will, in the people I nominated as Governor to serve on the bench in Delaware. Even as State courts, we considered some of the major issues of our country, business laws and others. One thing I always looked for in nominees was people who are smart, not just book smart but actually wise. I looked for people who had a strong work ethic. I looked for

people who believe in the Golden Rule, treating the folks who come before them in their courtroom the way they want to be treated, and people who have integrity that just could not ever be questioned. Those are just some of the criteria I looked for in my judicial nominees.

For 8 years, I submitted names to the State senate in Delaware. They all went before the executive committee and eventually were considered. Every one of those nominees was confirmed, which says a lot about Delaware—a lot about Delaware.

I hope we will take a similar kind of action here today. Jennifer got a good vote on cloture, and my hope is that we can replicate that as well.

I will yield back. I don't know if I can reserve time so that when Senator COONS arrives, he will have time left as well because I know he is trying to get here. But this is, I think, a proud day for Delaware, and I know it is for Jennifer and her family.

With that, 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.

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

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask that I be permitted to complete my comments before we proceed to the next vote.

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of the Honorable Jennifer Hall to be our next district court judge for the District of Delaware.

One of the very busiest dockets in the entire Nation, the District of Delaware handles a remarkable amount of complex patent cases and cutting-edge commercial litigation. It takes a special judge to serve in this court, and Judge Hall's unique background and extensive legal experience make her an ideal candidate.

My colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee agreed, advancing her nomination to this floor by a strong bipartisan vote of 16 to 5. Judge Hall received support from half of the Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, including Ranking Member GRAHAM and Senators GRASSLEY, CORNYN, LEE, and TILLIS.

She already knows the District of Delaware very well, serving as a magistrate judge since 2019. She has proven herself a legal powerhouse and, time and time again, has handled a high volume of the most complex cases.

Her legal experience before assuming the bench is just as impressive: 8 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Delaware, where she was chief of the civil division, leading hundreds of cases on behalf of our Federal

Government. Prior to that, she practiced law at Fish & Richardson, P.C., where she litigated intellectual property and complex commercial cases.

A graduate of Penn Law, she clerked for Judge Kent Jordan on the Third Circuit and Judge Sharon Prost on the Federal Circuit. Before enrolling at Penn, she earned a Ph.D. in molecular biophysics and molecular biochemistry at Yale, an education and background that will aid her as she decides complex patent and IP law cases.

You can see why the American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Hall as "well qualified" to serve on the District of Delaware bench.

Mr. President, I know Judge Hall to be a balanced and thoughtful jurist, a skilled lawyer, and a compassionate human being—not just a great judge but a loving wife to her husband David and a devoted mother to their children. Judge Hall's exceptional qualifications, strong character, and even temperament will make her an asset to the District of Delaware.

Yesterday, we voted by a margin of 63 to 26 to invoke cloture. I am hopeful for an even stronger vote just now. I support her nomination without reservation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON HALL NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARPER. 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Grassley	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Budd	Kaine	Rounds
Cantwell	Kelly	Rubio
Capito	King	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schatz
Carper	Lankford	Schumer
Casey	Lee	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lujan	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cornyn	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tillis
Cramer	Moran	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Vance
Fetterman	Murphy	Warner
Gillibrand	Murray	
Graham	Ossoff	

Warnock	Welch	Wyden
Warren	Whitehouse	Young

NAYS—29

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Schmitt
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Crapo	Kennedy	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Butler	Paul
Durbin	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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 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. 297, Julia Kathleen Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Mark Kelly, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth.

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 Julia Kathleen Munley, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows: