

That is why Congress, traditionally, does not require a separate congressional review process, a separate congressional vote every time an administration lifts a sanction because you need for an administration to be nimble in applying sanctions and also lifting sanctions because if a foreign individual in Iran or any other place understands that in order for a sanction to be lifted not only does the administration have to lift it but Congress has to have a debate and a vote, it is no incentive to change behavior.

So I just think this is really bad policy. Whether or not you like President Biden's Iran policy—and I do—whether or not you supported the JCPOA, tying the administration's hands on sanction policy in this way just makes the sanctions much less effective. I get it. The Republicans don't like Joe Biden, and they don't like Joe Biden's foreign policy, but this would be bad under a Republican President as well.

I am very glad to work with my colleague on increasing the role that Congress plays on broad foreign policy decisions, but I think that there are some day-to-day administrations of foreign policy, like the decision as to when to waive or lift a particular individual sanction, that would become far too burdensome and contrary to national security interests if Congress got involved to the degree that this legislation suggests.

And so for that reason, simply because I think this is bad policy—whether this was about Iran policy or Venezuela policy or Russia policy, I just think it makes our sanctions policy much harder to effectuate and ultimately makes our sanction regimes weaker, not stronger.

For those reasons, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I would welcome the opportunity to work with my colleague Senator MURPHY on sanctions policy, sanctions policies that make sense, but I would say this. If this policy is good enough for CAATSA in Russia, why wouldn't it be good enough for Iran?

The Senate has already passed CAATSA. I have used the exact language. I would also like to say this. If it is true that this administration is not waiving sanctions and is not entering an agreement, they should have no difficulty with this level of review. I don't believe that is the case.

And I also would like to address the accusations, I should say, leveled against the policy in the last administration after the withdrawal of the JCPOA. Iran never stopped their nuclear program. Israel, in a very brave and courageous raid, proved that they were continuing on that path.

As part of my prior job as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, it was my responsibility to get Japan to stop buying Iranian crude. I was successful at that after many rounds of negotiation. We

cut Iran's fund flows down to a trickle. That starved Iran's ability to fund its proxies, like Hamas and Hezbollah. In fact, it was widely reported in the media that Hamas and Hezbollah were going broke.

That all changed when the policy of appeasement came back in 2021. By avoiding sanctions, by not enforcing sanctions, the estimates are as high as \$80 billion of fresh illicit oil revenues that have entered Iran's coffers. We know about the payment that was allowed by Iraq to Iran by this administration. Senator COTTON just addressed this and the \$6 billion that has received so much scrutiny in the media just recently.

All of this has enriched Iran. All of this has put Iran in a better position to fund its proxies and fuel them, and I think all of this is part of a very misguided policy of appeasement.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Gilbride nomination be considered expired at 5:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

ISRAEL

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the eyes of the world are watching to see how we react to the terrorist attack Israel has suffered. Days after Hamas launched a horrific assault, kidnapping nearly 200, killing over 1,000, and injuring thousands more, the world is watching with bated breath.

Scenes of Hamas's evil are seared into our collective conscience. The images are indelible: Israelis slaughtered by marauding thugs, concertgoers shot in the back in broad daylight, people butchered, women raped, even infants murdered in cold blood. The barbaric atrocities are an affront to humankind itself. In the face of unspeakable evil, we must not mince words. We must not waiver in our resolve. Every single one of us in this Chamber has a moral responsibility to speak out unequivocally and unapologetically as we stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel and her people.

Now, I have been staunchly devoted to this cause for 31 years in Congress. Why? Because the bond between our nations is sacrosanct. In 1948, the United States was the first Nation to recognize Israel, a mere 11 minutes after it declared independence. Our two nations—intrinsically linked—were founded on similar principles, among them, justice, equal rights, freedom of religion, and the respect for the rule of law.

Over the years, both nations have been shaped by individuals seeking refuge from tyranny and oppression. Both nations have pursued truth and knowledge in an open society, unleashing innovation and creating untold prosperity for millions across the world.

But beyond this common cause, the United States-Israel relationship has

stood the test of time because of three fundamental facts: One, the United States is strong when Israel is strong; two, the Jewish people deserve to live in peace and security in the indisputable land of their ancestors going back to the times of Abraham and Sarah; and, three, Israel has the right to defend herself from the existential threats that surround it.

This last point deserves special attention, especially as some seek to equate the two sides in this conflict. To me, adherents of this view could not be more mistaken. There is no moral equivalency. We cannot “both sides” the Israeli-Hamas conflict, not when one is a sovereign democracy that guarantees freedom of religion and the other is a designated terrorist group hell-bent on killing Jews and destroying the Israeli people.

We cannot “both sides” the conflict when, for decades, one has shouldered the heavy costs of war, terrorism, and unjustified boycotts and the other has diverted humanitarian aid towards weapons designed to kill as many as possible. We cannot “both sides” the conflict in light of the steps taken by Israel to limit civilian casualties. No nation but Israel actively takes steps to warn of impending attacks. None. No other nation drops leaflets and makes phone calls to alert residents that they may be in danger's way. Only Israel waits to begin its military offensive, even when it means losing the element of surprise and putting it at a tactical disadvantage.

Compare that to the barbaric steps taken by Hamas. When Israel voluntarily and unilaterally withdrew from Gaza in 2005, did Hamas moderate its actions? Did it take the opportunity to build peace and create prosperity for the Palestinian people? No.

Instead, it instigated war, and it continued to terrorize and kill Israelis. It fired tens of thousands of rockets into population centers, indiscriminately raining terror down on families while they slept, children while they walked to school, or congregants while they gathered to pray. Not only did it brazenly commit these war crimes, it did so while using its own residents as human shields. That is right. Across the Gaza Strip, Hamas co-opted Palestinian homes, schools, and mosques to carry out attacks on their Israeli counterparts.

So to those who seek moral equivalence between the two sides, I ask you: Who fires rockets out of someone's home? Hamas. Who uses schools and hospitals as launching sites for deadly missiles? Hamas. Who uses mosques as weapons depots? Hamas. Moreover, who denies food, water, fuel, and shelter to civilians in order to better its fighters? Hamas. Who denies Palestinians the right to leave northern Gaza, trapping them to use them as human shields? Hamas.

We must recognize, of course, that not all Palestinians are part of Hamas and that many residents in Gaza are

trapped in a cycle of violence that is nothing of their doing. But I will say it again: Hamas is not a legitimate political entity. It does not have a mandate to govern the people of Gaza. It is a terrorist organization guided by religious fanaticism. Full stop.

In the past, when Israel has opened up economic opportunities for Palestinians in Gaza, Hamas used the good will of Israel to lull Israel into a false sense of security. In this way, the Gazan people's thirst for freedom and prosperity has been supplanted by Hamas's thirst for vengeance and destruction. And after misleading Israel into thinking that it cared about the economic well-being of Palestinians instead of its stated mission of killing Jews, Hamas bought itself time to train and prepare for one of the most heinous terrorist attacks in Israel's history.

So make no mistake. The difference between Israel and Hamas is the difference between a civilized society and barbarism. If there is suffering to be found in Gaza, it is a direct result of Hamas's actions. Hamas does not care if innocent Israeli families are forced to suffer, and it does not care if Palestinians go without food, shelter, or electricity. It only cares about sowing chaos and fomenting violence in pursuit of its stated goal: the destruction of the State of Israel.

And by refusing to accept Israel's right to exist, putting it at odds with Arab countries who have joined the Abraham Accords and Palestinian authority for that fact in the West Bank, Hamas has revealed its true colors. For the sake of Israel, for the sake of the Palestinian people, Hamas must be eradicated from the face of the earth.

On October 7, it launched a brutal first salvo, an operation that clearly—in my mind—has Iran's fingerprints on it because of the capabilities Hamas alone does not have: intelligence and technological factors. Only a state actor would have that.

And the only state actor willing to assist Hamas with that is Iran. Now, perhaps Hamas launched its attack in the belief that others would join a multifront war to eliminate Israel. Perhaps it saw the writing on the wall with the recent Abraham Accords and talks of Israeli-Saudi normalization, or perhaps it sought to turn public sentiment against Israel with a race to the bottom, boosting its own image among the rogues' gallery of anti-Israel regimes.

But regardless of why Hamas carried out its attack, today, in this Chamber, let us expose Hamas for what it is. Let us reject the trap that they have tried to set and stand with our ally Israel in the wake of abhorrent attacks. Let us recommit to the principles we share with Israel as we support her in her hour of need. Let us call out Holocaust deniers who deny Israel's legitimacy. Let us promote the honest truth about Israel's contributions and call out anti-Semitism wherever it is found. And let

us also root out the poisonous ideology of Islamophobia that recently claimed the life here in the United States of a 6-year-old Palestinian-American boy, Wade Al-Fayoume.

And, above all, let us do the work we were elected to do, passing a bipartisan funding package to replenish the Iron Dome—something that, in the past, I have led on—and swiftly confirming a nominee to be our Ambassador to Israel. This is not a moment to hesitate. This is a clarion call.

As we prepare to take votes in support of our ally's struggle against terrorism, I can't help but think back to my very first visit to Israel over three decades ago. It is a trip I will never forget, especially the helicopter ride that crossed the narrowest part of Israel in only 3 minutes. In 3 minutes, we traversed a piece of land of such significant history where so many residents, with their backs to the sea, are surrounded by unfriendly neighbors.

As I crisscrossed the country from the Negev Desert to Jerusalem to the Galilee, I was immensely moved, not just by the people who made the desert green, but by the holy sites that ground my faith as a Christian. I freely visited these sites—as so many others have over the years—because Israel's jurisdiction ultimately opened them up to all. It is a freedom to worship that isn't guaranteed everywhere.

Mr. President, to me, this conflict boils down to the fundamental idea of freedom. Will we accept a world where militants with rockets and weapons can dictate the future? Or will we send them to the dustbin of history?

Will we stand up to terrorists and be there for our staunchest ally when they are in need? Freedom-loving people, freedom-loving nations, must answer this call and meet the moment at hand. Israel is the one place in the world—the one place—where anti-Semitism can be structurally impossible. It is the field of hope on which fear can be vanquished, the island of refuge that can stand firm no matter how stormy the sea of history turns, and that is why we must always keep it safe and always keep it free.

May we find the courage and the political will to do so quickly in the days ahead.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, along with Americans all across our country, I am appalled at what has happened in Israel over this last week. It is hard to watch the brutality of Hamas's attack on Israel. It is hard to believe that the terror Hamas perpetrated is something human beings are capable of doing.

Last week, Hamas militants stormed the Israel-Gaza border in a despicable, deadly attack against Israeli civilians—men and women, children, and the elderly, Israelis and foreigners, Americans. Hamas killed person after person with no regard for human dig-

nity. The militants seized and kidnapped almost 200 hostages, including many of our own American citizens. When civilians in small Israeli towns came out of hiding after sheltering for their lives and praying they would be spared, they came out to find corpses in their streets, doors riddled with bullet holes, the ground stained with human blood, houses burning and collapsing. They have told journalists of the horror they felt when they stepped out into the wreckage and were met with the smell of decaying flesh.

This is obscene. This is hideous. We can and should all agree on that.

Secretary of State Blinken, on his visit to Israel, said he saw images of a baby covered in bullet holes, soldiers who had been beheaded, and people burned alive in their cars.

He said:

If images are worth a thousand words, these images may be worth a million.

How do we respond to such a tragedy? Not only are these actions depraved and inhumane, they have been perpetrated against one of our closest partners in the world. Hamas's goal in this attack—its goal in kidnapping babies and elderly women—was to shock Israel to the core, to bring it to its knees, so that vicious terrorist groups could get the upper hand—Hamas from the west and now Hezbollah to the north.

Hamas and Hezbollah will not get the upper hand. Israel will defend its sovereignty and its people, standing tall. And we will support them.

Now is not the time for the United States to shrink back from the world stage and let Israel stand in isolation. We must stand up against terror. We must stand up against the kidnapping of little babies. We must stand up against the rape and torture of innocent citizens. We must stand up against those who would grasp at political power by committing war crimes. If we can't stand up against this, what can we stand against?

And, in response to this terror, we must stand with Israel. In response to a brutal attack on its sovereign territory, we must stand with Israel. In response to the heinous massacre of its citizens, we must stand with Israel. Israel has the right and the responsibility to defend itself against this unconscionable aggression. We must provide its government with the support it needs to defend its territory and its citizenry. We must take steps that allow Israel to regain its footing and make the difficult decisions it needs to make as a sovereign nation.

The United States and Israel are bound by shared values and strategic interests, and we are now further bound by shared tragedy. Hamas has American blood on its hands after this attack. Some of our own citizens are being held hostage underground in Gaza. We must act to show terrorist groups and their close friend, Iran, that we will not abide the slaughter and kidnapping of Americans.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am working with my colleagues and the administration to ensure that the United States is able to provide Israel with the support and the resources it needs to eliminate this threat.

Our allies and partners, as well as our adversaries, are closely watching how our country will respond to Hamas's loathsome attack. Our actions should encourage allies and partners to follow suit in supporting Israel and in denouncing this terrorism; and our actions must deter our adversaries from taking advantage of the volatility in the Middle East and further destabilizing that region.

Our focus in the region must turn to one adversary in particular: Iran. The Iranian regime bankrolls terrorist activity throughout the Middle East. Iran provided Hamas with the weapons it used against Israel. The regime directly supports Hezbollah—the group that Israel is now facing from across its border with Lebanon.

For the time I have served in the Senate, I have supported efforts to curb Iran's incessant attempts to sow chaos in the Middle East; and, today, those attempts are coming to a head. We need to gather all of our economic and diplomatic strength so we can send a strong message to Iran. By countering Iran, we will help Israel, but it will advance American interests as well. We all know that Iran is hell-bent on destroying the United States of America. Its proxy forces continue to attack our forces regularly in Iraq and in Syria. The risks are too great to allow Iran to accelerate this conflict.

My Republican colleagues and I sent a letter last week urging President Biden to immediately convene the G7 nations and take coordinated action to isolate Iran using severe sanctions. Our letter also called on the President to reverse a decision allowing Iran access to a \$6 billion fund, which had previously been frozen under sanctions.

We urge President Biden to, instead, lead America's partners and allies in securing agreements from as many nations as possible, agreements to take the most severe economic and diplomatic action possible under the law against Iran. The U.S.—the United States—must lead in imposing multilateral sanctions against Iran and continue to lead in making certain that those sanctions are then enforced.

This week, my colleagues and I introduced legislation that would revoke the \$6 billion fund. The United States must not allow funding to flow to state sponsors of terrorism. As Americans, we must come together in a bipartisan manner to keep terrorism in check and to stand with our ally Israel.

I call on my colleagues here in Congress, as well as the administration and people across our country, to continue to unequivocally condemn the evil acts committed by Hamas, Hezbollah, and their primary sponsor,

Iran. We must stand together to support Israel and to protect both Americans and Israelis being harmed by the conflict and the bloodshed in the Middle East.

I yield the floor.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased to be able to follow my colleague from Nebraska in urging us as Members of Congress—really, us as Americans—to come together in a show of solidarity as we speak about the awful war that we are seeing unfold in Israel; of the unspeakable actions that we have seen by the terrorist group Hamas; of the awful, the barbaric, the genocidal violence and murders that we have witnessed that have been committed against thousands of innocent Israelis, beginning on October 8.

None of us can unsee what we saw that morning, throughout that day, and then in the ensuing days that followed. We may be thousands of miles away here in the United States, but we are reminded of it daily when we turn on our televisions, when we open the newspapers, when we open our social media—the atrocities, the brutality, the kidnapping of civilians, the murdered children, elders, women. These coldblooded crimes that have been committed by Hamas terrorists are unimaginable and absolutely unforgivable; and our hearts are just heavy.

In just talking with people, as I have had an opportunity to be on multiple coasts this week, from Alaska to Tennessee to California to here in Washington, DC—on the airplanes in between—people are just heavy with sadness, with grief, for what we are seeing in Israel, for what we are seeing as to the Israeli people. It is hard to imagine what so many families are going through right now.

So, at a time like this, when sometimes you are not quite sure how to proceed or how to move, it is so important to make sure of those words of commitment, of those words of support: that we stand with you, that we unequivocally—unequivocally—support Israel.

We unequivocally support Israel's right to defend their people from these brutal terrorist attacks. We unequivocally stand against Hamas, which, as Secretary of Defense Austin has said, has deliberately committed acts that match and even exceed the absolute evils inflicted by ISIS. We must assure the world that we stand with Israel and against the brutal genocide that we see from these terrorists. We must be unwavering; we must be ironclad; we must be resolute in our commitment to Israel. And we use these words time and time again.

Here in the Senate, there is a resolution that has been introduced—signed by almost every single Member of this body—that reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense; that calls on all countries to unequivocally condemn Hamas's war on Israel; demanding that Hamas re-

lease—safely release—all hostages; condemning Iran's support for global terrorism, including its support for terrorist groups such as Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad; calling on the United States to lead an international effort, including through sanctions—as the Senator from Nebraska was just outlining—to deprive of Hamas and Iran and other Iranian groups their sources of funding.

So these words of support, whether through a resolution or words on the floor, are so important as they are, but they also have to be matched by our deeds, by our actions. For Congress, that means ensuring that the Israel Defense Forces has the resources that they need to defend their people.

First and foremost, the Iron Dome must be at full strength to protect civilians from short-range rockets. The enormous strain that these Hamas attacks have placed on the Iron Dome, of course, means that the system is low on interceptors. We can and we must resupply Israel and help ensure rockets launched by Hamas cannot penetrate their defenses.

Congress must come together to provide funding and all the munitions and equipment that Israel may request. This is not a time for us to hem and haw here. We can't bog down in political infighting. This is their time of greatest need. We must provide Israel and her people with everything that they ask of us. We have to be there. We must be there for our strongest ally—today, tomorrow, and going forward.

So for those Americans at home who are asking, "What can we do?" we can individually—we can individually—step forward. You can support our efforts here in Congress, but you can also support our Jewish friends and our neighbors who are seeing a surge in anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

In Anchorage, over the weekend, there were several different gatherings of solidarity for Israel. I had an opportunity—I wasn't able to participate. I was there virtually. I was on an airplane for the first one, but I was able to meet with Rabbi Greenberg the day after. It was heartwarming to hear the solidarity that came out from so many in our Anchorage, in our Alaska community embracing our Jewish neighbors.

But I tell you, it was very heartbreaking when he showed me a picture of the assembly of armed security that had come together for this event to be there to provide protection. To know that security and protective details are needed in our domestic synagogues where people of Jewish faith gather is heartbreaking, and it is heartbreaking to acknowledge that this is a reality here in this country.

The FBI just released a statistic that showed anti-Jewish incidents were the most common religion-related hate crimes, totaling 1,124 reported incidents in 2022 alone. Not a single one of us should accept those numbers or the acts behind them, nor should we accept

the fact that they are growing worse in these months ahead.

So, please, check in. Check in on friends who not only have to confront the existential threat their homeland, Israel, is facing but who are also facing hatred here at home. Anti-Semitism comes in many forms, and we must do everything we can to combat it.

Of course, we have all seen the story in the news of the 6-year-old Chicago boy who was killed because he was Muslim—stabbed, stabbed by his landlord, and his mother stabbed. To see this peaceful family who had nothing to do with the conflict in Israel destroyed by an act of racist violence is beyond comprehension.

We must never tolerate hate in any form against any people in Israel, in America, or anywhere else.

So we join countless Americans in prayer—prayer for the families of those who have lost loved ones in Hamas's terrorist attacks on Israel, those who are held as hostages, prayer for the innocents in Gaza, and prayer for the Americans who have to watch their loved ones face danger at home and abroad.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, last week, in Kansas, I met with Kansans at the Jewish Community Center. It is in Overland Park, and it serves our State and the parts of Missouri in the Kansas City region. I heard from leaders from those communities. They were saddened, of course, and outraged at the barbaric terrorist attacks against Israel. I join them in that outrage, and I pray for a justice that comes that those who are being held captive are released.

It has been 10 days since the world saw the images of carnage that Hamas has wrought against innocent men and women and children in Israel. The images depict crimes that are brutal and heinous and cause decent human beings to look away in disgust and horror. But we cannot look away. We cannot look away. We cannot ignore what happened. Hamas targeted elderly Israeli citizens waiting at bus stops, young children and infants at home and in daycare, and a crowd of defenseless young people at a music festival, among many, many others.

As we continue to take stock of the impact of what transpired last week, it is important to note that more Jews were murdered on October 7 than on any single day since the Holocaust, and among the 1,400 dead are at least 30 American citizens, as well as others from around the world.

While security has seemingly been reestablished in southern Israel, the ideology which provided the rationale

for the attack is still espoused by many and is celebrated by many more, a fact made apparent in the demonstrations in capital cities and on university campuses in the days since the attack.

Americans of both political parties have shown moral outrage at similar acts of barbarity in the past. The appropriate responses to terrorism are grief, followed by resolve—grief over the inhumanity of the terrorists and the tragedy of their crimes, and resolve to protect innocent Israelis from further harm and achieve justice for the families and the entire Nation.

Israel's right to defend itself is not open to debate, nor is its right to exist. America will stand with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East. We must not delay in approving any supplemental request that makes certain Israel has what it needs to defend itself against terrorism.

We must help deter other enemies who may use this opportunity to escalate the war against Israel. Hezbollah, entrenched in Lebanon, to Israel's north, will find no safe harbor if it attempts to intervene. And Iran's leaders must know the fury of the United States awaits—the fury of the world, I hope—if they become directly involved.

Iran's complicity in the recent violence and suffering around the Middle East has to be undeniable. For years, tens of millions of dollars and weapons and other support flowed to Hamas from Iran. Iran's close alignment with Hezbollah puts Israel at risk of an arsenal of 150,000 advanced missiles, and Syria's Bashar al-Assad has brutally suppressed a revolution with Iranian backing.

For too long, the Biden administration has failed to enforce the sanctions passed in a bipartisan fashion in this Senate, in the House, and signed by a President to choke off Iran's oil revenue. The results are stark: Last year, Iran earned \$30 billion in oil exports. From 2020 to now, Iran's foreign reserves rose from a paltry \$10 billion to \$40 million—a four-time increase. That is a lot of money to spread to its terrorist proxies.

The administration should no longer delay in trying to choke Iran's revenue stream, and that starts with freezing the \$6 billion that was recently released by the Biden administration. American foreign policy in the Middle East must reestablish deterrence against Iran to prevent future acts of terrorism.

For decades, Americans have committed to maintaining the principle that terrorism—the use of violence against civilians for political goals—is an unacceptable form of warfare. Now is the time to stand against terrorism and its enablers and its supporters. Now is the time to stand with our Jewish communities here in the United States and around the world. And now is the time to stand with Israel.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON GILBRIDE NOMINATION

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

Ms. ROSEN. 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 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) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 259 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—4

Butler	Paul
Durbin	Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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.

The Senator from Missouri.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise to speak of the world's most deliberative body. Maybe we were. Maybe we have been. Maybe we can be again. But right now we are not.

This Chamber has spent exactly 0.0 minutes in the first 9½ months we have been here on appropriations bills—not a second. And, obviously, it leads to omnibuses; it leads to minibuses. This is a bus headed off a fiscal cliff, and we are at where we are at. But the Founders envisioned a place where two Senators from each State would come