

could see his faith shine through in his speech when he won the vote. Of course, we share a deep love for our home State, Louisiana. Having a Speaker from Louisiana will help bring some good Louisiana values, perspective, priorities, and maybe even a little boiled crawfish to Washington, DC.

Congratulations, Speaker JOHNSON, and to his wife Kelly and their four wonderful children.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, well, it is Country Music Month, and in Nashville, you will hear people say "it all begins with a song."

And, indeed, when we think about the playlists on our phones, when we think about the songs that frame our life, that is very true. And we love the fact that we get to celebrate the creative community every single year during Country Music Month. And this week, the Senate should pass a resolution that Senator KAINE and I have filed. It is designating October as National Country Music Month.

Now, Bristol, TN, Bristol, VA, right there on the State line, that is the birthplace of country music. So you have got a little bit of Tennessee and a little bit of Virginia, and we share that richness and that history. And what our resolution does is to highlight our States'—Tennessee's and Virginia's—rich, shared history of fostering creativity, of dreaming those big dreams, and then setting those dreams and thoughts to words and music.

The music that these artists, songwriters, and musicians create has had a profound impact not only on country music as a genre but on the evolution of American music.

Tennessee artists have the unique power to unite us as Americans. With that in mind, I want to thank my colleagues in advance for celebrating our creative community with us and helping designate October as National Country Music Month. But our work is not done. These musicians need our help getting paid for their art, controlling the business side of their careers, and protecting their intellectual property.

I want to highlight a few bills this body must pass to maintain our position as a cultural and artistic leader and a creative hub. The United States is the only democratic nation in the world where artists are not compensated for the use of their songs on AM/FM radio. Now, as I said, we are the only democratic nation that does not compensate these artists. Now, Iran and North Korea are two of the only other countries with this distinction.

Senator PADILLA and I have introduced a bipartisan piece of legislation—the American Music Fairness Act—which would right this wrong and ensure performers are compensated when their songs are played on the radio.

Now, Senator PADILLA and I could probably have a great discussion about, Does California have more artists and singers and songwriters or does Tennessee? But I think Tennessee probably has more of those artists and songwriters.

Now, not being paid for the use of their music on radio has been a decades-long injustice that hurts Americans at home and abroad. As I said, the United States is the only democratic nation that does not pay for that radio play. So the majority of foreign nations—those who already pay their own artists for radio airplay—currently withhold royalties from American music creators simply because the United States does not reciprocate by paying their performers. This amounts to a massive financial hit for our American artists.

Now, when you talk with them, what you will learn from different royalty rights organizations is our entertainers here are missing out on about \$200 million each year in income to those musicians—\$200 million a year. That is money that would come from other countries to our American artists if we were to pass the American Music Fairness Act.

(Ms. BUTLER assumed the Chair.)

Senator PADILLA and I have worked hard on this. It is bipartisan. We think to not pay these artists is something that needs to be fixed, and that is why we should agree to get the American Music Fairness Act to the President's desk without delay.

Now, I also worked with the late Senator Dianne Feinstein—and, Madam President, we welcome you. We know you have big shoes to fill in Senator Feinstein's seat. Senator Feinstein and I often talked about the importance of keeping this American creative community here and keeping that community vibrant, and she and I worked together to introduce a piece of bill that is called the HITS Act. This is the Help Independent Tracks Succeed, HITS.

Now, this bill would allow independent music creators—including musicians, technicians, songwriters, and producers—to deduct 100 percent of recording production expenses in the year that those expenses are incurred. The Federal Tax Code already allows film, television, theater productions to do this, and there is no reason not to give our music creators this same benefit. Think about that. Somebody goes in; they book that studio time; they lay down those tracks; they lay down those vocals; you get a producer that produces it; the musicians play on it; the technicians come in and tweak this—and they cannot deduct all of that expense. This is not fair, especially when you consider that TV, film, theater—they can all deduct 100 percent.

So Senator Feinstein and I worked on this, got it ready to go. This is another one that needs to pass. These two pieces of legislation really have something very important in common. They

recognize that entertainment as a career is both a creative pursuit and it is a very fragile business model. It requires that those individuals be able to exercise their intellectual property rights to benefit from their creations.

And one of the top concerns I hear from entertainers and their teams is the extent to which AI will—and already has—damaged their businesses. So we have another issue that has come on. In addition to not being fully compensated, then these entertainers are looking at the impact that artificial intelligence is going to have on their business.

Now, Congress is already late to the AI issue. We all know that, and I am delighted that we are beginning to see bipartisan interest in moving forward some legislation on guidelines and guardrails for artificial intelligence.

Creators have already begun to see that their voices, their likenesses, and their styles of music are used without their consent. And the danger to their livelihoods is real because they are not being compensated for their music that is used to train AI models that are actually going to take away the ability for them to make money on what they have created.

So in addition to not being paid for radio play, in addition to not being able to deduct production expense, now—here it comes—AI is going to mimic them and use name, image, likeness, voice cloning and take away more of their ability.

So Senator COONS and I have released a discussion draft on a piece of legislation to help protect these artists. It is called the NO FAKES Act. The NO FAKES Act would hold individuals, companies, and platforms accountable for digital replicas created or used without the consent of the individual that is being cloned or depicted in that replica. So it allows an entertainer to protect themselves, the replication of their voice, of their mannerisms, of their musical style.

Well, Hank Williams, Jr., has been quoted as saying, "Country music singers have always been a real close family." He is pretty right about that. And just like any family, I love it when you see all of these entertainers who are, in essence, competitors competing for radio time and studio time and tours and dates on their tours. They are competing for it all, but they come together, and they let you know when they need something and when something needs to be done. And addressing this AI issue is something that needs to be done.

So I would encourage my colleagues to talk to entertainers in their States and talk with them about the American Music Fairness Act, the HITS Act, and the NO FAKES Act, and what it would do to give them that control over their art, their name, their image, their likeness.

You know, here in the United States, whether we want to argue about: Is Tennessee the biggest or does California have the most or is Virginia the

real home and who produces the most records and lays down the most recording? What we can all agree on is that the United States of America is the hub for entertainment. It is where everyone wants to come, and, of course, we like that ingenuity and that creativity, and we love it that artists come to Nashville and say: We want to record that Nashville sound. Let us keep this industry viable.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW JAMES MADDOX

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Matthew Maddox to be a U.S. district judge for the District of Maryland, and I urge my Senate colleagues to confirm his nomination.

I joined with Senator VAN HOLLEN to recommend Judge Maddox to President Biden. President Biden nominated Judge Maddox to this position in March of this year in order to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul Grimm in December of 2022.

Senator VAN HOLLEN and I have worked to establish a judicial selection committee in Maryland, including an open application process. In particular, we sought out a highly qualified and diverse applicant pool. Our committee interviewed several dozen applicants. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I then personally interviewed several finalists before recommending names to the White House.

I strongly agree with President Biden's goal to nominate judges with excellent legal credentials from diverse backgrounds from both professional and demographic perspectives, and today we have such an example of an excellent nominee from Maryland.

Judge Maddox was born and raised in Maryland and lives and works in Baltimore. He graduated summa cum laude from Morgan State University, an HBCU in Baltimore, in 1999, where he majored in philosophy and religious studies and minored in psychology. After receiving his B.A. degree, Judge Maddox was a Fulbright scholar and taught high school through the Teach for America Program. Judge Maddox received his J.D. degree from Yale Law School in 2011.

After working in private practice and serving in two judicial clerkships, in 2015, Judge Maddox was appointed as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Maryland. In this capacity, Judge Maddox prosecuted a range of criminal cases and conducted trainings for law enforcement on the topics of human trafficking and identity theft.

In 2020, Judge Maddox was selected to serve as Deputy Chief of the Major

Crimes Section in the Northern Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

In February 2022, Judge Maddox was sworn in as a U.S. magistrate judge and sits in Baltimore. Judge Maddox now presides over both preliminary criminal proceedings and civil lawsuits by consent of the parties.

Judge Maddox therefore also brings remarkable experience to this position, having served as a Federal prosecutor for nearly a decade and now having served as a magistrate judge for over a year and a half. If confirmed and elevated from a magistrate judge to a district judge, he would continue to serve in the same court where he now serves and has practiced for many years.

The Judiciary Committee favorably reported Judge Maddox in a bipartisan vote in September of this year, and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary awarded Judge Maddox a unanimously "well qualified" rating—its highest possible rating.

I was delighted to recommend the nomination of Judge Maddox to President Biden along with Senator VAN HOLLEN. Judicial nominees must meet the highest standards of integrity, competence, and temperament. I am confident that Judge Maddox will safeguard the rights of all Marylanders, uphold the Constitution and rule of law, and faithfully follow the judicial oath to "do equal right to the poor and to the rich." Judge Maddox will serve the people of Maryland well if confirmed for this lifetime appointment. Judge Maddox has strong legal and judicial qualifications and has demonstrated a track record of public service.

Let me conclude by saying I know that public service is a family affair and sacrifice, so I particularly want to thank Judge Maddox's family for sharing him with the people of Maryland in the interest of public service.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would ask consent that the vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m. start immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 306, Mat-

thew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

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 Matthew James Maddox, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—40

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

NOT VOTING—6

Barrasso	Lee	Scott (SC)
Fetterman	Risch	Tillis

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

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Minnesota.