

of the bloated IRS funding from the Democrats' massive so-called Inflation Reduction Act. I would add that that was \$14.3 billion out of an \$80 billion appropriation to the Internal Revenue Service, hardly the majority of that funding.

But if our colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't like those pay-fors, then they are free to come up with an alternative. But the truth is, they don't believe in paying for anything. And we saw, just this last year, about \$670 billion paid by the United States to our bond holders to help finance this national debt, and that is not getting any better by the day. Certainly, if we were to pass another supplemental appropriations bill to aid Israel or Ukraine, or for any other purpose, and actually make our national debt worse, it would put us on a perilous path.

Well, President Biden, who said, "We stand with Israel; we will do anything that they need us to do," has actually threatened to veto the \$14.3 billion supplemental appropriations bill that was passed by the House. How he can reconcile his stated support for Israel and his threat to veto a supplemental appropriations bill escapes me.

Then there is the majority leader here in the Senate—the Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER—who said that the House bill is dead on arrival in the Senate, and he took his opposition a step further, blasting this legislation as "stunningly unserious" and "a joke."

Well, I have to respectfully disagree with the majority leader. There is nothing funny about denying Israel the assistance it needs in defending itself against this terrorist threat. It is no secret that America's national debt has put us in an extremely vulnerable position.

Thirteen years ago, Admiral Michael Mullen, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned that "the most significant threat to our national security is our debt." That actually struck me as a little unusual at the time. But, at that time, the national debt was roughly \$13.5 trillion. Since then, it has more than doubled to \$33.6 trillion and counting.

So I think that what he was getting at is that the more we end up spending money that we are borrowing from subsequent generations and the more interest we have to continue to pay to people willing to buy our debt, we are going to have a whole lot less financial resources and flexibility that we need when unexpected things occur, like the Russian invasion of Ukraine or Hamas's invasion of Israel. We simply won't have the money and the flexibility to do what we expect America to do, which is to always lead and be an agent for peace and stability.

If we continue at this pace, our children and grandchildren will have no chance of digging out from under this debt. There is an old saying that "the best time to start was yesterday; the

next best time to start is now." We have a responsibility to start chipping away at the national debt now and certainly not to make it any worse. Every single spending bill is an opportunity to make tough but necessary choices to achieve that goal.

I am disappointed that the majority of our Democratic colleagues don't seem to have any interest in addressing this threat to our national security. Over the last couple of years, they have spent, on a party-line basis, \$2.6 trillion without a single Republican vote, and now they blast an attempt to address the growing debt as "unserious."

Well, that \$2.6 trillion in spending that our Democratic colleagues did on a party-line basis was partly responsible for our 40-year high inflation rate that is eating up the standard of living of hard-working Americans across the country. I think the figure I saw indicates that, if this is broken down per capita, it is roughly worth slightly under \$1,000 in additional costs for the average family.

Our Democratic colleagues, if they didn't like the pay-for provided by the House of Representatives, they could have suggested different offsets. You can't tell me, given the amount of money the Federal Government spends, that it couldn't find offsets for \$14.3 billion. Or the majority leader could have simply put the bill on the floor and left room open for an amendment process. But, instead, he resorted to name-calling and trying to belittle the serious efforts that the House has undertaken, both to deal with the emergency in Israel and the national debt.

In the next couple of weeks, the Senate and the House are going to have to work together to address the major issues that are swirling in front of Congress right now, which include Israel, Ukraine, the border, and, yes, keeping the government funded. This is hardly the way to start off on a good foot.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly support Israel. We agree that the United States needs to provide support for our ally. At the same time, we need to get serious about addressing another massive national security threat, which is our growing national debt and the crowding out of our ability to spend money on other necessary priorities instead of paying China and Japan, who own that debt.

Washington has a spending problem. That is the first thing we need to acknowledge. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues are unwilling to acknowledge it. We have to get it under control.

Today marks 1 month since Hamas attacked Israel, and I am disappointed that the Senate has yet to act on support—financial support—for our closest ally in the Middle East. I have no idea what Senator SCHUMER's plans are to actually process this supplemental appropriation. I don't know how long Israel will have to sustain the onslaught of Hamas's rockets and ter-

rorist attacks on its people before the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Government will respond, as President Biden said we would.

Under the leadership of Speaker JOHNSON, the House did its job. It passed legislation to provide \$14.3 billion for Israel with bipartisan support. So I come to the floor profoundly disappointed that Senator SCHUMER refuses to take up this emergency supplemental appropriations bill to aid Israel.

The United States has a responsibility to stand with Israel. I think that is the consensus position here in Congress on a bipartisan basis. But it takes more than just words. It takes action.

One month after the war began is too long to respond to the needs that the people of Israel have to defend their country and their way of life. I hope we can see movement on this aid package for Israel sooner rather than later.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF JULIA E. KOBICK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Julia Kobick to the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Ms. Kobick is an accomplished litigator whose credentials and breadth of experience make her well-suited to serve on this court. After receiving her A.B. from Harvard College, her M.S. from Pace University, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School, Ms. Kobick began her legal career with prestigious clerkships for judges appointed by Presidents of both political parties: Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV on the District of Massachusetts, Judge Michael A. Chagares on the Third Circuit, and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court.

After her clerkships, Ms. Kobick joined the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General, serving first as an assistant attorney general and currently as the deputy State solicitor. During her tenure in that office, Ms. Kobick has practiced in Federal and State courts—handling cases defending State laws, regulations, and Agency actions, as well as affirmative cases brought by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Over the course of her career, she has argued more than 20 dispositive motions in trial courts and delivered oral arguments in 19 appeals.

Ms. Kobick has the strong support of her home state Senators, Ms. WARREN and Mr. MARKEY. In addition, she received a rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association. Ms. Kobick's credentials, breadth of experience, and deep ties to the Massachusetts legal community will serve the district court well. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Mr. CORNYN. 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. COTTON. 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 Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, last month, Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists slaughtered over 30 Americans and 1,400 Israelis. These depraved savages raped women, murdered children, and executed entire families, burning some of them alive. The dead are still being identified, and families are still grieving unbelievably heartbreaking.

Yet, over the weekend, former President Barack Obama discovered complexity and ambiguity where there is none in these attacks. He said that we “have to admit nobody’s hands are clean, that all of us are complicit to some degree.”

What Barack Obama said over the weekend might pass for profound at cocktail parties on Martha’s Vineyard or on podcasts with sycophantic former staffers, but it is also delusional and morally obtuse. Put simply, it is the confession of a guilty man attempting to implicate others, because we are not all complicit with Hamas’s massacre of Jews, but Barack Obama sure is.

No American President did more to embolden and enrich Iran and its terrorist proxies than Barack Obama. Indeed, his entire Middle East policy was crafted to appease Iran. As President, he stayed quiet when Iranian protesters took to the streets in the Green Revolution. He sabotaged legislation in Congress sanctioning Iran. He cut and ran from Iraq, knowing that Iran and its proxies would fill the power vacuum. He refused to enforce a self-drawn redline and stood by as Syria disintegrated into a “geopolitical Chernobyl” because Bashar al-Assad is an Iranian puppet. He consistently undermined Benjamin Netanyahu—Iran’s chief nemesis in the region—and even refused to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Israel. And, of course, he negotiated the disastrous Iran nuclear deal, handing the ayatollahs over \$100 billion in sanctions relief. Barack Obama single-handedly saved the Iranian economy and harmed diplomatic relations with our allies in Saudi Arabia and Israel. When he left office, the Middle East was in flames, and Iran was on the march.

Tragically, Barack Obama’s coterie of Iran appeasers, apologists, and accomplices have returned to the White House. His understudy, Joe Biden, is now President. The man who helped to secretly negotiate the Iran nuclear deal, Jake Sullivan, is now National Security Advisor. His Treasury Secretary, who served as a de facto investment banker for the ayatollahs, is now Ambassador to Israel. Barack Obama’s legacy is alive and well in this administration, and it certainly shows.

Within days of taking office, the Biden administration removed the Houthis—another Iranian proxy—from

the list of terrorist organizations without any concessions. And how did the Houthis reward Joe Biden? By firing dozens of missiles and attack drones towards Israel just days after Hamas’s rampage.

In his first hundred days, the Biden administration announced that it would send hundreds of millions of dollars to Iran’s friends in Gaza, Judea, and Samaria. They claimed it would foster peace and stability in the region. How did that work out? The next month, Iranian-backed militias launched 4,000 rockets into Israel.

Since taking office, Joe Biden has enriched the ayatollahs with over \$90 billion through his lax enforcement of oil sanctions and his unfreezing of Iranian assets. Tehran has predictably used this Biden bonus to strengthen its military and arm its proxies.

Just last year, Iran doubled the budget of the Revolutionary Guard Corps—the shock troops of its terror regime—and it more than tripled its support for Hamas’s military brigades.

The very same month that Biden agreed to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian assets, the Revolutionary Guard Corps reportedly started to assist with the planning of the October 7 attacks that killed, I say again, over 30 Americans and more than 1,400 Israelis.

This is the nature of the regime that Barack Obama coddled for years. It is the nature of the regime that has dispatched its proxies to attack American servicemembers over 110 times since Joe Biden took office. Let me say that again. Iran’s proxies have attacked American troops in positions in the Middle East over 110 times since Joe Biden took office. What have Joe Biden and his gang of Obama acolytes done in return? They fired a few missiles at empty proxy warehouses, merely validating Iran’s proxy strategy.

The ayatollahs are laughing at Joe Biden, just like they laughed at Barack Obama.

Barack Obama is the last person who should pontificate on this issue. The only thing we should hear from him is an admission that he was wrong and an apology. Maybe he can include it in his upcoming fourth memoir due out later this year.

My message to the former President is simple: Don’t try to excuse your own failures by blaming the rest of us. The people “complicit” in the attack on Israel are the terrorists who committed it, the Iranian regime that funded it, and the Obama and Biden administrations that appeased them. The responsibility for the events of October 7 rest squarely on their shoulders and their shoulders alone.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, today, I want to tell you about a story of love, a love between two people that is beautiful and deep. It is the story of a couple known as Judy and Gad, two people in their seventies who believe in humanity and in peace.

Judy is a native New Yorker who teaches English literature and mindfulness. Gad is a chef and a jazz musician who friends describe as funny and authentic. The couple raised four children and have welcomed seven grandchildren. They inspire those around them with their big hearts and their open minds.

On the morning of October 7, they were walking near a kibbutz, Nir Oz. When rockets rained down overhead, they hid face down in nearby fields. At one point, Judy called an ambulance because the couple had been shot, but the ambulance couldn’t reach them, and now they are both missing.

Judy and Gad are just two of the hundreds of people held hostage by the terrorist organization Hamas. They are peaceful, loving people who don’t deserve to suffer. But since October 7, their family hasn’t heard from them, and as the war in Gaza grows, they are concerned about the couple’s safety and well-being.

Another family in Nir Oz was also taken by the terrorists. Their cousin, a New Yorker, has been working with my office. She says they are “six of the human beings she loves most in the entire world.” She says she won the lottery as a member of their close-knit family. According to Alana, the New Yorker we have been working with, Danielle is like her sister, a natural nurturer who gives great hugs.

Danielle was with her 5-year-old daughter when they were taken hostage by Hamas. They were visiting Danielle’s sister Sharon, her brother-in-law David, and their 3-year-old twin girls. When the attack began, the family hid in their bomb shelter as Hamas set fire to their neighbor’s house. The shelter filled with smoke and forced them out to face the terrorists. The last time they were heard from was on a phone call with a relative. Sharon said, “I don’t think we can survive this, I love you” and hung up.

While these horrors can test our resolve, the love within these families should be an inspiration to all of us. It should strengthen our commitment to keep fighting for their safety. In this darkness, we must never lose that strength. To quote from an inscription written in defiance of the Holocaust, we must “believe in the sun even when it is not shining.” We must “believe in love even when feeling it not.”

NOMINATION OF RAMON ERNESTO REYES, JR.

I would now like to speak about the vote we are about to have on the floor. I would like to stand in support of Judge Ramon Reyes, an accomplished jurist and dedicated public servant whose breadth of experience on and off the bench will make him an outstanding addition to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

On February 9, 2023, Reyes was voted out of committee by a vote of 11 to 10. All committee Democrats voted aye. Reyes was unanimously rated “well qualified” by the ABA.

This nominee was born in Brooklyn. He earned a B.S. from Cornell, a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and his L.L.M. from New York University Law School. In addition to an Eastern District clerkship, Reyes had a varied legal practice over the course of 13 years, representing corporate defendants in a large firm, helping draft legislation from the New York City Council, handling both civil and criminal matters, and assisting a U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York.

Reyes was appointed in 2006 to serve as the Federal magistrate judge for the Eastern District of New York. Since taking the bench, Judge Reyes has presided over 33 trials—15 jury trials and 18 bench trials. They cover a range of cases that come before this district court, including criminal matters, employment issues, and civil rights cases.

With his significant trial experience and depth of knowledge of the district to which he has been nominated, Judge Reyes will be a tremendous asset to the Eastern District of New York, and I urge my colleagues to support him.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

NOMINATION OF JULIA E. KOBICK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a few moments, the Senate will confirm Julia Kobick as district judge for the District of Massachusetts.

I have great news: The Senate is about to confirm the 100th woman and the 150th judge overall to the Federal bench since we took the majority.

One judge at a time, this Democratic majority is making the Federal bench look more like America, and that is why the confirmation of the 100th woman to the court is so important. It is not only double the amount confirmed by President Trump in all his 4 years, it is also considerably more women than any full first term of any President. In fact, two-thirds—two-thirds—of all the judges we have confirmed under President Biden are women, and we have confirmed more women of color to the bench than any other President's entire time in office.

These hundred women are historic taken together, but they also include many who are historic in their own right. They include, of course, the first Black woman confirmed to the Supreme Court, Ketanji Brown Jackson. They include the first Muslim-American woman on the Federal bench. They include the first Navajo Federal judge, and much more. We are getting the bench to look like America. It has been long overdue, but it is happening and happening in large steps under this Senate Democratic majority.

Now, I want to let America know we are proud to have reached this historic milestone, but we are not slowing down. Confirming more women on the bench is long, long overdue. The Senate, which has made strides more than any year to make that a reality, will continue to keep working to confirm more judicial nominations in the weeks and months to come.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON KOBICK NOMINATION

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 297 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—2

Britt	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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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. 38, Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, 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 Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—4

Britt	Hickenlooper
Cassidy	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ramon Ernesto