

other bad regulations, there is also the independent contractor rule, which the Biden Labor Department is likely to finalize soon. It is referred to as the “independent contractor rule,” but in many ways, that is a misnomer because this rule is likely to substantially reduce the number of independent contractors.

How? By replacing the previous administration’s independent contractor rule, which would have provided clear guidelines for determining whether a worker classifies as an independent contractor, with a vague, sweeping new rule that could end up with many workers being reclassified as employees.

Independent contractors, who range from computer programmers to freelance editors to Uber and Lyft drivers, generally value independent contracting thanks to things like the flexibility and opportunity that this path provides.

Indeed, a 2017 survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that fewer than 1 in 10 independent contractors would prefer traditional employee status. But thanks to the Biden administration, many of them may be forced into employee status.

The rule will threaten workers in the gig economy, which is made up of platforms like Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, and TaskRabbit, that allow workers to pursue full-time work with a platform or simply augment their income from a regular 9-to-5 position.

The bad ideas don’t end with the independent contractor rule. There is also the joint employer rule the National Labor Relations Board recently finalized—yet another move from the Biden administration to use the power of the Federal Government to advantage unions.

The joint employer rule substantially changes the standard of what constitutes a joint employer, which comes into play in a major way with franchising. To put this in practical terms, this rule means that companies could end up being considered joint employers of employees at franchised locations of their business, which could force both the company and the local franchise owners to negotiate with unions, or make both the company and local franchise owners liable for unfair labor practices that potentially only one party is responsible for.

The result is likely to be that companies cut back on franchising or increase oversight or control of their franchisees, which would disrupt one of the most accessible paths to business ownership for Americans looking to run their own businesses.

In comments after the new joint employer rule was proposed, the International Franchise Association noted:

The proposed rule will needlessly upend the franchise business model and close the door to opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Americans, especially women, people of color, veterans, and first-time business owners.

But, apparently, that doesn’t matter to the Biden administration, as long as union bosses are benefiting.

On the economic front, President Biden is perhaps most famous for helping to kick off the worst inflation crisis in 40 years with the so-called American Rescue Plan. But as these rules and regulations demonstrate, the President is continuing to build on that negative economic legacy with regulations that will diminish economic opportunities for workers and entrepreneurs and likely continue to drive up prices for consumers.

In other words, business as usual in the Biden administration: The President imposes his Big Government policies, and the American people end up paying the price.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VETERANS DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, Saturday, November 11, is the anniversary of the end of World War I. Today we know it as Veterans Day.

On Veterans Day, we honor everyone who has worn the uniform of the United States of America. Alabama is proud that the Veterans Day tradition started in Birmingham, AL, in the aftermath of World War II. A local veteran named Raymond Weeks recognized the need for a day honoring all of our veterans.

In 1947, Raymond Weeks petitioned the Army Chief of Staff, a general named Dwight D. Eisenhower, for a national Veterans Day. Seven years later, General Eisenhower was President and signed it into law.

Alabama is proud of Raymond Weeks. We are proud to be home to nearly 400,000 veterans. And every Veterans Day, I am proud to come to this floor to tell my colleagues about a few of our veterans in Alabama.

The first I will mention today is Ron Skoneki from Montgomery, AL. He is the son of a Polish immigrant. He enlisted in the Air Force about as soon as he could right after graduating from high school. He served in Thailand during the Vietnam war. He helped repair and maintain aircraft for a strong defense. After 33 years of service, Lieutenant Colonel Skoneki retired. But he wanted to continue to serve, so he joined Alabama’s wing of the Civil Air Patrol in Montgomery. He then served another 16 years helping to support the U.S. Air Force in a civilian capacity. Now at 87 years old, he is just as proud of his time wearing this uniform as he has ever been. And he should be.

I would also like to tell the Senate about CSM Joe Godwin of Mobile, AL.

He wanted to join the military ever since he was 14 years old. By the time he was 17, he couldn’t wait anymore; he got his dad’s permission to join the Army.

He went on to serve in three wars: World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. He helped guard and transport Nazi prisoners during the Nuremberg trials.

Today, Joe is 94 years old. When people tell him he is a hero, he says that the real heroes are the ones who didn’t make it back. He is a humble man. I think they are all heroes, anyone who served, and we ought to thank them today, tomorrow, and every day.

Finally, I would like to talk a little about SGT David Henry of Warrior, AL. Sergeant Henry has served as a firefighter and a paramedic. These experiences gave him skills that he used as a medic in the Iraq war.

His first deployment came when his son was only 6 months old. Sergeant Henry deployed again to the Middle East when his son was 3. He had to sacrifice to be an ocean away from his family during those crucial times of his son’s growing up. He had to explain to a 3-year-old why Dad was going to be gone and he didn’t know when he was coming back.

A lot of families know what that is like. Our heroes in uniform often serve as a family, and so, on Veterans Day, we thank their families, too, for their service. They are also making a huge sacrifice for our country.

Today, Sergeant Henry is back in sweet home Alabama. We are deeply grateful for his service to Alabama and to America.

Colonel Skoneki, Sergeant Major Godwin, and Sergeant Henry are just three examples of the 400,000 heroes who call Alabama their home.

The writer G.K. Chesterton once said:

The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.

You can see that in the lives of these veterans in Alabama. Our veterans fought because they believe in this United States of America. They believed America was worth fighting for and even, many, dying for. They laid down their lives for the people of this country, for millions of people they don’t even know.

Everything we have in this country depends on a military that is very strong. Our economy, our security, and our way of life depends on our military.

President Ronald Reagan summed it up best when he said:

Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they’ve suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us.

This Veterans Day and this Veterans Day weekend, I hope we will remember the price of freedom and those who have paid that ultimate price.

To all of our veterans, thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice to ensure America remains a

country of freedom and opportunity for all of the many generations to come.

NOMINATION OF MONICA RAMIREZ ALMADANI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Monica Ramirez Almadani to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in La Mirada, CA, Ms. Ramirez Almadani received her A.B. from Harvard University in 2001 and her J.D. from Stanford Law School in 2004. She then clerked for Judge Warren J. Ferguson on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 2004 to 2005. Ms. Ramirez Almadani began her legal career in 2005 at the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, practicing immigration and civil rights litigation for 4 years, including successfully arguing before the Ninth Circuit. She then served the Justice Department for 6 years in a variety of roles, including counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, deputy chief of staff to the Deputy Attorney General, and assistant U.S. attorney—AUSA—in the U.S. attorney's office for the Central District of California. As an AUSA, she prosecuted child pornography, human trafficking, narcotics, immigration fraud, public corruption, and other serious crimes.

In 2015, then-California Attorney General Kamala Harris appointed Ms. Ramirez Almadani Special Assistant Attorney General to oversee the California Justice Department's Criminal Division and the Division of Recidivism Reduction and Reentry. Then, in 2017, she joined a large law firm as special counsel, focusing on white collar criminal defense, internal investigations, and complex commercial litigation, in addition to pro bono immigration work. She then became codirector of the University of California, Irvine School of Law's Immigrant Rights Clinic from 2019 to 2021. She currently serves as the president and CEO of Public Counsel, the largest public interest law firm in the country.

The American Bar Association rated Ms. Ramirez Almadani "well qualified" to serve on the Central District of California. The late Senator Feinstein strongly supported her nomination, as does Senator PADILLA.

I will be supporting this outstanding nominee, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION OF BRANDY R. MCMILLION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Ms. Brandy McMillion, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Born in Dayton, OH, Ms. McMillion received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of Michigan and her law degree from George Washington University Law School. She then began her career as an associate, working for Pepper Hamilton LLP, Perkins Coie LLP, and Bryan Cave LLP, where she gained experience in labor and employment matters, intellectual property

claims, and corporate financial services transactions.

Following her 9 years in private practice, Ms. McMillion joined the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of Michigan in 2015, where she has served in a variety of roles, most recently as the chief of the general crimes unit. In that position, she is responsible for prosecuting firearms offenses, carjackings, and drug trafficking offenses in addition to supervising and training AUSAs and support staff. The American Bar Association rated Ms. McMillion as unanimously "well qualified," and she enjoys the strong support of Senators Stabenow and Peters.

Taken together, Ms. McMillion's courtroom experience, management credentials, and knowledge of the district to which she is nominated make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF BRANDY R. MCMILLION

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to strongly support the nomination of Brandy McMillion, whom President Biden nominated to serve as the U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Ms. McMillion is an outstanding nominee with extensive experience in both civil and criminal cases. She will be a great judge because she has always been committed to the law and has the right values, certainly.

From the time she was 6 years old, growing up in Ohio, Ms. McMillion wanted to be a lawyer. It was her dream, and she never wavered from it.

Ms. McMillion was raised in Michigan since she was 12 years old. She earned engineering degrees at the University of Michigan, and then she earned her law degree from George Washington University Law School.

Ms. McMillion then worked in private practice, where she gained significant experience in law and in labor and employment, intellectual property, and financial services.

But she didn't stay away from her adopted State for long. Since 2015, she has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, and, last year, she became chief of the office's general crimes unit, where she prosecutes offenses including bank robberies, gun crimes, and Federal crimes against children.

So it is no surprise that the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously voted Ms. McMillion as "well qualified."

When she is not at work, she spends a lot of time behind the wheel, she says, driving her kids to all their sporting events and other activities. "Mom CEO" is what she likes to say.

She is also active in her community. She is a very involved member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She also mentors moms through the organization Warrior Women Against Poverty, which aims to change lives one woman at a time. Ms. McMillion knows better than anyone how the right support, at the right time, can change a woman's future.

The Senate, I hope, is going to strongly confirm Ms. McMillion to the Federal bench. I know that she is someone who is thoughtful and experienced. She will serve the Eastern District well. We thank everyone for the vote yesterday—the cloture vote—to move her now to her final vote, and I urge my colleagues to support this outstanding nominee to be on the Federal bench.

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

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

VOTE ON ALMADANI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Almadani nomination?

Ms. SINEMA. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire Mrs. SHAHEEN is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 305 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Durbin	Manchin
Bennet	Fetterman	Markey
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Menendez
Booker	Graham	Merkley
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Butler	Heinrich	Murray
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cardin	Hirono	Padilla
Carper	Kaine	Peters
Casey	Kelly	Reed
Coons	King	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Sanders
Duckworth	Lujan	Schatz