

and do the work and that you need to help your neighbors when they are in need.

These values have been forged in our small towns, the kind of places where everyone knows each other and everyone does their part. These are the timeless treasures that make life in South Dakota so good. They are a big part of what makes me proud to serve our State here in the U.S. Senate, and they are the values that my wife Kimberley and I have tried to instill in our daughters and that I am confident the next generation of South Dakotans will continue to uphold.

Whether gathered around a meal of fresh pheasant in our great outdoors or gathered around the Thanksgiving turkey, there is a lot to be thankful for as a South Dakotan, and I am grateful—very grateful—to be a son of our great State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

(The remarks of Mr. WYDEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3367 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WYDEN. 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.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 SHANLYN A.S. PARK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Shanlyn A.S. Park to the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i.

Born in Honolulu, HI, Judge Park received her B.A., cum laude, from Chaminade University in 1991 and her J.D. from the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law in 1995. After graduating from law school, Judge Park served as a law clerk to the Honorable Francis I. Yamashita, magistrate judge for the District of Hawai'i. From 1996 to 1997, Judge Park worked on civil matters as an associate attorney at Hisaka Stone & Goto.

For the next two decades, Judge Park served as an assistant federal public defender and later as senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Hawai'i. In these roles, Judge Park tried 10 felony jury trials and 10 misdemeanor bench trials to verdict. She also represented defendants through appeals

and argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Park worked in private practice as of counsel at Gallagher Kane Amai & Reyes and as partner and of counsel at McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. At both firms, her practice centered on a variety of civil matters including commercial disputes, contested probate matters, real property disputes, and third-party insurance defense.

Since joining the State of Hawai'i's First Circuit Court in 2021, Judge Park has issued more than 100 written opinions and presided over 21 jury trials—17 in the family court criminal division and four in the circuit court criminal division.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Park as "qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SCHATZ and Ms. HIRONO.

Once confirmed, Judge Park will become the first Native Hawai'i woman to serve on the Federal bench. I am proud to support this historic nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON PARK NOMINATION.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Park nomination?

Ms. CANTWELL. 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 324 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Capito	Daines
Blackburn	Cassidy	Ernst
Boozman	Cornyn	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Grassley
Britt	Crapo	Hagerty
Budd	Cruz	Hawley

Hoever	Moran	Scott (FL)
Hyde-Smith	Mullin	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Paul	Sullivan
Kennedy	Ricketts	Thune
Lankford	Risch	Tillis
Lee	Romney	Tuberville
Lummis	Rounds	Vance
Marshall	Rubio	Wicker
McConnell	Schmitt	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Cramer
Fetterman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we are nearly halfway through the 118th Congress—you know, it is hard to believe. And despite the challenges that confront this Chamber, working with the House and the President to get legislation passed, the Senate has managed to advance some great bipartisan bills this year.

All of this attention the media gives tends to focus on where we disagree. And there is no question there are a lot of disagreements. But there are areas where we have found the chance to work together to do important things.

While some of the bills I have talked about actually passed this Chamber unanimously and will have a positive impact on our constituents in communities from Maine to Texas to Nebraska and while a number of these bills have been signed into law, many are still awaiting action in the House. And I would like to provide a few examples.

Project Safe Childhood is a bill that I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, the Senator from Minnesota, to provide greater protection for our children online. The anonymity and accessibility afforded in the digital realm have allowed predators to infiltrate our homes and target our children. This, of course, is the dark side of the internet, and it has been a problem since the advent of the digital age.

But it gets worse. Last year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 32 million reports—32 million reports—of suspected child sexual exploitation, an alltime record.

One of our most valuable tools for combating these crimes is the Project Safe Childhood Program at the Department of Justice.

This program was created in 2006 to bolster law enforcement efforts and to

invest in education and prevention strategies. Since its inception, the number of cases and defendants prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Offices has increased by 40 percent.

This is a positive sign we are moving in the right direction despite the dismal facts that I have recounted here, but it is clear more needs to be done.

This bill reauthorizes and strengthens this program by modernizing the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. It will provide law enforcement with additional tools they need to bring more predators to justice.

This bill passed the Senate unanimously last month, but it is currently awaiting action in the House. I have been proud to work with Representatives WESLEY HUNT and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ—Republican and Democrat alike—on this legislation. Again, this is bipartisan consensus legislation that just needs a vote in the House.

Another example is Project Safe Neighborhoods. This bill reauthorizes this program at the Department of Justice. Now, at a time when we are all concerned about violent crime in our neighborhoods, this is one of the most efficient, one of the most effective ways of combating violent crime in our neighborhoods that we have devised.

It is inspired by a successful program that I appropriated when I was attorney general of Texas that started in Richmond, VA, called Project Exile. What they realized is that if they targeted the most violent criminals, the ones who, in violation of the law, possessed and used firearms in the commission of a crime—that if they were prosecuted under mandatory minimums, that this would prove as a big deterrent for people using firearms to commit crimes or carrying firearms when they are prohibited by law.

Since this nationwide program was launched in 2013, we have seen more than a 13-percent decrease in violent crime in cities with a high rate of program participation. This is a partnership between State, local, and Federal. Today, the American people are increasingly concerned about crime, more concerned here in the Nation's Capital where the number of carjackings have gone through the roof, including some of our colleagues in the House of Representatives who have been a victim of carjacking.

A Gallup poll earlier this month found that 63 percent of Americans view crime as either an "extremely" or "very" serious problem, marking a new record for the poll. So it is clear we need to focus on crime and violence reduction strategies like Project Safe Neighborhood, but, again, this legislation passed the Senate unanimously after being voted out of the Judiciary Committee and is awaiting action in the House.

Finally, I want to mention another critical piece of legislation that is stuck in purgatory—at least, hopefully, temporarily—and that is the Debbie

Smith Act. Years ago, we learned that 400,000 rape kits were sitting in evidence lockers or at forensic labs and had gone untested.

This, unfortunately, is the evidence that has to be collected from the victim of a sexual assault, and using DNA technology we are able to figure out, with basically certitude, who the perpetrator was. But 400,000 of them were sitting in lockers and untested.

Now, Debbie Smith is a heroic figure. She has made it her life's work to eliminate this rape kit backlog, and her work is directly responsible for the testing of hundreds of thousands of rape kits and locking up countless violent criminals.

Her advocacy was born of a personal tragedy. She was raped at home in 1989 and immediately reported the crime to police and went to the emergency room for a sexual assault forensic exam. That is the rape kit. But she said while waiting for answers, she was overcome by fear. She was terrified for herself and her family and even became suicidal. It wasn't until 6½ years later that Debbie finally received the answer she desperately wanted from this rape kit test. And it happened when a DNA hit revealed the identity of her rapist because what they can do is take that information, match it against CODIS, which is an FBI-maintained database, to identify the perpetrator.

She later said in an interview that DNA gave her her life back, and she chose to harness her pain and use it to prevent others from facing years of fear and uncertainty like that that controlled her. So she is the namesake of the Debbie Smith Act originally signed into law in 2004.

As a result, more than 860,000 DNA cases have been prosecuted—860,000. It is hard to imagine how one person can make more of a difference than Debbie Smith has, in terms of bringing closure and making sure that the guilty are investigated and prosecuted. But 860,000 cases have been processed. Sadly, we are still facing a 90,000-case backlog. Each of those hold the key and an answer to bringing a violent criminal to justice.

The Senate, again, unanimously has passed the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization, and, unfortunately, the House recently took it up and passed a version of the bill that inadvertently deauthorized existing funds for the Debbie Smith Act. I encourage the House to take whatever action they need to swiftly take up and pass the Senate version to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Program for a full 5 years without jeopardizing any existing funds that are being used by law enforcement to take violent criminals off the street.

So these are just a few examples of bipartisan legislation that has enjoyed nearly unanimous support here in the Senate that is simply waiting for the House to act.

I know we are coming up on the end of the year, and there is not a lot of

time, but my suspicion is, if the Speaker would put these bills on the floor of the House, that they would pass overwhelmingly, but we can't get these bills to the President to actually sign into law until the House acts.

So my wish, my request, my prayer is that the House simply take up these bipartisan bills and act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

LONG-TERM CARE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, across the country, over 1.2 million Americans live in nursing homes. Many of our own parents, grandparents, and other loved ones are among them. Nursing facilities provide specialized attentive care to seniors in critical need of their services.

Long-term care facilities are especially indispensable in small towns and rural areas like much of my home State of Nebraska. In those areas, a larger percentage of the population is over 65.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has released a rule this fall that could force many nursing facilities around the country to close their doors. The new rule, introduced in September by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, mandates new minimum staffing standards for long-term care facilities. It requires each facility to staff a registered nurse on site 24/7 and would require staff to provide each resident with at least 3 hours of direct care per day. The administration believes this rule would improve the quality of care in our nursing homes.

Unfortunately, the rule, as written, would simply force many facilities to shut down, denying care to seniors entirely.

According to CMS, 75 percent of nursing homes would have to increase staffing to comply with these proposed standards, but across our country, these homes already face historic staffing shortages. According to Federal labor statistics, nursing homes lost more than 200,000 workers from February of 2020 to December of 2022. The industry is still rebuilding its workforce after a devastating pandemic.

Under this rule, nursing homes would be forced to go to great lengths to find staff in the midst of these overwhelming shortages. If they failed, they would likely need to shut their doors and deprive seniors of care.

Even one nursing home closure could be detrimental to seniors in certain rural communities. Highly populated urban areas may host several long-term care facilities, a lot of different options are available, but for these facilities in rural areas, they are few and far between. If one facility closes, the next closest one could be many miles or even hours away. It might not be feasible for every senior to move so far from their home.

So this mandate from CMS, it would devastate facilities across Nebraska, across rural America, and across this