

no electricity and limited communication services, most of whom have already been displaced, have already been traumatized, and already lack basic necessities. And even then, the bombing continues.

As we proceed on this supplemental bill—which has some very, very important issues—count me in 100 percent for the humanitarian support that we need, not only in Gaza but all over this world. Count me in for that. Count me in for serious discussions about how we improve border security. Count me in to help the people of Ukraine withstand Putin's terrible invasion. But do not count me in to give another \$10 billion to a rightwing extremist government in Israel—by the way, whose Prime Minister's, I guess, trial for corruption is continuing. Don't count me in to support that \$10 billion.

With that, I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF IRMA CARRILLO RAMIREZ

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Irma Carrillo Ramirez to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Born in Brownfield, TX, Judge Ramirez received her B.A. from West Texas State University and her J.D. from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She then entered private practice at a law firm in Dallas before going to work in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas. During her 11 years as a litigator, she tried nine cases to verdict, including four jury trials.

Since 2002, Judge Ramirez has served as a magistrate judge in the Northern District of Texas. As a magistrate judge, she has presided over 13 trials. She also served as the presiding judge in over 440 consent cases, and she has been assigned more than 2,400 cases for full case management. In addition to her service as a magistrate judge, Judge Ramirez currently presides over the reentry court in the Northern District of Texas and helps oversee the district court's civil pro bono panel.

Judge Ramirez is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators—Mr. CORNYN and Mr. CRUZ—and the American Bar Association unanimously rated her as “well qualified” to serve on the Fifth Circuit. She has deep ties to Texas, and her significant experience as both an advocate and magistrate judge will serve her well on the Fifth Circuit.

If confirmed, Judge Ramirez will be the first Hispanic woman to serve on the Fifth Circuit and the only active Hispanic judge on the Fifth Circuit.

During Judge Ramirez's confirmation hearing, Senator CORNYN called her “exceptionally qualified” and said that “[y]ou can tell that Texas is very proud of Judge Ramirez.” I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. SANDERS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. 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. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that we start the vote now.

VOTE ON RAMIREZ NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 326 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Smith
Collins	Lujan	Stabenow
Cooms	Lummis	Tester
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Cotton	McConnell	Vance
Cramer	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—12

Blackburn	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Lee	Schmitt
Crapo	Marshall	Sullivan
Daines	Mullin	Thune

NOT VOTING—8

Barrasso	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Johnson	Tuberville
Cardin	Risch	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is con-

sidered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 317.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 317, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Margaret Wood Hassan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

REMOVING EXTRANEIOUS LOOPHOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Mark R. Warner, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 4, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, to explain to the Senators and our colleagues what we have just done, a few moments ago, I filed cloture on a motion to proceed on a shell bill for a national security supplemental.

The step I am taking tonight will ensure the process for the supplemental moves forward and that, hopefully, disagreements on immigration do not prevent us from doing what we must do to protect America's security.

I urge every single Senator to think where we are at this moment in history. America's national security is on the line around the world—in Europe, in the Middle East, and in the Indo-Pacific. Autocrats and dictators are waging war against democracy, against our values, against our way of life. That is why passing this supplemental is so important. It could determine the trajectory of democracy for years to come. We are at a moment in history.

Tonight, I would like to announce that the administration has invited President Zelenskyy to address Senators via secure video as part of our classified briefing tomorrow so we can hear directly from him precisely what is at stake in this vote. I ask that all Senators—all Senators—attend this important briefing.

In the coming days, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and sup-

port moving forward on the supplemental package. We can't ever put a price on defending democracy in its hour of need, because if Ukraine falls, Putin will keep on going. Autocrats around the world will be emboldened. Democracy, this grand and noble experiment, will enter an era of decline. History will render harsh judgment on those who abandon democracy.

I urge all Senators to work with us to move forward on a national security supplemental.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 2087 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2087) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Lummis substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1370) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. TERMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amended by striking "October 1, 2023" and inserting "October 1, 2028".

(b) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—If this Act is enacted after October 1, 2023, the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on October 1, 2023.

SEC. 3. OTHER AMENDMENTS.

Section 102 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "Each medal shall consist of gold-plate over bronze, rhodium over bronze, or bronze and shall be struck in accordance with subsection (f)."; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), in the second sentence, by striking "Subject to subsection (a), the" and inserting "The".

The bill (S. 2087), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMENDING THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 483, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 483) commending the officers of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service for 225 years of work protecting, promoting, and advancing the health and safety of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 483) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THOMPSON SHOES

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Thompson Shoes of Manchester, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Thompson Shoes in Manchester was founded by Gary and Keith Thompson in 1958 as the first of nine shoe stores owned by the Thompson brothers. Keith ran the Manchester location until 1990 when the location was purchased by Tracy Bessey. The current owners, husband and wife duo Todd and Shelly Schrader, purchased the Manchester Thompson Shoes location from Tracy Bessey on January 1, 2011. Under the Schrader's ownership, Shelly serves as president, with Todd serving as vice president. The store offers a variety of athletic shoes, dress shoes, and boots. In addition to shoes, they also carry socks and offer shoe sizing services to customers at the store. The Schraders have also built a special bond with Keith Thompson and Tracy Bessey over the years. Both former owners have paid regular visits to the store's events since 2011.

Small businesses are often successful because of the hard work and dedication of their team. Dianne