

force them to reduce hours and lay off staff. You want to call up and sign up for new benefits or see how you can fix a problem? There will be no one to answer you—long wait times.

And let's not forget, it is programs for folks who are trying to improve their situation, get a better job, and further their own career. A CR means no increases for apprenticeship funding, workforce training, or the maximum Pell amount.

What else do parents need if they are going to go to work? I have said it many times, childcare. We are in a childcare crisis, and with a full-year CR, this is only going to go from bad to worse because we will be resigned to across-the-board cuts to our Nation's childcare programs.

And our public schools also will face tight budgets. Kids are still recovering from this pandemic, and we can't afford to provide our schools less funding when our students deserve and need more support. It is that simple.

Look, I have been going on for a while. But the truth is, I have barely scratched the surface on what we will lose with a full-year CR: Increases throughout our bills to support Tribal communities, gone; over a billion dollars for FAA modernization efforts, gone; housing for wildland firefighters, improvements in our rail system, next-generation weather satellites, gone, gone, and gone.

And here is the kicker: I have only been talking so far about half the equation because the Fiscal Responsibility Act would force absolutely devastating across-the-board cuts on virtually all domestic programs that could be as much as nearly 10 percent.

Let's be clear about the damage here. Immediate hiring freezes and furloughs at just about every Agency. Millions of women and kids would lose WIC benefits; wait times at ports of entry would quadruple; wait times for new business permits from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau would increase fivefold; nearly 1,000 fewer full-time food safety inspectors; 2,500 fewer national park employees and less staff and equipment for our Federal firefighters; 5,000 scientists, students, and technical staff no longer receiving research support at our national labs and universities; 130,000 fewer small businesses getting training and counseling from the Small Business Association; nearly 700,000 households losing Federal housing assistance and being pushed toward homelessness; 2½ million patients across Indian Country hurt by a \$235 million cut to the Indian Health Service hospitals and clinics.

And that is the tip of the iceberg. We are talking tens of billions of dollars slashed to programs that keep our country competitive and our economy strong and our families safe and sound. So this is really no run-of-the-mill CR outcome, which would be bad enough as it is.

The bottom line here is this: We have a job to do. We have a job to do. Our

constituents expect us to come to work, to listen to them, respond to the challenges in their life, write the bills, solve our problems, and deliver results. At a minimum, they expect us to try—not threaten, as the Speaker is doing, to change a few words and give up.

A long-term CR wouldn't just shut out their voices, it would cede ground to our adversaries, let America fall behind, and cut off vital resources families count on each and every day.

If we want to make sure that America continues to lead; if we want a strong, competitive economy; if we want a safer world; and if we want a real future for our families, we cannot just throw our hands up and hope for the best. We have to come together, do the hard work of governing, hammer out bipartisan spending bills that actually reflect what we think our Nation needs, get back to the bipartisan spending agreement that the House Republicans wanted—actually, getting back to that, they demanded it—and agree that extreme partisan riders have no place in our spending bills.

In the full Senate here, as the Presiding Officer knows, we wrote 12 bipartisan spending bills that follow the full terms of the bipartisan spending agreement, but now we need House Republicans to hold up their end of the bargain. That means sticking to the entire agreement and using the full resources it provides for defense and domestic programs.

We cannot move forward if House Republicans are busy trying to go back on their word, especially for a deal that they pushed for and negotiated in the first place. Let's all remember that House Republicans were the ones who chose to hold the debt limit hostage until they secured this agreement. Let's also remember it was their leader who negotiated this deal directly with the President. They cut this deal. When you negotiate a deal, you don't then bargain over how much of your word you are going to keep. Deals are built on common ground and mutual trust, not shifting sand.

So, Madam President, I will be clear. I am not calling on Republicans to do anything extreme here or anything I wouldn't do myself. I get that no one ever gets everything they want, especially in a divided government. In fact, as I have said many times, I believe the cuts that were enacted by the Fiscal Responsibility Act set us back. But that was the deal. That was the deal we voted on. So, here in the Senate, we did write 12 bipartisan bills to those terms. That is the job. That is what legislating looks like in a divided government.

If we are going to avoid an unnecessary shutdown or an absolutely unacceptable, inflexible, yearlong CR—for the first time ever—we need everyone to get real about just what is at stake if we give up on writing serious, full-year funding bills. And that is just what it is going to take to get that done. So I call on everybody: Let's do our job.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Now, Madam President, I also want to take a few minutes to talk about the supplemental funding package we are going to move to vote on shortly.

The clock is ticking, and the eyes of the world are watching to see how quickly and how completely the United States responds to urgent challenges across the world. We cannot afford delays that tell our adversaries they can just wait us out. We cannot afford half-steps that tell our allies we will only stand by some of them, some of the time. We cannot accept the notion that there is a "price" that must be paid in order to stand by our allies. That is why we are voting today to move forward on a bill that would respond to the pressing security challenges. It is past time for Senators to show they appreciate the urgency of this moment.

Now, I have heard some Republicans criticize this package for what is not in it—the extreme, partisan policy changes to our Nation's immigration laws that they have been pushing. Well, here is how I see this: When you have a bill like this one, with funding that is urgently needed for issues that have really broad, bipartisan support, and you face a moment like this, where civilians are suffering, our allies are under attack, our adversaries are watching for signs of weakness, and American leadership and our country's long-term security are on the line, you don't vote down the bill because you weren't able to attach your partisan wish list to it. And you don't tie aid for allies you believe is vital—vital to their safety and security—to passing partisan nonstarters; you work to find consensus and get that aid across the finish line.

Now let's talk about that aid and the funding that is in this bill and why it is so crucial to pass it without delay.

First, this package extends essential support for our allies in Ukraine—something we have been discussing even longer than aid to Israel and have already been forced to delay too many times.

Ukraine has fought bravely to push back Putin's bloody invasion, and our support for their efforts has been indispensable, but it is now—right now—at a critical juncture. We are about to leave the tank empty while Putin continues his attacks. If you are stopping us from getting this done, you are choosing to leave Ukraine with fewer resources and put Russia in a stronger position. Those are just the plain facts of the matter. This is not hyperbole; that is the military reality on the ground.

Ukraine's success on the battlefield depends on its air defenses, and those defenses depend on U.S.-made interceptor missiles, which they will not get without this package. So if we don't get this done quickly, we will, as just one example, give Russia an opening to potentially destroy Ukrainian air defenses and achieve air superiority.

That would mark a catastrophic turning point in the war, in the region, and in the balance of power between the free world and brutal dictatorships—a U.S. ally weakened, if not beaten, not due to lack of courage on their part but a lack of commitment on ours. That would send a dangerous and disgraceful message to our adversaries and our allies alike about just how serious to take America's commitments.

We cannot let this get pushed off again. We have to send a clear message to dictators: You cannot wait the United States out and trample democracies. We stand firm by our allies. And that is what this package does with aid to Ukraine.

It also includes security assistance for Israel in the aftermath of the horrific Hamas attacks.

The latest activity from Houthi rebels against U.S. forces underscores the importance of supporting our allies and promoting stability in the region.

Critically, this package provides humanitarian aid for Gaza and elsewhere to get the civilians the food, water, medical care, and other essentials they desperately need. This is not just the absolute right thing to do, but it is a key part of combating hopelessness and the extremism that it can breed.

This bill also includes much needed investments in the Indo-Pacific so we can strengthen our allies and bolster our presence in the region and deter our adversaries.

Let's be clear. This bill also does include resources for the border and to stop the flow of fentanyl. If you truly, honestly believe we need to do more on the border, I don't know how you decide to do nothing and think it is better than something substantial.

So let's cut to the chase here. This bill is made up of basic bipartisan priorities—supporting Ukraine, supporting Israel, getting humanitarian assistance to civilians, stopping fentanyl, making commonsense investments to humanely manage our border—and they all have broad support here in the Senate.

So let's take this opportunity, with this vote today, to get things moving, to get onto this bill so we can do the hard work of legislating and debating and considering amendments to it instead of pitting allies and crises against each other as political bargaining chips.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes and show they are serious about responding to all the crises before us, and then let's get right back to work in a bipartisan way on our annual spending bills, like I just talked about, and other urgent issues like childcare, because—let's be clear—this is another crisis that is growing worse every day.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON RAYES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 331 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Warner
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
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—47

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

The nomination was confirmed.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). 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.

The majority leader.  
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the question before us is simple: Will Senators rise to defend Western democracy, protect our fundamental values, and support our friends abroad fighting for their lives? Are we willing to stand up to autocratic brutes and respond to our adversaries with strength, not weakness? Will we help the people of Ukraine fight against Vladimir Putin like we promised?

This is a moment in history. This is a moment history will record. The answer to all these questions should be an emphatic yes. At stake is America's safety, the survival of democracy, and the future of the war in Ukraine. As we have always done in our history, the Senate should rush to the defense of democracy and stand up to autocratic brutes.

You can be sure Vladimir Putin is watching closely to see if the Senate will approve more aid to Ukraine. Whether or not we approve an aid package will likely sway the outcome of the war. We must act.

To show our Republican colleagues that we care about this issue deeply

and are serious about moving forward in a bipartisan way, we are willing to give them an amendment here on the floor on any border proposal of their choice at 60 votes. We will not interfere with whatever policy they want to present. It is vital we move forward and to show that we are willing to work with our Republican colleagues to be reasonable.

This, again, is a moment of truth for the Senate, for the country, for the fight for democracy and Western values. Again, history will record this moment. We must rise to the occasion. We must stand with Ukraine. We should all vote yes.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 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.

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 motion to proceed to 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, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 332 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Coons	Kaine
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Blumenthal	Duckworth	King
Booker	Durbin	Klobuchar
Brown	Fetterman	Luján
Butler	Gillibrand	Manchin
Cantwell	Hassan	Markey
Cardin	Heinrich	Menendez
Carper	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Casey	Hirono	Murphy