

She died last year, leaving her husband and two children. Mary grew up in an area of St. Louis known to have nuclear contamination. This is yet another person whom this body, today, chooses to leave behind.

Then there is Chantelle. Chantelle has been diagnosed with two different kinds of breast cancer. She has had 13 surgeries—13—including a double mastectomy, gallbladder removal, and a full hysterectomy. Chantelle's mother died of breast cancer. Her aunt died of breast cancer. Her grandfather died of pancreatic cancer. Her two cousins have breast cancer. And a nephew now has a cancerous brain tumor. Chantelle is from a region in St. Louis that—I think you guessed it—is known to have nuclear contamination. Chantelle is yet another good American whom this body now chooses to leave behind.

This next photo is of Kirbi. Kirbi is from Missouri also. She is holding a picture of her daughter Kirstee. Her daughter Kirstee, who is here in this photo, was diagnosed with a rare childhood form of brain cancer and died when she was 13. Kirstee was born in an area that studies have identified as having dramatically higher instances of childhood cancers. Kirstee and her family will get nothing now because of the actions of this body.

The radiation hasn't been cleaned up. The contamination has not been dealt with. Her family has not been given a dime of help—a dime—not only for her death but for the who-knows-how-many hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills they have had to pay.

Finally, we have the students at Jana Elementary School. Take a good look at these students. Here, they are sitting in their lunchroom at school. But the problem is, they can't go to school anymore—nope. Not a one of these students can go to school at this elementary school. Why, you may ask? Because it is closed. Why is it closed? Because the creek that runs right by their school is full of radioactive waste.

Here today, as we sit here, 2023, years after the Manhattan Project concluded, their school is full of nuclear contamination, and now they are being shipped off to other schools, to other places. They can't do a thing about it. Take a look at them. These are the voiceless Americans whom, today, this body turns its back on. These are the people who deserve the apology that this body first offered in 1990, who deserve the compensation for the sacrifices they have made. Yet they will get none of it.

But who is going to get paid? Oh, well, the defense industry is going to get paid big-time. Oh, yeah. A recent analysis found that this bill contains not only almost \$1 trillion in new defense spending; it contains \$26 billion—the Defense appropriations bills do—\$26 billion for programs that the Pentagon didn't even ask for—\$26 billion that they didn't ask for—in 1 year. Yet we are told that those students you just saw and every young person, old per-

son, good person whom I have just shown you—we just don't have enough money for them.

Oh, we just can't do anything for you. We can pay these people until the cows come home, but we can't do anything for you.

We have plenty of money for Raytheon and all the rest. We don't have a dime for the people of Missouri. We don't have a dime for the Navajo Nation. We don't have a dime for the people of New Mexico. We don't have a dime for the working poor who are sick because of their government's radiation. We don't have a dime. But we must hurry on to make sure the corporations get their money. Well, Mr. President, not with my support—not with my support.

I would just say to those congressional leaders who negotiated this package—Speaker JOHNSON, Senator MCCONNELL: Your actions have earned my opposition.

I would say to the good people of the State of Missouri who have endured for decade upon decade: This fight is not over.

To the people of this Nation, tens of thousands who have depended on this compensation, lifesaving help, who now are at risk of losing all of it: This fight is not over.

I understand some high schools in the Missouri area may be watching now. I just want to assure you: I will come to this floor as long as it takes. I will introduce this bill as long as it takes. I will force amendment votes as long as it takes, until we compensate the people of this Nation who have sacrificed for this Nation and do not leave them behind.

The failure to do so now is a scar on the conscience of this body, and I will remind my colleagues of it as long as it takes, until we make it right.

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 bill 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. 352, Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Christopher A. Coons.

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 nomination of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the

Tenth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea".

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 335 Ex.]

YEAS—63

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

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Blackburn	Luján	Rounds
Cramer	Moran	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Hawaii.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, we now have one week left until the Senate is scheduled to recess for the end of the year. While this year is quickly coming to an end, our work in this body is far from over, especially as it relates to our national security.

Yesterday, the Armed Services Committee, on which I sit, released a text of fiscal year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act conference report. This year's NDAA contains critical investments in our servicemembers, our military infrastructure, and our national security at large. Importantly, this year's NDAA contains a 5.2-percent pay raise for our troops—the most significant raise in more than 20 years—and

prevents large cuts to servicemembers' overseas cost-of-living adjustment accounts.

The bill also includes several provisions I fought to secure to improve servicemembers' quality of life, including a pilot program to give military secretaries greater authority to replace substandard barracks.

As we work to defend our allies and prevent conflict in the Pacific, this year's NDAA contains a number of provisions to strengthen our posture throughout the Indo-Pacific, including establishing a strategy for missile defense of Hawaii and the Indo-Pacific region, providing greater flexibility to bolster military infrastructure in the region and authorizing funding for multilateral training campaigns with our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific.

As home to Indo-Pacific Command and the tip of the spear of any conflict in the Pacific, Hawaii plays an especially important role in our common defense, a role that is even more meaningful today on the 82nd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

But as is the case across our country, much of the Defense Department's post-World War II infrastructure in Hawaii is in desperate need of repair or replacement. That is why I secured language in the bill directing INDOPACOM to provide a report to Congress on the state of all DOD infrastructure in Hawaii so that we can get serious about modernization.

At a time of global instability, it is essential that we pass this conference report as we have every year for the last 62 years to protect our Nation and reaffirm our global leadership.

The United States plays a key role and a vital role in supporting our allies across the globe. That is why the Senate is also working on a supplemental funding package to provide much needed assistance to our international partners, including two nations defending their rights to exist.

For nearly 2 years, Ukrainians have bravely fought off Putin's unjust and brutal invasion with the support of the United States, support President Zelenskyy himself has said is essential to his country's success. But now, at a critical moment in this war, Republicans are holding up essential aid for Ukraine in exchange for unrelated permanent immigration policy changes. The Biden administration and the Ukrainians have been clear: Time is of the essence. And without United States' aid, Putin will likely be able to gain ground.

Meanwhile, Israel is working to defend itself and its fundamental right to exist in the wake of Hamas's brutal October 7 terror attack. In the days following the attack, there seemed to be bipartisan consensus about the need to get additional aid to Israel as quickly as possible. But just days later, House Republicans opted to tie this much needed assistance to an unrelated partisan domestic policy demand—gutting

IRS tax enforcement. Republicans claim this proposal would offset the cost of aid to Israel, when, in fact, it would cost our government money in terms of lost tax revenues.

The House Republican bill also neglected to include any of the White House's request for funding to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

In addition to funding for Ukraine and Israel, the Senate package also includes language to renew the Compacts of Free Association, or COFA. These compacts—with Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Micronesia—provide the United States exclusive military jurisdiction in these strategic Pacific nations, critical to our national security, in exchange for defense and other benefits for COFA citizens.

It is hard to overstate the importance of these compacts to our operations in the Pacific and to our national security. For the first time in nearly 30 years, these agreements also reinstate access to Federal benefits for COFA citizens, thousands of whom legally live, work, and pay taxes in the United States.

The American people are counting on us. And, perhaps, more importantly, they are looking to us, watching, to see whether we can set aside partisan politics and do our jobs. If we fail to pass this supplemental national security funding package, it will send a message to our allies and adversaries alike that when it matters most, the United States cannot be counted on and this Congress cannot do its job.

This is not a game. There is no backstop here. If we fail to do our jobs, people will die, our allies will suffer losses, our national security will be degraded, and our leadership role as a great nation that defends democratic values will be significantly undermined.

I thank Leader SCHUMER, Chairman REED, and those of our Republican colleagues who are working diligently in good faith to find a path forward on all of these priorities because failure is not an option here. With stakes this high, we have to get this done. I implore my colleagues to come to the table so we can do so. The world is watching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

MEDICARE PART D

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I come to the floor to celebrate 20 years since the passage of the Part D Medicare prescription drug benefit. Tomorrow, December 8, is that day.

There was a time when the seniors of America on Medicare didn't have access to nationwide prescription drug benefits, so, as I indicated, 20 years ago tomorrow, President George W. Bush signed into law a nationwide prescription drug benefit for our Nation's seniors.

At that time, I was chairman of the Finance Committee, and I was proud to be the lead author on Medicare Part D. It wasn't easy. It took several years to

bring Members of both political parties in the Senate and the House, along with a President—in this case, President Bush—to accomplish this monumental task.

As I remember, both political parties were blaming each other over a period of maybe 5 or 6 years for why we didn't have a prescription drug bill and probably blaming each other. Throughout 2001, 2002, and 2003, I led bipartisan negotiations that eventually produced the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, which is the official title of that legislation.

In 2003, I said this, a quote from that period of time:

Medicare is part of our country's social fabric. We're not only saving it, but we're also improving it.

Of course, that still rings true today.

Today, 52 million seniors are voluntarily enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan, because it is not a requirement of Medicare. In 2023, 804 stand-alone prescription drug plans were offered across the Nation, with the average Iowan having over 20 plans to choose from to meet whatever their special needs are. Over the lifetime of the program, the average annual Medicare Part D base beneficiary monthly premium has been between \$27 to \$36 a month.

I remember some of the discussions that we were having back then as we tried to develop this legislation. We thought to ourselves that we had to be very careful that the initial premiums were not over \$40 a month because we figured that was just too high for anybody to participate in this new program. We knew or at least thought at that time that they would continue to go up according to inflation, but, as you can see, after 27 years, the base beneficiary monthly premium is still well below \$40 a month, which obviously is quite a surprise to those of us who were involved at that time in writing this legislation but a very positive surprise.

Access and affordability have been a key hallmark of the Medicare Part D Program, but so has good stewardship of the taxpayers' dollars. In the first decade of the program, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected that Medicare Part D would cost taxpayers roughly \$550 billion for that decade. It ended up costing \$353 billion, which was 36 percent less than the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projected in 2003.

Most Federal projections of cost of almost any government program always tend to be much greater than CBO estimated. So this is another one of those pleasant surprises that have come out of what we thought would actually materialize as we were writing this legislation.

I know that seniors have appreciated this nationwide prescription drug benefit and its use of a market-based approach. A market-based approach is pretty important because a lot of people like to have one single government