

Communities in Maine and throughout our country are struggling to absorb this influx of people who are being released into the interior. The majority of migrants are released pending an adjudication of their asylum claims. But that is a process that can take years.

In Portland, ME, a city of 68,000 residents, more than 1,600 asylum seekers have arrived since January.

Sanford, ME, which has a population of only 22,000, has had approximately 400 migrants arrive since May. Over the past 6 months, the city of Sanford has spent \$1.3 million to provide food, housing, and other required assistance to asylum seekers and their families.

Now, the irony here is these asylum seekers are not allowed to go to work immediately upon filing their asylum applications. I have introduced a bill that could help lessen the impact on local communities by helping asylum seekers support themselves, as they want to do. And employers in Maine want to hire them while they await their immigration proceedings.

Specifically, my bill would shorten the waiting period for asylum seekers who come through legal ports of entry to apply for employment authorization, provided that their applications are not frivolous, that they are not detained, and that their identities have been verified with their names run through the Federal Government's Terrorist Watchlist.

An out-of-control border, which is what we have now, poses a very real threat to our homeland and our people. This is a national security challenge for our country.

Since fiscal year 2021, 294 individuals who were apprehended by Border Patrol at the southwest border were on the Terrorist Watchlist. That compares to only 11 such individuals in the previous 4 years combined. And just think how many others are part of the "got-aways," those who did not turn themselves in or were not apprehended by our Border Patrol.

There are also tens of thousands of migrants arrested at our southern and northern borders who have criminal convictions or who are wanted by law enforcement, such as the two Romanians recently encountered in Maine.

Not only has the failure to control our border led to unchecked migration, but it has also contributed to the serious illegal drug crisis that is affecting communities throughout our country.

Mexican drug cartels are using the chaos at the southern border to facilitate their trafficking operations. They are sending record amounts of fentanyl into this country, enough to kill every American many times over.

Maine, like so many States, has seen record increases in recent years in the number of overdose deaths, nearly 80 percent of which are fentanyl related. We lost 513 Mainers in the first 10 months of 2023 to fatal overdoses, and 373 of these deaths were fentanyl related.

In addition, the Mexican cartel used the chaos and the uncontrolled southern border for human trafficking.

This is a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis, and it is a national security crisis. And we cannot allow it to continue.

I have long supported creating legal immigration pathways with appropriate guardrails. Immigrants contribute to our great country and our communities in so many important ways. However, it is clear that we must act to address the ongoing and ever worsening crisis at our borders, which adversely affects communities throughout our country.

We cannot delay any longer. I am a strong supporter for continuing to provide assistance to Ukraine to repel Russian aggression. Make no mistake about it, Putin will not stop with Ukraine. He will go on to re-create, if he possibly can, his vision of, once again, having the old Soviet Union. I believe that if he is successful in Ukraine, he will next seize Moldova. He then will begin to menace and threaten our NATO allies—the Baltic States, Poland.

So far, we have been able to assist Ukraine without one American soldier losing his life or her life. We should continue to do so.

We need to help our greatest ally, Israel, in its fight against the terrorist group Hamas.

These, in many ways, are border disputes as well, but we cannot ignore the border crisis that we have in our own country. And that is why we need to work on all of these issues and bring them together in a supplemental funding bill.

The time to act is now. It is unfortunate that the administration has been so late to these negotiations, but I still have hope that we can put together a package that will address all of these crises: the border crisis in our own country, the border crisis in Ukraine, the border crisis in Israel with the terrorist attacks from Hamas, and the coming border crisis that we are going to see, I fear, with China increasingly threatening Taiwan. All of those issues need to be addressed in the supplemental. Let's get the job done.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:58 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 430, Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Michael F. Bennet, Mark Kelly, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Angus S. King, Jr., Jack Reed, Cory A. Booker.

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 Christopher Charles Fonzzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

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

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr.

SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 348 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—18

Britt	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Menendez	Vance
Grassley	Ricketts	Wicker
Hoeven	Sinema	Young

NOT VOTING—33

Barrasso	Ernst	Padilla
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Lee	Schatz
Cornyn	Lummis	Schmitt
Cramer	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Moran	Scott (SC)
Daines	Mullin	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER CHARLES FONZONE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Christopher Charles Fonzone to serve as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, OLC.

After graduating from Cornell University and Harvard Law School, Mr. Fonzone clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and later Justice Stephen Breyer on the U.S. Supreme Court. Subsequently, Mr. Fonzone held a number of roles in the Obama administration: attorney on the appellate staff in the Civil Division at the Justice Department, special counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Defense, attorney-adviser in OLC, special assistant and associate counsel in the White House Counsel's Office and Deputy National Security Council—NSC—Legal Adviser, and deputy assistant and counsel in the White House Counsel's Office and NSC Legal Adviser.

After working in private practice at Sidley Austin for several years, Mr. Fonzone returned to public service as the general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, ODNI. In this role, Mr. Fonzone pro-

vides advice and counsel to the Director of National Intelligence and other senior ODNI leaders on a range of legal issues facing the Agency, including intelligence law, employment matters, administrative matters, and budgetary and fiscal issues.

Mr. Fonzone's demonstrated track record advising the U.S. Government and clients on a range of complex legal issues will serve him well when he is confirmed to lead OLC.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. Fonzone's nomination.

VOICE ON FONZONE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fonzone nomination?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "nay."

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT)

would have voted "nay" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 349 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—17

Britt	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Fischer	Ricketts	Wicker
Grassley	Sinema	Young
Hoeven	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—33

Barrasso	Ernst	Padilla
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Lee	Schatz
Cornyn	Lummis	Schmitt
Cramer	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Moran	Scott (SC)
Daines	Mullin	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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.

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 444, Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Martin Heinrich, Tina Smith, Mark R. Warner, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Mazie Hirono, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, 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 Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, shall be brought to a close?