

PN1160 AIR FORCE nomination of Christopher M. Lutz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1169 AIR FORCE nomination of Daniel E. Finkelstein, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN1161 ARMY nomination of Michael W. Lawson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1162 ARMY nominations (6) beginning JASON E. COSBY, and ending BRIAN MATHISON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1163 ARMY nomination of Roberto Candelaria-Santiago, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 27, 2023.

PN1173 ARMY nomination of James M. Degroot, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1176 ARMY nomination of Victoria K. Somnuk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1177 ARMY nominations (25) beginning TREVOR I. BARNA, and ending 0003391400, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1178 ARMY nominations (57) beginning BRIAN D. ANDES, and ending 0003089250, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1179 ARMY nomination of Bryce R. Greenwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1180 ARMY nomination of Caleb J. Porter, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1181 ARMY nominations (6) beginning HORACE ALLEN, III, and ending THOMAS R. WEBER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1182 ARMY nominations (4) beginning ANDREW S. BERRYMAN, and ending DANIEL J. MCAULIFFE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1183 ARMY nomination of Timothy P. Plackett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1189 ARMY nomination of Jacob B. Saunders, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1190 ARMY nomination of Mark C. Mullinax, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1194 ARMY nomination of Lasaundra C. Estelle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1195 ARMY nomination of Paul B. Fowler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1196 ARMY nomination of Pace E. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1184 MARINE CORPS nominations (428) beginning ERICK R. ABERCROMBIE, and ending ANGELA S. ZUNIC, which nomina-

tions were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1185 MARINE CORPS nominations (746) beginning JONATHAN K. ACKER, and ending EDWARD S. ZUR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN1095 NAVY nomination of Devere J. Crooks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1197 NAVY nomination of Sarah A. Sherwood, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1198 NAVY nomination of Wilfredo Morales, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

PN1199 NAVY nomination of Dary R. Sampy, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 7, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1187 SPACE FORCE nomination of Robin J. Glebes, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

PN1188 SPACE FORCE nomination of Maxwell E. Fuldauer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of December 4, 2023.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate and the American people, these are the 11 four-star generals who were not included in the last approval of the 300-and-some-odd flag officers whom we did approve last time. So these are the 11 remaining generals that have just been approved and some other regular nominations that we usually do through the military. But these 11 flag officers have now been approved, joining the rest of their colleagues whom we approved a few week ago. That is good news.

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. 174.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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 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. 174, S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Charles E. Schumer, Raphael G. Warnock, Mazie K. Hirono, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Mark Kelly, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, John Fetterman, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown.

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. 311.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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 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. 311, Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

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. 376.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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 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. 376, John A. Kazen, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Peter Welch, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 19, be waived.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "SMALL BUSINESS LENDING UNDER THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT (REGULATION B)"—VETO

Mr. SCHUMER. As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the veto message on S.J. Res. 32, it be considered as having been read, printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal.

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

The veto message is ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 32, a resolution that would disapprove of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) final rule titled "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)."

The CFPB's final rule would provide small business owners, lenders, and the public with critical information about the \$1.7 trillion small business financing market. It would bring much needed transparency to small business lending and improve the ability of lenders and community organizations to meet the most critical needs of America's small businesses. This rule implements a long-overdue piece of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. It is also central to the effective implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act, which helps ensure that the needs of all borrowers—including low- and moderate-income borrowers—are met. But this Republican-led resolution would hinder the Government's ability to conduct oversight of abusive and predatory lenders, make it harder for 33 million small businesses across the country to assess lending opportunities and access capital, and make it more difficult for lenders and community groups to address the most acute gaps in capital access for minority- and women-owned businesses.

If enacted, this resolution would harm all those that stand to benefit from expanded transparency and accountability. By hampering efforts to promote transparency and accountability in small business lending, Republicans are siding with big banks and corporations over the needs of small business owners. Small businesses are the engines of our economy, and my Administration will not support policies that hurt their ability to thrive and grow.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, December 19, 2023.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—VETO
MESSAGE S.J. RES. 32

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto message with respect to S.J. Res. 32 be considered at a time to be determined by the majority leader in concurrence with the Republican leader prior to January 31, 2024; that there be up to 2 hours for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; that the Senate then vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, there will be no further votes tonight. It is our expectation that we will finish all remaining business tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me begin by wishing all Americans and my colleagues here in the Congress a very happy and peaceful holiday season.

Unfortunately, for the people in Israel and Palestine, that will not be the case. This is not a peaceful season for them. In Gaza, millions of people will end the year under constant bombardment, exposed to the winter or living in tents, wondering where they will find their next meal or clean drinking water or the medical supplies they need. What is going on in Gaza right now is an unmitigated humanitarian disaster, and we must not look away from it.

We all know that the current war was begun by Hamas in their brutal terrorist attack against Israel, which killed some 1,200 innocent men, women, and children and took more than 240 hostages. Hamas is a corrupt terrorist organization which, before and after their attack on October 7, has made it clear that their goal is to destroy the State of Israel.

There is no question in my mind that Israel has the right to defend itself and respond against the perpetrators of the October 7 attack. But while it is clear that Israel has the right to respond militarily against that terrorist attack, it is also clear that the Netanyahu rightwing extremist government is waging that war—that response—in a deeply reckless and immoral way.

A just cause for war does not excuse atrocities in the conduct of that war, and that is precisely what we are seeing. Israel has the right to go to war against Hamas. It does not have the right to go to war against innocent men, women, and children in Gaza.

Israel's reliance on widespread and indiscriminate bombardment, including the use of massive explosive ordnance in densely populated areas, is unconscionable. Israel's military campaign will be remembered among some of the darkest chapters of our modern history.

Consider the toll thus far—and I hope that every Member of Congress is prepared to consider the toll of what Israel is doing right now. As of today, nearly 20,000 people have been killed, 70 percent of whom are women and children.

Let me repeat that. Nearly 20,000 people have been killed, 70 percent of whom are women and children. And more than 52,000 have been wounded since October 7. More victims are likely trapped under the rubble. Further, 135 United Nations workers have been killed as well as dozens of other aid workers.

Unbelievably—and it really is quite unbelievable—nearly 1.9 million people—that is more than 85 percent of the population in Gaza—have been driven from their homes. Can you imagine