

damage had already been done. News stories had circulated far and wide blaming Texas officials for blocking potentially lifesaving care for a woman and two children who drowned.

Well, did the Biden administration apologize for its false accusation? Did it admit that it had perpetrated a false narrative? Absolutely not. Then, again, why would you really expect them to? This is just another example of the Biden administration that cannot be trusted to tell the truth, another example of spreading lies about what is happening at the southern border—no remorse, no shame, no accountability. The lies, dishonesty, and mischaracterizations have become commonplace, and the American people are fed up with them.

Leaders in the Biden administration have repeatedly intentionally misrepresented what is happening. They dissemble; they shift the facts; they deflect; they distort the truth; and then they try to pin their own failures on somebody else.

Well, as sad as it is now 3 years into the Biden administration, I am glad that the President has finally admitted that the border is not secure, and I am really shocked that, 3 years in, he is finally come around to admit it.

But the fact he won't accept the reality that it is his administration's policies that created the crisis is a serious problem because the status quo at the border is absolutely unsustainable and has been for a long time now, and something has got to change.

As we speak, several of our colleagues are trying to secure an agreement on legislation that will address the border crisis. I am sure it will fall short of what I would like to see happen, but Senator LANKFORD and Senator SINEMA, Senator MURPHY, and others are working to try to come up with some changes in the law that will force the Biden administration to put an end to some of the most egregious practices. And I, for one, am eager to see if they can come up with something that will force the administration to change its disastrous southern border policy, and I will be watching closely with interest as the negotiations progress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 467.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 467, Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 474.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristal C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 474, Cristal C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 475.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 475, Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 22, 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.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

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 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. 358, Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, John W. Hickenlooper, Laphonza Butler, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeff Merkley, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters.

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 Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Baldwin	Daines	Marshall
Bennet	Duckworth	McConnell
Blackburn	Durbin	Menendez
Blumenthal	Ernst	Merkley
Booker	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gillibrand	Mullin
Britt	Grassley	Murkowski
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Budd	Heinrich	Murray
Butler	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cantwell	Hirono	Padilla
Capito	Hoeben	Peters
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Carper	Johnson	Ricketts
Casey	Kaine	Romney
Cassidy	Kennedy	Rosen
Collins	King	Rounds
Coons	Klobuchar	Rubio
Cornyn	Lankford	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Schatz
Cotton	Lummis	Schumer
Crapo	Manchin	Shaheen
Cruz	Markey	Sinema

Smith	Vance	Wicker
Tester	Warner	Wyden
Thune	Warnock	Young
Tillis	Warren	
Van Hollen	Whitehouse	

NAYS—7

Braun	Paul	Tuberville
Hawley	Schmitt	
Lee	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—11

Barrasso	Hagerty	Stabenow
Cramer	Kelly	Sullivan
Fetterman	Risch	Welch
Graham	Scott (SC)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 7.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LOLA'S FINE HOT SAUCE

● 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, I am privileged to recognize Lola's Fine Hot Sauce of West Des Moines, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce was founded by TaufEEK Shah in West Des Moines, in 2017. The original hot sauce recipe is courtesy of TaufEEK's mother Carmelita "Lola" Shah, who grew up in the Philippines before immigrating to the United States for medical school in the early 1970s. Lola spent over 35 years at Winthrop Medical Clinic in Winthrop, IA, where she practiced family health. Lola's hot sauce is a family recipe, entrusted to TaufEEK in 2015. After receiving the recipe, TaufEEK shared the homemade hot sauce with his coworkers and friends. Their positive reviews encouraged TaufEEK and Lola to embark on their entrepreneurial journey by renting out a commercial kitchen and selling the hot sauce at farmers markets in central Iowa.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce quickly grew from its beginnings as a popular stand at local markets. Today, the business offers a variety of hot sauces and salsas, merchandise, a Southern Jalapeno Bloody Mary mix, honey jalapeno beef jerky, and Lola's Original

Seasoning. They also post videos of recipes on their YouTube channel that folks can make at home using their favorite Lola's Fine Hot Sauce products as ingredients. In addition to being sold on their website, Lola's Fine Hot Sauce can be purchased across the United States, Canada, the Virgin Islands, and the Philippines at over 14,000 retailers. In 2022, Casey's announced a partnership with Lola's Fine Hot Sauce with their new Casey's Zesty Jalapeno Peanuts, Casey's Zesty Jalapeno Cashews, and Casey's Zesty Jalapeno Pretzels. All products are seasoned with Lola's Fine Hot Sauce and are available in-store and online for delivery.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce is actively involved in the Des Moines community. TaufEEK currently serves on the board of directors for the Iowa Center for Economic Success and the board of directors for the Des Moines Area Community College Foundation. In 2023, TaufEEK won the American Dream Award from the Iowa Restaurant Association. In addition to these awards, the Des Moines Register named TaufEEK Shah as one of their "15 People to Watch" in 2023. Lola's Fine Hot Sauce is a proud member of the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and celebrated its seventh business anniversary in 2024.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce's commitment to providing quality hot sauces and products across the globe while maintaining its Iowa roots is clear. I want to congratulate TaufEEK and Lola Shah and the entire team at Lola's Fine Hot Sauces for their hard work and success. I look forward to seeing their continued growth in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING THE HEARTLAND PREGNANCY CARE CENTER AND TRIBUTE TO BECKY REIMER

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise to day to recognize the Heartland Pregnancy Center and Becky Reimer for their efforts in declaring January 22, 2024, the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS.

As a staunch advocate for life who spent my career as an OB/GYN protecting the lives of both mother and child, I had the privilege of delivering over 5,000 babies, witnessing each time the beauty of the gift of life. There is nothing more precious than handing a child to his or her mother to be held for the first time.

As a U.S. Senator, I have continued this passion for protecting life in all its forms, including the unborn, the pregnant woman, and the new mother. Having started and supervised multiple family planning clinics, I can tell you that we must all work together towards ensuring access to prenatal care, proper nutrition, and childcare, as well as attending to the social challenges a mother faces. I am proud to have sponsored legislation that addresses these points, and I look forward to future opportunities to continue protecting the sanctity of life.