

gene editing and cloning and leaves those at the discretion of the Secretary, whoever the Secretary may be, in the future.

The bill's definition of infertility includes "the inability to reproduce or safely carry a pregnancy to term." It is a very broad term trying to be able to figure out what that means. Obviously, that means everyone who is not a woman as well would be included in that.

The bill also expands the eligibility to "partners." You do not have to be TRICARE beneficiaries. This would be the first time that DOD would be required to provide medical care to someone who is not otherwise entitled to it by virtue of their relationship to the military in other ways. This breaks new ground in that area.

So there is not only issues of questions of definitions and such, but there is also just definition of cost or working through the committee process through committees that have, so far, either not passed it or have refused to even have a markup or a hearing on it.

So I don't think it is good for us to be able to bring this for unanimous consent to be able to move it at this time. Let's move it through in a broader conversation, but I would also encourage, just as a body, I don't find Republicans who are just broadly opposed to IVF.

And I know this is a broad part of the conversation right now to leave that implication after what happened in Alabama, but I am a Republican who is passionate about the value of every single child who also doesn't have an issue with IVF and am grateful to know people who have gone through the process and know their kids and know the value of every single one of those children.

So for the sake of honoring life and for the sake of honoring, obviously, what we do as a Senate and how we function together, for those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am deeply disappointed but not surprised.

Let the record show I have been trying to pass this legislation into law for well over a decade. It wasn't yesterday. It wasn't last year—for well over a decade.

And for the entire time Republicans have been the ones who have blocked efforts to include this bill in any legislative package.

I had really hoped, after the outpouring of public statements in support of IVF from my colleagues across the aisle, they might finally change their tune, but the American people understand that actions speak louder than words.

On the unofficial CBO score that was mentioned, let's just say, I think it is a real overestimate of how many people dealing with fertility would make use of IVF and other fertility services at that cost.

And my understanding is it also adds the cost of children conceived through IVF being covered on VA healthcare for the rest of their childhood, which doesn't make a lot of sense since many of those families will have children one way or the other anyway. So I dispute that, but I will say, it is pretty clear, Republicans do not support IVF, despite their language, not even for wounded servicemembers and for veterans.

But having said that, my door is open. I am determined. If a servicemember goes overseas and is wounded and comes home and cannot conceive a family, we should be there to provide service for them. It is our promise to our veterans that when they serve us, we will take care of them when they get home.

What is not more basic than making sure they can have a family after serving our country? So I am disappointed once again, but I will not stop working on this. It is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF MELISSA R. DUBOSE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Melissa DuBose to the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Born in Providence, RI, Judge DuBose received her B.A. from Providence College and served as a teacher in Rhode Island for 11 years. While teaching high school, she earned her law degree by attending night classes at Roger Williams School of Law. Judge DuBose began her legal career as a special assistant attorney general in the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General, where she was responsible for prosecuting adults charged with child abuse, felonies committed by juveniles, and violations of probation. She then joined Schneider Electric as a senior legal counsel, assisting and providing legal counsel in litigation involving federal government-related disputes.

In 2019, then-Governor Gina Raimondo appointed Judge DuBose to serve as an associate judge on the Rhode Island District Court, where she has presided over approximately 250 to 300 bench trials that have gone to verdict or judgment. The American Bar Association rated Judge DuBose as "qualified" to serve on the district court, and she has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. REED and Mr. WHITEHOUSE.

Judge DuBose's deep ties to the Rhode Island legal community, combined with her significant courtroom experience, will make her an excellent addition to the Federal bench.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we are about to vote on final passage to confirm President Biden's nominee to the U.S. District Court of Rhode Island, Melissa DuBose, and I would like to say a few words about her.

My senior Senator, JACK REED, will be following me shortly, and I want to begin by saying what a pleasure and successful effort it has been to work with Senator REED together to make recommendations to several Presidents that have produced excellent district court judges in the District Court for the District of Rhode Island, a really terrific senior judge on the First Circuit, and a sitting judge on the First Circuit Court of Appeals. I think our nominees have proven themselves very well in the field after the nominations came and they were sworn in and joined the bench.

Melissa DuBose, I am confident, will join that roster of very successful Reed-Whitehouse recommendations. She has a few characteristics that I would like to mention.

One, she worked as a prosecutor in the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General, where I used to work and where I used to actually work as attorney general for a bit. She did very busy, active service there on the criminal prosecution side and was very well regarded by her peers. She spent nearly 10 years as a corporate in-house counsel at a Fortune 500 company, Schneider Electric, and learned the law from that side. Then she served on the Rhode Island district court, which is a very fast paced, busy court where your judgment is constantly called on. She has shown herself to be a very patient and well-regarded judge, having presided over maybe 250 or 300 cases that have either gone to trial or verdict.

She is a graduate of Rhode Island's own Providence College. She was a history teacher in Providence schools for 11 years before she embarked on her legal career. She was educated at the Roger Williams University School of Law, which not only graduated her but thought so highly of her that they invited her back to sit on the board of the law school. I don't know how many of my colleagues here who are lawyers have been invited to sit on the board of their law school, but the law school thought highly enough of Judge DuBose that they asked her to do that.

I would add that perhaps the most prestigious board in the State of Rhode Island is the board of the Rhode Island Foundation, a huge charitable organization devoted to the well-being and welfare of the Rhode Island community, and Rhode Island's community leaders invited her to be on the board of that as well.

This is a person, a lifelong Rhode Islander, who is exceedingly well regarded in our community.

I will close before I yield to Senator REED by pointing out that the members of the district court could not be more excited about having her join the Rhode Island U.S. District Court.

We, as a matter of practice, very often check in with the judges to make sure they concur in the recommendations that we are going to make to a President about who is going to join them on the bench, so that if there are any problems that we are not aware of, we have a chance to do due diligence. In this case, judges on the court were affirmatively reaching out to Judge DuBose, saying: Please make sure you apply to Senator REED and Senator WHITEHOUSE. We really want you on the court.

This is a very special woman, a very accomplished lawyer, an experienced and proven judge, and I look forward to a strong bipartisan vote for her.

And with that, let me yield to my senior partner in this business of making excellent recommendations to Presidents for judges.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Thank you very much, Senator WHITEHOUSE.

Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Melissa R. DuBose to be a judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Let me thank my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee for advancing her nomination on a bipartisan vote last week. I would like to particularly thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership, not just here, but so many times on the Judiciary Committee and in the Senate.

Like Senator WHITEHOUSE, I look forward, in a few minutes, to her confirmation as a district judge. Judge DuBose served with distinction at the State level as an associate judge in the Rhode Island district court. She has proven to be an exceptional jurist with a sterling track record. As a judge, she is known for ensuring proceedings in her courtroom are fair and efficient. She is someone who not only knows the law but understands that her task as a judge is to seek justice.

She will fill the seat being vacated by Judge William E. Smith, who will be taking senior status. Judge Smith is a model of professionalism and integrity. He, along with Rhode Island's other current sitting judges on the Federal district court, as Senator WHITEHOUSE noted, are enthusiastic about the nomination of Judge DuBose.

Indeed, they wrote:

Melissa is an outstanding choice to join the federal bench—she is supremely qualified, her ethics are impeccable, and her temperament is judicious.

That is high praise indeed from a diverse and exceptional group of judges. I share their confidence in Judge DuBose.

She will continue Rhode Island's long and proud tradition of outstanding district court judges, and she will make history in her own right, becoming the first woman of color and the first openly LGBTQ person to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

Judge DuBose was born and raised in Providence, not far from where the

U.S. district court is located. She earned both her undergraduate degree and teaching certificate from Providence College. Providence College is a remarkable school. The Dominicans run a tight ship, and they ensure that their students are particularly well prepared.

She worked for 11 years, as Senator WHITEHOUSE said, as a schoolteacher in the Providence Public School system, shaping and inspiring young minds. I can't think of better preparation for presiding over a court than running a classroom in a city like Providence or any other big city. So she has skills that are necessary for being a judge, both temperamentally and intellectually.

Her desire to make her community safer, to give back, to give the young people whom she taught a better chance, inspired her to study law. So, while teaching full time, she attended Roger Williams University School of Law at night and got her J.D. Upon graduation, she worked for the State of Rhode Island, in the attorney general's office. She started in the juvenile division and rose through the ranks and took on new assignments, including criminal arraignments and violation hearings.

After serving in the public sector for several years, she worked as a corporate counsel for Schneider Electric, a Fortune Global 500 company, covering compliance, ethics, and trade.

This is a remarkable woman who taught in a city school, who served in the State attorney general's office, and then went to an international company to deal with issues that are much different than you find in a district court or a school. So her capacity, her breadth of knowledge and experience, and her whole life prepared her so well for this judgeship.

In 2019, then-Governor Gina Raimondo, now our Commerce Secretary, elevated her to the Rhode Island district court. And she demonstrated fairness and impartiality and a sense of fairness in court.

Having served as an attorney and a judge, in the attorney general's office and in the private sector, she has handled both criminal and civil cases in Rhode Island's courts and trade cases that span continents. She is more than ready for elevation to the Federal bench.

Now, her résumé is impressive, and she has received support all across the board, from judges in Rhode Island, from public defenders, from prosecutors, and from State and local law enforcement officials. Like her peers, I am confident that Judge DuBose will serve on the district court with integrity and distinction. She has dedicated her life to public service, and Rhode Island is fortunate that she has once again answered the call to serve.

I urge my colleagues to confirm this exceptionally qualified nominee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

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

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

The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I just want to bring to my colleagues' attention that we need to confirm our diplomats around the world.

Yesterday, I had a chance to meet with General Richardson, our SOUTHCOM Commander, and she told me about the challenges we are having in our own hemisphere because of nominees who have been approved by our committee who are here on the floor but have not been confirmed by the U.S. Senate. So I really just want to underscore the point that, if we are going to be able to have our interests represented around the world, we need to carry out the responsibility of confirming nominees that have gone through the process.

In too many cases, individual Senators have placed holds that require us to deal with cloture, which takes a lot of time. It is our responsibility to act on these nominees, and it is in our national security interest to have a confirmed ambassador in each of these countries.

In many cases, these are career individuals who have given their lives—literally, their professional lives—in service to our country. They deserve to have us act timely on their nomination. I would urge our colleagues to do that.

NOMINATION OF SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

Mr. President, I am pleased that we will shortly be voting on one of those nominees for this very important position, and that is Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney to be Representative to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, known as the OECD.

Given the economic challenges we face today, promoting growth, prosperity, and development has never been more important. I am confident that Congressman Maloney will do just that at the OECD.

He is a veteran lawmaker who has worked on commodity markets, digital assets, and rural development, and, as well, he serves on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

He is committed to using the OECD's research capacity and convening power to lead with our values and counter Beijing's efforts with the Belt and Road Initiative.

He understands that the global economy needs to work for all Americans