

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

## NOMINATION OF EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Edward Kiel to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Born in Daegu, South Korea, Judge Kiel received both his B.S.E.E. and B.A. from Rutgers University, and his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School.

After clerking for Judge Michael R. Imbriani of the Superior Court of New Jersey in Somerset County, Judge Kiel worked at Jamieson, Moore, Peskin & Spicer as an associate, where he worked on a variety of matters, including insurance regulatory and commercial litigation cases.

He then went on to work at Beattie Padovano as an associate, where he handled various civil matters for a range of clients, from individuals to large corporations. Following his tenure at Beattie Padovano, Judge Kiel became a partner at Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, where he litigated matters before the Federal and State courts of New Jersey.

In 2019, Judge Kiel was appointed to be U.S. magistrate judge on the same district to which he is nominated. Since his appointment to the bench, he has issued more than 1,000 orders, reports and recommendations, opinions, and memorandum orders—only two of which have been reversed by a reviewing district court judge.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Kiel “well qualified” to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER.

Judge Kiel’s two decades of litigation experience combined with his distinguished career on the bench prove he is ready to handle the demands of the District of New Jersey from day one.

I thank my colleagues for supporting his nomination.

## VOTE ON KIEL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kiel nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. 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. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Ex.]

## YEAS—50

Baldwin	Butler	Coons
Bennet	Cantwell	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Cardin	Duckworth
Booker	Carper	Durbin
Brown	Casey	Fetterman

Gillibrand  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hickenlooper  
Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Markey  
Menendez

Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Sinema  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

## NAYS—49

Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Boozman  
Braun  
Brett  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Ernst  
Fischer  
Graham  
Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Manchin  
Marshall  
McConnell  
Moran  
Murkowski  
Paul

## NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 463, Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen.

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 Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

## YEAS—50

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

## NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Brett	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

## STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on a cold January morning, less than a year after being elected our Nation’s first President, George Washington set out in a carriage drawn by six horses, headed to Federal Hall to fulfill his duty under our new Constitution, which read:

The President shall from time to time give to Congress information of the state of the Union.

One of the few firsthand accounts of that speech came from Senator Maclay, who said:

The President was dressed in second morning, and read his speech well.

Not exactly a hot take, but Senator Maclay wasn’t one for glowing praise.

More than two centuries later, I had the privilege of watching, from a few rows back, as President Biden delivered the State of the Union Address earlier this month. And I must tell you: Joe Biden didn’t just “read his speech well”; he was electrifying. Despite the tremendous challenges we face around the world today, I came away feeling optimistic about our Nation’s future,

and as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I came away strongly supportive of many of the administration's foreign policy priorities.

To appreciate what this President has accomplished, we need to remember where he started. We need to remember the uncertainty and isolation of the COVID pandemic—a pandemic that experts estimate killed almost 30 million people worldwide.

We need to remember how the global economy was on the brink of collapse—supply chains failed; unemployment surged; there were fears that we were headed for a repeat of the Great Depression.

And we need to remember, from ASEAN to NATO, the disenchantment of our allies. One senior European diplomat said back in 2020:

The transatlantic relationship has never been this bad. The trust between the U.S. and Europe is not there anymore.

Now, I am not going to sugarcoat the world we face today. The Hamas attacks against Israel were one of the worst days in Jewish history, and it has led to a terrible humanitarian crisis for the Palestinians in Gaza. China's efforts to expand its authoritarian influence stretch from the smallest Pacific Island nation to the largest continent in the world—Africa. And Putin continues to wage a campaign to restore the former Soviet empire and annihilate the Ukrainian nation.

These are serious threats. To counter them, we need serious American leadership around the world, leadership that is rooted in values that promote human rights, that defend democracy, and that are driven by something I know Joe Biden has—basic decency.

Sitting and watching the State of the Union, I was struck by the strength of President Biden's moral compass. This is not a President who stands only for himself; he stands for all of us. This is not a President who stands idly by as our climate is destroyed; he has passed landmark legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act. This is not a President who seeks revenge against public servants for their personal views; he revitalizes our foreign policy and national security workforce. This is not a President who invites the Russians to do "whatever the hell they want" or threatens to pull out of NATO; he brings our allies together to stand up for Ukraine's independence. This is not a President who idolizes dictators and encourages autocrats; he prioritizes human rights and civil society movements around the world.

President Biden's foreign policy is focused on the future—a future for Europe, whole and free; a future for an Indo-Pacific that is thriving and at peace; a future with a two-state solution that gives security and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians for generations to come.

This will not be easy, but sitting at the State of the Union, I was encouraged by the bipartisan support I felt in the room when it came to foreign pol-

icy. Even Speaker JOHNSON seemed to be nodding his head as the President talked about Ukraine.

There have been many State of the Union speeches since George Washington spoke more than 200 years ago. They have been printed on paper, broadcasted over the radio and on television, and shared on clips across the internet; but throughout history, Presidents' speeches to Congress have given us hope.

In 1947, at the dawn of the Cold War, President Truman said in his State of the Union Address:

If we maintain and strengthen our cherished ideals, and if we share our great bounty with war-stricken people over the world, then the faith of our citizens in freedom and democracy will be spread over the whole earth.

This is still true today.

To the political prisoners in Putin's jails, do not give up hope on freedom.

To the human rights defenders uncovering violence and assassinations, do not give up hope for justice.

To the war-stricken people of the world who are hungry and forced to flee their homes, do not give up your hope for democracy.

To our allies and partners across the globe, know that the United States stands with you.

And remember that if we come together and stand up for each other, we can build a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

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.

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

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

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, last month, an illegal alien from Venezuela was arrested for allegedly murdering Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, while she went for a run on the University of Georgia campus. The suspected murderer, 26-year-old Jose Ibarra, should have never been allowed to set foot in our country. But the Biden administration paroled him into America after he illegally crossed the southern border, along with more than 2 million other migrants who are now eligible for work authorizations and benefits from the Federal Government.

That is the difference. When someone gets paroled, they get benefits. They get work permits. And while President Obama and President Trump each paroled only about 5,600 people a year, President Biden paroled 800,000 in 2022 and 1.2 million in 2023.

When you look at this, what you can say is that this administration failed Laken Riley. They failed her more than once.

Also, when you look at sanctuary city policies, what you know is this:

that New York City, with their sanctuary city policies, failed Laken Riley. Athens, GA, another sanctuary city, failed Laken Riley.

Last year, in New York City, Ibarra was arrested for reckless endangerment of a child. But instead of working with Federal law enforcement to get him deported for his heinous crime, city officials there, in New York City, released him before Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, could request his custody.

A month later, police in Athens, GA—whose city government passed a resolution in 2019 welcoming illegal immigrants "of all statuses"—released Ibarra after he shoplifted hundreds of dollars in goods.

It is no coincidence that both New York City and Athens, GA, are sanctuary cities. In sanctuary cities across the country, we have seen illegal aliens commit crimes with impunity, as local governments refuse to work with law enforcement to deport criminal illegal aliens.

Just last month, the New York Post reported that the violent Venezuelan gang is directing its members to come to our southern border, apply for asylum, and, once waved into the country, establish robbery rings in major U.S. cities. I couldn't believe this.

Then, as I talked to law enforcement in Tennessee, I found out that those gangs are there. They are moving in. And I was so surprised that we had gangs, in addition to MS-13, that have come in on parole status and also as asylum seekers.

Gang members are recruiting migrants in New York City shelters to join their operations in which they steal phones from innocent bystanders so they can resell those phones in Colombia.

In Chicago, another sanctuary city, authorities are tracking the gang's growing crime network, which includes human trafficking, drug smuggling, and sexual exploitation.

No city in America should be allowed to make illegal immigration legal and harbor criminal illegal aliens. They ought not be able to do it. It makes our communities less safe.

That is why, earlier this month, I reintroduced the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act, or CLEAR Act, which would ensure State and local law enforcement officials can work with Federal law enforcement to deport criminal illegal aliens who are in their communities.

Under the provisions in this legislation, it would require States and localities to provide the Department of Homeland Security with information about every alien apprehended in their State, including the name, address, physical description, and the reason for their arrest. At the same time, the bill would ensure their compliance by denying Federal funds to any jurisdiction that refuses to work with Federal immigration law enforcement.

It would also require the Department of Homeland Security to take illegal