

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 142.

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 Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 142, Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Peter Welch, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 25, be waived.

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

The Senator from North Carolina.

## ISRAEL

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, it has been 111 days since Hamas terrorists attacked Israel. Hamas massacred more than 1,200 civilians and abducted innocent men, women, and children from their homes and took them into Gaza.

The hostages are being deprived of food, water, and medical care. They are being subjected to unbearable violence, sexual abuse, and psychological torture by Hamas terrorists.

We know that six of the remaining hostages are Americans. One is a native of my home State North Carolina, Keith Siegel. Two of the Americans, Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Sagui Dekel-Chen, are critically injured.

Each and every one of them must be released, and all levels of our government remain united in working to get them home.

What Hamas has done is nothing short of evil. In this battle between the forces of good and evil, the United States must not only lead the forces of good, but we need to identify who stands with us and who does not.

The State of Qatar hosts Hamas leaders in their capital of Doha. Now,

Qatari officials have claimed that their hosting of Hamas terrorist leaders is necessary, so they say, because their country can be the conduit to negotiate a successful resolution to the crisis. In fact, subsequent U.S. administrations have endorsed this arrangement.

But after 111 days, the American people are asking: What is taking so long?

Qatar is hosting a brutal terrorist organization with American blood on their hands and American hostages in captivity. One has to consider the potential reality that Qatar might not have the leverage that they are so quick to boast about. And if Qatar is not able to effectuate the release of the hostages, then there is no further reason for these terrorists to remain in their country.

This is personal for us Americans.

I have met with families of the hostages as well as former hostages, like Keith Siegel's wife Aviva. I have heard their stories, and I look at their photos every day on my desk.

Every day that these families have to live with the pain and uncertainty is unacceptable.

To Qataris, I would say this: Our patience has run out. Time is up. Either pressure Hamas leaders to release the hostages now or expel them from your land. It is that simple.

The United States of America will be watching.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, it has now been more than 100 days since scores of innocent people were kidnapped by Hamas. More than 2,500 hours of fear, starvation, and torture; of parents, grandparents, teenagers, children suffering some of the most unimaginable horrors and wondering if they will ever see their loved ones again.

This is my ninth time coming to the Senate floor to tell their stories, to express their pain. But for every day that I have come here, for every hour, for every minute the hostages and their families have lived eternities.

Last week, I met the mother of a woman, a 19-year-old daughter named Daniela. She was kidnapped from the Nahal Oz. She showed me the before and after pictures of her daughter.

On the morning of October 7, Daniela's mother woke up to the sound of sirens. She texted her daughter to ask her what was happening. Daniela responded "Mom, pray for me" and explained that there was "lots of shooting everywhere and bombs."

The last anyone heard from her was 7:45 a.m.

Daniela's mother says her daughter was injured in the leg and taken into Gaza, after she saw 16 of her friends slaughtered. She was wearing pale pink Mickey Mouse pajama bottoms and can be seen in a Hamas video with three other girls. Their hands are tied behind their backs; their clothing and faces smeared with blood and tears; sheer terror in their eyes.

The same Hamas video also shows Liri Albag, another teenage hostage whose parents I met in Israel. Like Daniela, Liri was abducted from Nahal Oz. She is among the youngest female hostages remaining in Gaza.

The last her family heard from her was 6:30 in the morning on October 7. Liri's mother thought her daughter had ended up in one of the hospitals but soon learned from a Hamas video that she was among those kidnapped. Liri's father says that for the families of these hostages, the uncertainty and fear are killing them. Her mother says she cannot breathe because she does not know if her daughter is breathing.

Daniela, Liri, and three other teenaged girls—19-year-old Karina Arieiev, 19-year-old Agam Berger, and 19-year-old Naama Levy—were last seen by several abductees who have since been released. One woman said some of the girls were badly injured but weren't receiving proper medical care. She said that when the girls were sad or crying, their captors would sexually abuse them. She relayed their accounts of sexual abuse at gunpoint on a regular basis. She said the girls told her they could cope with their disabilities but not with the way they were constantly violated.

One of the earliest images that we saw during the October 7 attack was of Naama Levy being dragged by her hair, her hands tied behind her back, thrown into a truck, blood streaming down her face, streaming down her arms, streaming down her back, her sweatpants covered in blood. No one deserves this kind of torture. No one should have to endure such unimaginable abuse—not for 1 day, not for 100 days, not ever.

According to her loved ones, Daniela is a girl who spreads light wherever she goes. She is a talented musician who writes songs, plays the piano, and dreams of becoming a famous singer. Her mom says she pictures Daniela walking through the door and coming home. She implores parents worldwide to imagine their own children in such peril.

Liri is an optimist who puts others before herself. She has lots of friends and loves to travel, to take pictures of her trips, and sing. Her family says she is such a strong girl who enjoys exploring life but that every minute is like an hour without her.

Nineteen-year-old Karina Arieiev is a gentle and humble girl. Her loved ones say she often has a wide smile and is always ready to help and support those around her.

Nineteen-year-old Agam Berger—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. There is an

order for a cloture vote at this time. Perhaps the Senator can resume her remarks at a later time.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 60 more seconds to finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, 19-year-old Karina Arieiev is a gentle and humble girl. Her loved ones say she often has a wide smile and is always ready to help those around her.

Nineteen-year-old Agam Berger is a gifted violinist who volunteers to help disadvantaged populations. Like Karina, she also enjoys helping others and is an optimist who is always smiling.

Naama Levy is a soft-spoken, athletic, and determined girl. She is compassionate and understanding, with a passion for helping those in need.

As a mom, I cannot fathom the anguish these parents are facing. I know every other Senator here cannot fathom the anguish they are facing. All of us must do everything we can to bring them home.

I yield the floor.

#### 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 assistant bill 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. 459, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie 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.

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 Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 24 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Romney
Braun	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Butler	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Capito	Kelly	Schumer
Cardin	Kennedy	Shaheen
Carper	King	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Cassidy	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Thune
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Cramer	Mullin	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Ernst	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hagerty	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—5

Baldwin	Klobuchar	Smith
Barrasso	Marshall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Maryland.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I come to the floor to advise our colleagues about the urgency for us to take up and pass the supplemental appropriations bill that contains many important provisions, but I am going to start with the most urgent, and that is providing assistance to Ukraine to defend itself from the brutal attack by the Russian Federation.

Vladimir Putin could change the equation in Ukraine in a matter of weeks. His tanks could be rolling through Ukraine. His forces could be arresting Zelenskyy and his Cabinet. The Russian flag could be flying over Ukraine's capital. This could happen in a matter of weeks if the United States does not act.

A few days ago, I was in the White House for a meeting about this. President Biden could not have been clearer: We are out of money to support Ukraine in this fight. Think about how that sounds to the Ukrainians fighting on the frontlines.

One Ukrainian soldier said:

The guys are tired, very tired. They are still motivated, many people understand that they have no other choice. But you can't win a war only on motivation.

Ukrainian soldiers have had to ration artillery shells. One unit had to go from firing as many as 90 shells a day to just 10 to 20 shells a day.

Mr. Putin has made it clear. He is investing in a long war. The New York Times reported:

Nearly a third of the country's spending next year—roughly \$109 billion—will be devoted to "national defense," according to a budget he signed into law.

Russian TV commentators are celebrating our gridlock. As one European Ambassador reportedly said, he can "hear those champagne bottle corks popping in Moscow."

President Putin knows that if Congress does not act, he will be able to break Ukraine. If he succeeds, he will be signaling to the world that he can invade his neighbors whenever he wants to, erase the nation of Ukraine and our allies in Europe, in the Middle East, in Africa, and in Asia, and we are ourselves, the United States, will be in greater danger.

A group of NATO parliamentarians was in Washington last week, concerned about Congress's inability to pass the supplemental funding.

One of my counterparts, the chair of the Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Committee, asked:

Who is next? Balkans, Taiwan, Korea, the Baltics. . . . It takes years to wake up Washington, so please guys, wake up.

He is right. We need to wake up.

If Putin wins in Ukraine, he will not stop there. That is why this isn't a choice between sending funding to Ukraine or not sending funding to Ukraine. The choice is between sending American dollars to fight Putin now or sending American soldiers to fight him later.

If we want to preserve America's credibility with our allies, it is up to us. If we want to show our partners we will be there to help when times are tough, it is up to us. If we want to make sure the United States stands on the right side of history, it is up to us.

Russia is one of our most dangerous adversaries and an enemy of democracy everywhere. This is money that will strengthen the United States' security.

Ukraine needs money for air defenses, money for drones, money for arming the brave Ukrainians on the frontlines and, of course, direct budgetary support and humanitarian assistance.

People around the world are depending on the United States for the humanitarian assistance in the supplemental funding request. Without money for food, children and mothers, from Africa to the Middle East to Eastern Europe, will go hungry.

It is up to us. It is up to us.

Finally, I want to underline that there is strong bipartisan agreement on the need to support Ukraine.

We must not let this be the end of Ukraine. We must not give in to Russian aggression. We must not stand idly by as this dictator does what he likes to his neighbors. We must vote