

takes courage to tell the truth in Russia. Let's stand with Mr. Kara-Murza as he tells the truth.

Many of us have worked with him. I consider him a friend. I admire him. He is certainly a friend of this body and of this free Republic. Let's stand with Kara-Murza now.

We have come to know his wife and children who are U.S. citizens. Let's stand with them now as they work for his freedom.

For the second year in a row, we call on Secretary of State Antony Blinken to designate Mr. Vladimir Kara-Murza as "wrongfully detained." We call on Secretary Blinken to secure his release, reunite him with his family, keep his freedom-loving voice from being extinguished. Save his voice while we still can.

I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, Senator STABENOW be permitted to speak for 5 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to address the urgent need to support the people of Baltimore in the wake of the tragic Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse.

This is near and dear to my heart because of the 35W bridge collapse, and I am well-aware of the response of Congress at that moment many years ago, and I think it is relevant to some of the discussions that have come out of the Baltimore bridge collapse. I thought I would share them with my colleagues today.

First, my heart is with the entire city of Baltimore, especially the families and loved ones of the six workers who died and the workers still trapped on the boat that struck the bridge. I know our colleagues Senator CARDIN and Senator VAN HOLLEN are working around the clock to support the victims' families. President Biden was just at the bridge and has pledged his support to get this rebuilt and to open the port and to do everything necessary. And we must stand with them.

I thank the heroic first responders, the Coast Guard, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Maryland officials, including, of course, Governor Moore, who acted swiftly and made sure that lives were saved. Yes, you think about the story of the immediate response to the mayday and the first responders in the middle of the night who made sure other cars didn't get on that bridge. You also think of

the Governor there the next day making sure people knew what had happened and what their plans were.

I am thankful for the efforts of brave workers leading the cleanup process, which we know poses serious risks to their safety. The Key Bridge wasn't just a way to get from Hawkins Point to Sparrows Point. It was a unifying force for the people of Baltimore from all walks of life. As one longtime resident, a doctor and son of immigrants, put it:

Every single Baltimorean felt that bridge fall down. That's our London Bridge. That's our Golden Gate Bridge. It was like a friend constantly saying hello to me in the morning . . . The bridge was a lifeline to schools and work . . . It was a bridge to the American Dream.

In addition to the devastating human tragedy of the collapse, the lack of a bridge that carried over 31,000 vehicles across the river every day will have economic repercussions, and we know it now. It is a major artery for the city and critical point of access for the Port of Baltimore, which handles more cars and trucks than any other port in our country, supporting more than 15,000 jobs and indirectly supporting 140,000 more. Every day that port is closed could cost our economy up to \$15 million. That is why we have no time to waste. Baltimore's recovery and our entire economy depend on us stepping up and working together.

Here is our story in Minnesota and why it is relevant. On August 1, 2007, in the middle of the most beautiful day both here in Washington and in Minnesota, the eight-lane I-35W bridge collapsed into the Mississippi River. It took the lives of 13 people and injured many more. Just like in Baltimore, it would have been so much worse if those first responders had fled away from danger but fled to it. They literally didn't know in Minnesota what had happened.

In Baltimore, you could see a ship had hit it. But in Minnesota, we didn't know what had happened. But they ran into those waters of the Mississippi River and got survivors out and helped people. Our bridge actually carried more traffic than Baltimore—over 140,000 vehicles a day. It was eight blocks from my house. It was a bridge that I would take all of the time to bring our daughter to visit her friend. As I said that day when it happened, a bridge just shouldn't fall down in the middle of America; but when it does, we rebuild it.

Here are the heroes very similar to what you see in Baltimore: Shannon Hanson, the off-duty Mississippi firefighter diving in and out of the water searching for survivors up and down the river; Paul Eickstadt, the Taystee truck driver who veered off the bridge to save a schoolbus full of kids and then burned to death in his truck, which caught fire because of how he avoided that schoolbus; Jeremy Hernandez, the worker on that schoolbus. It was a bus of kids that were at a sum-

mer program. That bus, which they call the "miracle bus," was just hanging on the edge of the bridge. Instead of running off that bridge, he got every single kid off that bridge to safety by kicking open the emergency door and, one by one, getting those 52 kids off the bus.

Our job in Washington was, yes, to go there and stand with our first responders. And the minute we got there, the next morning, former Senator Coleman, Republican Senator, and I saw the emergency work. We had big billboards up everywhere within 12 hours telling people where to drive and how the traffic was diverted. But our job was to rebuild the bridge, to get the funding immediately to get it done. We worked together.

And within 2 days after that bridge collapsed, I came here and got a waiver of the cap of how much money could be spent on a bridge like that. It was a record. We got the waiver done. Everyone joined with us in the Senate. As I look at what was my chair over there as a freshman Senator, I remember the procedural hiccups involved in all of this, and I remember deciding my best bet was sit in my chair and say I wouldn't leave until it got done. And when the Senate started one morning, Senator DURBIN came over to me and said as they were saying the prayer: Somehow, I think you are here to do more than pray. And I said: Yes, I am not going to get up from this chair until we get this done.

He helped me to get that bridge done and include it in a major bill we had pending at the time, which was fortunate. So we got the funding immediately.

President Bush went back to the bridge several times. We were able to get it done. Not one Senator in this Chamber or one House member in this Congress played a blame game. Everyone saw it as the tragedy it was. They knew there would be investigations. They didn't mess around just because it was in a purple State—our State—or a blue State or a red State. We all came together to get it done.

And that bridge got built in record time—339 days from start to finish. Thirteen months later, an eight-lane highway, a humongous bridge—the most traveled-on bridge in the State of Minnesota—got done.

Rebuilding and recovering from the Key Bridge collapse demands that same bipartisan collaboration. The day of the collapse, President Biden said he would "move Heaven and Earth" to reopen the port and rebuild the bridge as soon as humanly possible. It is on Congress to help.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee to get to the bottom of what caused this collapse, but I also stand ready to support Senators CARDIN and VAN HOLLEN as they work to secure the funding to rebuild the bridge. I call on all of our colleagues to join us and not mess around.

In Minnesota, we stand with the people in Maryland, where the lights on our own I-35W bridge were lit in Maryland State colors of red, white, yellow, and black immediately after the collapse.

There is plenty of time for investigations and what went wrong with that large, large ship. That is happening right now. But the immediate focus of our country, because of the economic repercussions not only on Baltimore but on the entire country, is to get this rebuilt and to call people out when they are just trying to play politics with it and say things that are completely inappropriate when six people died on the bridge.

It wasn't that long ago that the I-35W bridge collapsed and our colleagues joined with us. Many of the people in this Chamber are still here. We need to do the same now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, before my friend from Minnesota leaves the floor, I want to thank her for her comments and say all of us stand with Baltimore.

I can't imagine people playing politics with something like this. It is such a tragedy that could happen and has happened to all of us in our States. This is what we are here to do is to work together to try to address and solve problems and help rebuild when that is necessary.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT J. WHITE

Mr. President, I rise today to strongly support the nomination of Robert White, who President Biden nominated to serve as the U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Senator PETERS and I were very honored to recommend him. We will be voting on him today.

Mr. White has spent his career upholding the rule of law and keeping our communities safe. Since 2018, he has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, handling civil and criminal cases involving violent crime and healthcare fraud. That has been very bad news for criminals.

Mr. White helped lock up six members of one of Detroit's most violent gangs who were terrorizing a neighborhood and committing crimes, including a murder, shootings, robberies, and drug dealings. In 2022, Mr. White successfully prosecuted a Canadian truck driver who tried to drive across the U.S. border with 313 pounds of cocaine hidden in his semitrailer.

Mr. White began his career as a prosecutor in the Western District of Texas where he focused on fighting transnational organized crime, including Mexican cartels. And he did a very good job.

He was named the Outstanding Federal Attorney of the Year in 2017 by the El Paso Bar Association. In 2018, he was recognized by the FBI for his outstanding skills as a prosecutor. In 2020,

he received an award for excellence from the Council of the Inspectors General. And last year, the Homeland Security Investigations office in Detroit named him Prosecutor of the Year.

It is no surprise that the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary unanimously rated Mr. White as "well qualified."

In February, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed Mr. White's nomination through the Senate committee on a bipartisan basis by a vote of 14 to 7.

Democrats and Republicans agree he is the right person for the job. He is an outstanding nominee, and his experience will serve the people of the Eastern District well.

I urge my colleagues today to support his confirmation.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF SUSAN M. BAZIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Bazis to the U.S. District Court for the District of Nebraska.

Judge Bazis's deep ties to Nebraska and experience in the courtroom as a litigator and on the bench have prepared her to serve as a U.S. District Judge. A graduate of the University of Nebraska and Creighton University School of Law, Judge Bazis worked as a Douglas County public defender and later in private practice, including as a solo practitioner. Over the course of her legal career, she tried approximately 675 cases to verdict in front of administrative hearing officers and approximately 150 cases to verdict in courts of record.

In 2007, Judge Bazis was appointed to serve as a Douglas County Court judge, presiding over criminal, civil, probate, and protection order matters. Since 2017, she has served as a U.S. magistrate judge for the District of Nebraska. In over 15 years on the bench, she has presided over 550 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment.

Judge Bazis has the strong support from her home State Senators, Mrs. FISCHER and Mr. RICKETTS. In addition, she was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. Judge Bazis's significant courtroom experience as a litigator and as a jurist will ensure that she will continue to be an asset on the federal bench.

I urge my colleagues to support Judge Bazis's nomination.

VOTE ON BAZIS NOMINATION

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

Ms. STABENOW. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 116 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Bennet	Hirono	Risch
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Blumenthal	Johnson	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Rubio
Butler	Kennedy	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Lee	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Lummis	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cornyn	McConnell	Thune
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Ernst	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wicker
Grassley	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	Young

NAYS—21

Boozman	Cruz	Mullin
Braun	Daines	Schmitt
Britt	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Budd	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance

NOT VOTING—1

Fetterman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will immediately be 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. 542, Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

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 Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, 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.