

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 579.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 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. 579, Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock, Debbie Stabenow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 570.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 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. 570, Sanket Jayshukh Bulsara, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard Blumenthal, Laphonza R. Butler, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, John W. Hickenlooper, Chris Van Hollen, Mark Kelly.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 460.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 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. 460, Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 9, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

H.R. 3935

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I am very pleased that the Senate has tonight

passed this vital legislation. The House of Representatives should next week take it up and quickly pass it and send it to the President's desk for signature.

This legislation is a strong, bipartisan, bicameral bill that includes hundreds of priorities for Senators and Representatives, both Republican and Democrat. This bill gives the FAA the safety tools it needs at a critical time to help bring new aerospace technologies to market.

I want to take a moment to recognize the staff who has spent countless hours hammering out this legislation. This was no easy task. As I stated earlier, this bipartisan product was the result of many, many months of hard work, late nights. There were many times it appeared this bill was not going to make it over the finish line, and the hard work of the staff is a big part of the reason we are where we are tonight.

I want to thank my staff for their tireless efforts to get this bill passed into law. Many thanks to Simone Perez, who is next to me and who has not slept in about 6 months. I will note that she broke her foot stepping on a dump truck of her young son, but I personally said she got the foot boot from kicking hindquarters.

Since the Presiding Officer is also a pastor, I will make sure to speak in a way that would be appropriate in front of a pastor.

I want to thank Duncan Rankin, Andrew Miller, Matt Swint, Hannah Hagen, Ryan Cannon, Melissa Braid, Christian McMullen, Amanda Thompson, Liam McKenna, Nicole Christus, Brad Grantz, Omri Ceren, and Aaron Reitz.

I am also thankful to Chairwoman CANTWELL and her staff. The chair has worked tirelessly as well. Her staff has worked tirelessly. We have worked hand in hand navigating issues—some contentious, some passionate, some that seemed would take the entire bill down—and then we went back and worked out a compromise. They have been terrific partners with us, and I look forward to our committee continuing to produce strong, bipartisan products in the near future, in the weeks and months ahead.

I would be remiss if I also didn't thank Senators MORAN and DUCKWORTH, who serve as the leaders on the Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation Subcommittee. I appreciate both Senator MORAN and Senator DUCKWORTH and their staff for working collaboratively with us on this bill.

Finally, I would like to thank Senate legislative counsel—specifically, John Goetcheus, Ruth Ernst, and C.J. Murphy, who worked long hours and late nights to make this bill happen.

And now, Mr. President, I look forward to going to Ronald Reagan National Airport, getting on an airplane, and flying home to Texas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I, too, want to thank our colleagues for their hard work and their overwhelming support for the passage of this legislation.

This legislation will now, hopefully, go to our House colleagues on the consensus calendar, on Tuesday, and then very shortly after that to the President's desk.

This is historic bipartisan-bicameral legislation that not only invests in the Federal Aviation Administration but in the National Transportation Safety Board for the next 5 years. It is a record reauthorization to make sure that our safety regulators and our safety investigators make aviation the safety gold standard of the world.

This bill not only provides those authorizations, but I believe it helps give consumers the right kind of refunds for tickets after 3 hours of delay. It also puts the right safety people on the job, both at our air traffic controller system and at the FAA oversight of manufacturers.

By ensuring that we have the safest aviation system in America, we are investing in our economy. Aviation contributes more than 5 percent to our GDP—\$1.9 trillion of economic activity—and it supports over 11 million jobs. If you ask me, the best way to the middle class is to get an aviation job, coming in as working class and leaving as middle class, as many manufacturing jobs in my State represent.

Our bill invests in the growth and well-being of that aviation workforce to try to continue to thrive by making education investments in controllers, machinists, engineers, mechanics, pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers, maintenance workers, and all those who are the backbone of the aviation economy.

I want to thank my colleague and partner in this, Senator CRUZ, the ranking member of the Commerce Committee, for everything that he has done to help pass this landmark legislation. It really was a bipartisan effort, and his efforts were instrumental in helping us get this legislation over the goal line.

I, too, want to thank many of our colleagues. He mentioned our two colleagues, the chair of the subcommittee, Senator DUCKWORTH, and Senator MORAN, who both played a long and terrific advocacy role on very key sections of this bill, including the Essential Air Service Program and expanding the aviation workforce in our country.

I want to thank House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN, from my State, for their leadership and dedication to making this a bicameral product and certainly for making it bipartisan.

I also want to thank President Biden, Secretary Buttigieg, and Administrator Whitaker for their input as we moved through this legislation, and Senator SCHUMER for helping us get

this bill to the last phases here and over the goal line.

I also want to thank Senators SCHUMER and THUNE, DUCKWORTH and SINEMA, for helping to negotiate key positions of this bill related to pilot training. Nearly 3 million passengers fly in and out of our airports, and making sure that we have the safest skies by the FAA doing its job is exactly why we needed this bill.

This bill implements new safety improvements in that workforce and codifies, as I mentioned, strong consumer protections like refunds, and it provides direction and resources to build a well-trained FAA workforce.

I want to thank the hard work of Senators CASEY and FETTERMAN in this bill that helps the FAA require airlines to have a secondary cockpit barrier to ensure that the safety and security of our flight deck is there.

I want to thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for advancing the aircraft runway traffic and landing technologies to prevent near misses—a conversation that has been very much part of this debate.

The air surface detection technology helps prevent close calls, and at only 43 airports, this bill was about expanding that as soon as possible because the NTSB said that was one of their No. 1 recommendations. Our bill will now require the deployment of this technology that will help prevent runway close calls at medium- and large-hub airports within the next few years.

Building on the Aircraft Certification and Accountability Program, we help provide for significant improvements in the design process so that the public is more informed.

We have also directed the FAA to require training programs for those organizational design authorities. These are the ODA units that oversee the manufacturer. This includes strengthening those unit members' understanding of safety management systems—something the committee has held a lot of hearings on—and we know how important the safety management system is, according to our expert review panel, to implement into law.

We have authorized money for the next 5 years to boost the FAA's programs in safety, in factory inspections, and have implemented a revised model that really helps us with our air traffic controller system, which is so critical because, right now, we need more air traffic controllers and we need them to be rested on the job.

This bill also includes an important safety provision from Senator SCHATZ: a helicopter safety bill which brings standards to the commercial air tour systems in Hawaii.

Another major safeguard in safety is Senator BALDWIN's provision, with Senators WELCH and CAPITO, called the Global Aircraft Maintenance Safety Improvement Act, which helps oversee the safety inspections at our overseas airports. There are nearly 1,000 FAA-certified maintenance and repair stations outside of the United States, and

they need to make sure that they have the proper oversight. This helps raise those safety standards worldwide.

Specifically, these technicians are now required to undergo background checks and alcohol testing, and foreign repair stations are now subject to surprise inspections.

As I mentioned, NTSB authorization is critical, and I want to thank my colleague Senator LUJÁN for his leadership on helping get this in the bill.

But also one of the No. 1 requirements as to why we wanted to get this done now with the NTSB is that one of their key recommendations is now in this statute—a 25-hour cockpit voice recording requirement that was also championed by Senators BLUMENTHAL and WYDEN. This means, when accidents happen, the NTSB will no longer be stifled by not getting the recording. They will have this recording, and it will be required to be held for more than 25 hours.

I mentioned the workforce issues which, to my State, are paramount. We need to continue to train and skill the best workers. Certainly, that means air traffic controllers and aviation safety inspectors.

Besides the increase in air traffic controllers to help deal with the staffing gap, we are making sure that they have the best technology to work with as well. Our colleagues Senators KLOBUCHAR, DUCKWORTH, MORAN, THUNE, PETERS, and KELLY helped us to recruit and retain the next generation of workforce. So I can't thank all of my colleagues enough.

As mentioned and much discussed, Congress is setting for the first time in statute a refund standard for consumers to get a refund on nonrefundable tickets after 3 hours of delay in the United States and for 6 hours on an international flight. These statutory rights are a big win for consumers. Passengers can just reject vouchers and alternative flights and get a hassle-free refund.

I want to thank Senators MARKEY and VANCE for their provision of the bill that says you cannot charge families extra dollars to sit next to each other and for the fact that they are championing, as Senators MARKEY and SCHATZ did, a new office at the Department of Transportation to make sure that airlines receive fines if they don't adhere to those provisions.

I also want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH. I can't thank her enough, not just as the ranking member of the committee but also for her key leadership on so many aspects of this bill. Not only is she a pilot, but she understands the needs of handicapped individuals and made sure that this legislation did a better job of training and skilling people at our airports. She is a true champion of the provisions of this bill dealing with wheelchair damage on flights and in ensuring that passengers can safely evacuate a plane if necessary. We will be forever grateful for her many leadership provisions of this legislation.

I want to just finally thank Senators TESTER, FISCHER, and SULLIVAN, who also worked on Essential Air Service and infrastructure financing improvements to make sure that our airports in rural communities continue to grow, and thank Senators PETERS, BALDWIN, and WARNOCK for championing additional Federal resources to help airports dispose of harmful chemicals and replace them for firefighters.

My colleague from Texas mentioned the great investments in next-generation technology. Thanks to Senators HICKENLOOPER, ROSEN, MORAN, THUNE, YOUNG, WARNER, and WICKER for advancing drone technology so that the United States can compete on a world stage and for providing next-generation research for companies like Universal Hydrogen and ZeroAvia, which are making great products.

Also thanks to Senators THUNE and WARNER—our colleague from Virginia—for the creation of a regulatory path for drones to operate beyond the visual line of sight. That means, yes, we are going to move forward on how drones are going to start delivering home products to us. I thank them for their hard work.

I thank Senator ROSEN for her hard work on a grant program so that States and local governments are using U.S.-manufactured drones in repairing and fixing critical infrastructure.

And I thank Senator BLACKBURN for her leadership on ensuring that the FAA is not funneling any drone funding to American adversaries.

The Presiding Officer was part of this process. I thank him for his leadership, certainly for expanding capacity at airports and getting more flights, but also for his great contributions, as I mentioned in this legislation, on PFAS and many other things.

This was a committee process. It really was the way the Senate is supposed to work. It really was bipartisan and bicameral, and lots of people got their issues addressed. They got their issues addressed because we had great staff who were willing to accommodate and work hard and implement those legislative ideas.

So I want to thank from our team the staff director of the Commerce Committee, Lila Helms; our general counsel, Melissa Porter; Rachel Devine, who literally came back about 6 or 7 months ago to rejoin the Congress, and, literally, we would not have this bill today if Rachel Devine had not rejoined the effort to work on the Hill. So I thank Rachel for her hard work and dedication.

I want to thank Alex Simpson and GiGi Slais. GiGi has been at this for so long, working under many people, and she knows every detail of this bill, and I so appreciate it.

Doug Anderson, Lucia Mastrangelo, our current Samya Rose Stumo National Air Grant fellow Amber Willitt, Tricia Enright, Ansley Lacitis, Jami Burgess, Maurie Mueller, and Drew Hammill.

I certainly want to thank Meghan Taira, from Senator SCHUMER's office, for helping us through many phases of this.

I want to thank our former staffer Ronce Almond and detailee from the FAA's Office of Airports, Rob Hawks, and our first Samya Rose Stumo fellow, who is now over at the FAA, Rukia Hassoun, for their hard work on this legislation.

I also want to thank Senator CRUZ's team because, in all of these negotiations, it was critical to not only have a great understanding of FAA issues but of our colleagues and their priorities in continuing. I am not saying the Republicans came up with more amendments, but it certainly felt like that for a long time. It felt like they all had a lot of them. We had a pilot on our side, and they had a few pilots on their side. We processed a lot of amendments.

So I, too, want to thank Brad Grantz, Nicole Christus, Simone Perez, Andrew Miller, Matt Swint, Hannah Hagen, and Liam McKenna for their work and, of course, Matt Weisman and Ben Rhodeside from Senator DUCKWORTH's team, and Lauren Bates from Senator MORAN's.

This is a big moment in aviation. We have been through a lot. We have been through a COVID crisis and having to manage our aviation system while we were in that crisis and coming out of the COVID crisis when we may not have had everything correct in the order of how to keep flights and regain the capacity where we were. We certainly know that we have had safety issues and concerns so that we needed to make a big investment. This legislation is that investment in safety standards, in protecting consumers, and in advancing a workforce and technology that will allow the United States to be the gold standard in aviation.

I thank my colleagues.

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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No.

162, on passage of Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935, an act to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, on April 30, 2024, I missed vote No. 155, which was Motion to Invoke Cloture on Georgia N. Alexakis to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea. On May 2, 2024, I missed vote No. 156, which was confirmation of Georgia N. Alexakis to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Had I been in attendance I would have voted yea. On May 2, 2024, I missed vote No. 157, Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to H.R. 3935. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea. On May 3, 2024, I missed vote No. 158, which was on the Motion to Proceed to H.R. 3935. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted yea.

TRIBUTE TO JULIANNE BEECH

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Julianne Beech for her hard work as an intern in my office in Cheyenne, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Julianne is a native of Cheyenne. She is a freshman at Laramie County Community College, where she studies political science and international studies, with a minor in international relations and comparative politics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Julianne for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO REESE DAVIES

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Reese for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Reese is a native of Laramie. He attends The University of Wyoming, where he studies international studies and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.