

that Republicans support continued nationwide access to IVF.

I look forward to discussing this more next week, as, unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues will continue their summer of scare tactics.

The Republican Party is the party of families, and we are going to continue fighting to support the rights and freedoms of families across America.

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 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. 647, Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2029. (Reappointment.)

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Laphonza R. Butler, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, John W. Hickenlooper, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Gary C. Peters.

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 Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2029 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 74, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Baldwin	Capito	Cotton
Barrasso	Cardin	Cramer
Bennet	Carper	Crapo
Booker	Casey	Daines
Boozman	Cassidy	Duckworth
Brown	Collins	Durbin
Budd	Coons	Fischer
Butler	Cornyn	Gillibrand
Cantwell	Cortez Masto	Graham

Grassley	Marshall	Shaheen
Hassan	Merkley	Sinema
Heinrich	Moran	Smith
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Stabenow
Hirono	Murray	Tester
Hyde-Smith	Ossoff	Tillis
Kaine	Padilla	Van Hollen
Kelly	Peters	Warner
Kennedy	Reed	Warnock
King	Ricketts	Warren
Klobuchar	Romney	Welch
Lankford	Rosen	Whitehouse
Lujan	Rounds	Wicker
Lummis	Sanders	Wyden
Manchin	Schatz	Young
Markley	Schumer	

NAYS—15

Britt	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lee	Sullivan
Ernst	Paul	Thune
Hagerty	Schmitt	Tuberville
Hawley	Scott (FL)	Vance

NOT VOTING—11

Blackburn	Hoeven	Murphy
Blumenthal	McConnell	Risch
Braun	Menendez	Rubio
Fetterman	Mullin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 74, the nays are 15, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, yesterday, in an interview with FOX News, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON said that I “was parroting the talking points of Hamas” and that I and others “stand with Hamas and the Ayatollah.”

Well, that, of course, is an absolute lie. As I have said many times, I believe that Hamas is a terrorist organization that committed an atrocious act when it began this war by attacking Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, and taking more than 200 hostages, many of whom are still being held in captivity today.

Further, as I have said on numerous occasions, I think that the Hamas leader, Yahya Sinwar, is a war criminal and should be arrested.

Now, I am not quite sure those are the talking points that Hamas uses. But what the FOX interview did get right is that I believe it is a very sad day for our country that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has been invited by leaders from both political parties to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress.

Israel, of course, had the right to defend itself against the horrific Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, but it did not—and it does not—have the right to go to war against the entire Palestinian people.

Two days after the war began, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said:

I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly.

“We are fighting human animals”—that is his definition of the Palestinian people—“and we are acting accordingly.” That is what the Israeli Defense Minister said, and, tragically,

that is exactly what the rightwing, extremist Netanyahu government has done.

Now, let me put some detail into exactly what that means and whether anyone really believes that Prime Minister Netanyahu should be a guest of honor of the U.S. Congress and the American people.

Over the last 8 months—almost 8 months—Netanyahu and his extremist government have killed more than 36,000 Palestinians and wounded over 82,000. That is 5 percent of the population of Gaza. Sixty percent of those who have been killed or wounded are women, children, and elderly people.

Netanyahu’s war machine has driven 1.7 million people from their homes—75 percent of the population of Gaza. I would like the American people to think about that. Think about your community. Think about your State. Think about what it would mean if 75 percent—three-quarters—of your population was driven from their homes, and most of these people are poor, and they leave their homes not knowing where they are going, with nothing but what they could carry in their hands. Think about that incredible level of desperation—three-quarters of the population driven from their homes, carrying a few bundles of clothing or food or whatever it may be.

Further, Netanyahu’s government has damaged or destroyed over 60 percent of the housing in Gaza, leaving more than 1 million people permanently homeless.

You know, there is a lot of talk in the media and among the pundits about the day after the war ends, but let’s be clear: For over 1 million people, there is no day after in which they can return to their homes because their homes, their housing units, have been destroyed.

It is not just the housing stock of Gaza that has been destroyed. Netanyahu and his extremist government have destroyed the civilian infrastructure of Gaza, obliterated water and sewer systems and denied electricity to the people who live there.

Defense Minister Gallant, in his statement that I read a moment ago, said:

I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity.

Well, they have kept their word. Imagine living month after month with no electricity or clean water and seeing sewage run out onto the streets. That is life for the people of Gaza right now.

Mr. Netanyahu—the gentleman invited by Mr. JOHNSON and the Democratic leadership here—Mr. Netanyahu and his government have annihilated Gaza’s healthcare system. I have talked to doctors, American doctors, who have been there who talk about the systematic destruction of their healthcare system. Mr. President, 26 hospitals have been knocked out of service, and more than 400 healthcare workers have been killed—400 healthcare workers killed.

In other words, there are some 80,000 wounded people in Gaza and hundreds of thousands of people who are sick. According to the World Health Organization, as of May 5, there were hundreds of thousands of cases of acute respiratory illness and diarrhea, including 110,000 children. Yet, despite all of the injuries caused by the bombings, despite all of the sickness caused by the lack of clean water, there is virtually no healthcare available to these people because the healthcare system in Gaza has been almost totally destroyed.

You know, there are 12 universities in Gaza where kids are able to get an education. In fact, the people of Gaza and the Palestinian area take education very seriously. Every single one of these 12 universities has been bombed, as have 56 schools. Today, 625,000 children in Gaza have no access to education.

I would ask the American people just to think about what is going on psychologically to the children of Gaza. Imagine being in a place where drones are flying all over the place, maybe there with weapons, maybe not. Buildings have been destroyed. Your relatives have been killed. You don't have any water. You don't have any food. You are driven from one place to another. What kind of permanent damage will occur to virtually every one of these children? What a horrible experience it is.

Maybe—maybe most importantly—when we think about the wisdom of Mr. Netanyahu being invited to address both Houses of Congress—an honor to address both Houses of Congress and the American people—we should remember that his government, according to virtually every humanitarian organization functioning in Gaza, has intentionally blocked humanitarian aid—that is, food, water, medical supplies—from reaching the desperate people of Gaza, which has created, on top of everything else, the conditions for starvation and famine.

I would tell you, as you probably already know, that blocking humanitarian aid and creating the conditions for famine is not only an act of extreme cruelty—using starvation as an act of war—but it is a violation of both American and international law. It is a war crime. That is what it is.

Let me say a word about what is going on in Gaza right now in terms of malnutrition. According to the United Nations, since mid-January, at least 30 children—30 children—have starved to death. More than 93,000 children under 5 have been screened for malnutrition, and 7,280 were found to have acute malnutrition, including 5,600 with moderate acute malnutrition and 1,676 with severe acute malnutrition. But, importantly, that is just what we know. The full reality is likely much, much worse. But Israel has prevented journalists and the media from getting into the most desperate areas in Gaza.

Mr. President, you know we, as we all know, are in campaign season, and

I would say to Speaker JOHNSON that when you attend your fundraising dinners with your billionaire friends and you eat your fine steaks and your lobsters and your other wonderful food, please remember these pictures from Gaza.

This is a photograph of a child in Gaza taken by Getty.

This is a photograph of a child and his or her mother taken by Reuters, and one doubts very much whether that child is alive today.

This is a photograph taken by Al Jazeera.

This is another photograph taken by Getty of a child who I can't imagine is alive today.

These children and thousands more are the direct result of Netanyahu's policies, Netanyahu's demands. Speaker JOHNSON has invited him to address Congress.

No, Mr. President, I will not be in attendance for that speech.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The majority leader.

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.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DENNIS WILLE

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to COL Dennis Wille, a devoted and accomplished member of the U.S. Army, who has dedicated nearly 29 years of exceptional service to our Nation. Colonel Wille is completing over 4 years of service on the U.S. Space Command staff, where he has served in the Pentagon as both the chief of the Washington Liaison Office and the chief of legislative affairs.

Colonel Wille's career began as an armor officer in 1995, serving in armored cavalry units at Fort Carson, CO, and Fort Stewart, GA. In 2005, he transitioned into the U.S. Army's cadre of space professionals, taking on roles as a space operations staff officer at various locations, including Fort Hood, TX; Fort Leavenworth, KS; Peterson Air Force Base, CO; and Wiesbaden, Germany.

Throughout his career, Colonel Wille demonstrated remarkable leadership and dedication, participating in deployments to Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In Iraq, he served as a space operations staff officer for the Multi-National Division—Baghdad, integrating space and technical capabilities into counterinsurgency operations.

His yearlong tour in Afghanistan at ISAF Joint Command focused on integrating nonmilitary applications into NATO's combat operations.

During his 2 years as the Army's senior space officer at U.S. Army Europe, Colonel Wille's expertise extended to supervising the integration of space, cyber, and electronic warfare capabilities into NATO and joint land operations and exercises. Notably, he also served as a military fellow at New America, a D.C.-based think tank, through the Chief of Staff of the Army's Senior Fellowship Program.

A lifelong learner, Colonel Wille earned several advanced degrees, including a master of science in space systems operations from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2006, a master of military art and science from the School for Advanced Military Studies in 2012, and an additional MMAS from the U.S. Army War College in 2016.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to COL Dennis Wille for his exceptional service and unwavering dedication to our Nation's security. His remarkable career and leadership in space operations have significantly contributed to our defense and global security efforts. We commend him for his achievements and wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

COL Dennis Wille's outstanding contributions and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on the U.S. Army and our Nation. His dedication to duty serves as an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him a happy retirement as we celebrate his legacy of selfless service to the Nation.

REMEMBERING SARAH "SALLY" SCHNAITER LUGAR

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Sally Lugar, who passed away peacefully amid the love of family and friends on May 2, 2024.

Sally was a proud, lifelong Hoosier. She was born in Martinsville, IN, on June 12, 1934. After graduating high school, she attended Purdue University and earned a degree in home economics. While at Purdue, she was a varsity cheerleader, president of her dorm, and spent 3 years on the Debris, the Purdue yearbook. After graduating, she taught english, health and science, and physical education at Muncie Central High School.

Sally married Thomas R. Lugar on April 12, 1958, and they were blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. When Tom passed in 2018, they had been married for 60 years. Sally and Tom were avid travelers who loved experiencing new cultures and creating new lifelong friendships. She loved connecting with people and serving her fellow Hoosiers. In the last 60 years, Sally served more than 30 central Indiana nonprofit organizations. She did this while managing