

Durbin, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael G. Warnock.

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 Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

#### YEAS—57

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

#### NAYS—41

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Menendez
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tanya Monique Jones Bosier, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:28 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### VOTE ON BOSIER NOMINATION

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

Mr. WICKER. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

#### YEAS—57

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

#### NAYS—41

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Menendez
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). 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. 511, Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley.

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 Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

#### YEAS—56

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

#### NAYS—42

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

#### NOT VOTING—2

Braun	Menendez
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Judith E. Pipe, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 718

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a very serious problem: viral gain-of-function research. I am calling on this body to place a pause on all viral gain-of-function research, just like President Obama did in 2014.

Maybe I will start with an analogy. Could you imagine the United States participating in nuclear research and sending our scientists, sending our money to foreign adversaries to help them with their nuclear weapons research right now—say, a country like Iran or a country like North Korea? Of course, no one in this body would suggest that is a smart thing to do. But people can't see what viral gain-of-function is, so they are not afraid of it, but they should be.

Think about this: Nuclear bombs have killed 2-, 3-, maybe 400,000 people at the max—2-, 3-, maybe 400,000 people—but viral gain-of-function research, through COVID, has killed over 1 million Americans, and worldwide, it is at least 10 times that, maybe 20 times that. And we still have 15 million long COVID sufferers, but we continue to fund and we continue to participate in viral gain-of-function research. I would stop and ask this body, what do we have to show for it? Thirty years of viral gain-of-function research and what are the benefits? What have we benefited from this?

Just like in January of 2020 when I was the first Member of Congress to sound the alarm on the COVID virus and the consequences and the pandemic that was coming, I am here once again to sound this alarm.

Think about this: Why is this a concern to anybody? First of all, I want to talk about the risk of lab leaks. No matter what virus security level this research is done in, there is going to be risk of a lab leak. There is human error, there is mechanical error, people not following protocols. We have seen it over and over again, and that is actually what led to the pause in 2014 by President Obama.

Laboratories, regardless of their biosafety levels, are not infallible. Human error, equipment failure, unforeseen accidents can lead to the escape of enhanced pathogens into the general population. The consequences of such an event have proven to be catastrophic.

We witnessed this firsthand through the COVID-19 pandemic, just how fast a virus could spread throughout the world. A virus that is engineered to be more contagious or more deadly can cause an even more severe global death crisis, even worse than what we saw with COVID-19.

Something people seldom talk about is the threat of bioresearch, of biosecurity when it comes to our food supply. Just like the Chinese developed a COVID virus to attack human lungs, they could develop new viruses that could attack our beef cattle, our pigs, our dairy. They could find new viruses to attack the wheat in Kansas. All these things are very feasible by viral gain-of-function research.

I am very concerned about the risk of weaponization of these viruses, that all of these have a military potential, what we would call bioterrorism. Everything has a dual purpose. In America, we don't think about that. We always think about science being research for the good, but what we have found over and over is that rogue nations can use this type of research for the very, very worse.

I just want to dive a little bit deeper into this subject and this threat of bioterrorism. Knowledge and techniques developed through gain-of-function research can be potentially misused by malicious actors. If detailed methodologies for enhancing pathogens are published or otherwise become accessible, they could be easily exploited to create biological weapons. These could be created by people with minimal means. They are called terrorists. They wouldn't have to go through the hassle, the time and expense of developing a nuclear weapon; they could more easily develop biological weapons that are even more deadly. The potential for such misuse makes the dissemination of research findings in this bill particularly perilous, and it lowers the barrier for entry for those who might wish to cause us harm.

Ethically, gain-of-function research raises significant questions. Is it morally acceptable to create pathogens with pandemic potential, knowing the immense suffering they could cause if accidentally or, heaven forbid, deliberately released?

The scientific pursuit of knowledge must be balanced with responsibility and awareness of their broader consequences. The principles that I swore an oath to as a physician—do no harm; above all, do no harm—should guide every one of our actions when we are funding science. Yet, gain-of-function research walks a tightrope between potential benefits and catastrophic risks.

Public trust in science and research institutes is another critical aspect. Higher profile accidents or ethical breaches have eroded public confidence, making it even more difficult to garner support for necessary scientific endeavors. Transparency, accountability, and stringent regulatory frameworks are essential to maintaining this trust.

That is why we are here today calling for this body to pass our Viral Gain-of-Function Research Moratorium Act. Our bill will prohibit the funding of this research, allowing time for an honest conversation about the pros and cons of gain-of-function research, setting up guardrails that ensure a system of checks and balances.

Getting transparency for the American people for what happened during the pandemic shouldn't be controversial. I hope my colleagues will join me in agreeing that if we can't measure it, we can't manage it—especially when we are discussing the creation of lethal viruses at the taxpayers' expense.

The Federal Government should not provide another dime in funding for viral gain-of-function research in the deceptive name of global health and national security.

For these reasons, I am proud to be back here on the Senate floor to sound the alarm again and call for the immediate passage of our bill, the Viral Gain-of-Function Research Moratorium Act.

I want to conclude by thanking Senators BRAUN and LEE for their support of this resolution, and we look forward to continuing the discussion on this issue with their colleagues.

As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 718, which is at the desk; further, that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, this resolution threatens fundamental life sciences research. Research is medicine's field of dreams from which we harvest the findings that give hope to families.

Over 1 million people died from COVID-19, and tens of thousands of Americans die annually from the seasonal flu. It is scientific research that develops the vaccines and treatments that save lives.

It is clear that we need every tool at our disposal to combat viral illnesses and pandemics, and labs across the country are developing research that will create the vaccines and the therapeutics of tomorrow. But what this resolution does is create overbroad restrictions on scientific research in order to accomplish a goal which unfortunately is unrelated to what should be our highest goals.

Bans like those envisioned by this resolution would tie the hands of researchers who are doing lifesaving work. This resolution would send a dangerous signal that the U.S. Senate does not value lifesaving research