

You will be happy to know that I agree 100 percent. And I would venture to say that all of my Democratic colleagues agree 100 percent. But let's also be clear the Executive order referenced isn't that.

And my colleague's attempt to attribute some scheme behind informing eligible citizens of their right to vote and facilitating their voter registration and participation is simply without merit.

As I mentioned a few minutes ago, when debating the SAVE Act, we are now less than 6 weeks until the November election. And while there may be disagreement on policy with my colleagues, we should certainly agree that it is crucial to make sure every eligible American can participate in the political process—again, without any unnecessary barriers or obstacles and certainly without intimidation.

As I referenced a few minutes ago, I once served as California's secretary of state and as the chief elections officer, and I am proud of the reforms that we implemented in making it easier for eligible citizens to register to vote, to stay registered to vote—because that is not easy in some States—and to cast their ballots in the elections.

I want to emphasize that these reforms were put in place for all citizens regardless of political party, regardless of political leanings. We wanted to make sure that every eligible Californian could exercise their right to vote, and that is what should be our business here today—to make sure that every eligible American can exercise their right to vote.

That is exactly why President Biden first issued this Executive order, which builds on decades of what, once upon a time, was bipartisan efforts to expand voter registration. What could be more patriotic than performing your civic duty? The bipartisan history of Congress in promoting voter participation includes the bipartisan passage of the National Voter Registration Act once upon a time.

President Biden issued the Executive order to bring the weight of the Federal Government to help Americans register to vote. It strikes me as perfectly reasonable that when Americans are already interacting with the government, that we should take that opportunity to securely get more eligible Americans registered to vote and ready to participate in the elections. The Executive order that we are debating here is simply fulfilling the mandates that Congress created with the bipartisan passage of the National Voter Registration Act.

I couldn't help but notice in the debate—in the presentation, in the arguments—that there has been a failure to point to any partisan language either in statute or in the Executive order. So I am disappointed that these efforts continue. What we should be doing is working together to facilitate civic participation and combating misinformation and disinformation sur-

rounding the 2024 election that only risks confusing or discouraging people to participate.

For those and other reasons, I object. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The junior Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I really do appreciate my colleague's comments, especially the part on agreeing 100 percent with me.

You know, it is very easy for my Democrat colleagues to wax poetic about wanting more Americans to want to register to vote. After all, it could be that the program I am discussing here is designed only to help his party, especially when I go back to what I referenced earlier about a Department of Justice attorney documenting this meeting and noticing that all the points were focused on expanding Democrat voter blocs and that there were 50 leftwing organizations that attended the meeting except for the one member of the Green Party.

When we asked for details on this, of course, he said it wasn't that, but I do look at the top of this document from the Biden-Harris administration, referred to as the interim "Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting," and this is what the American people get from the Biden-Harris administration.

I would hope, at the very least, that my colleague, while waxing poetic, would agree about this program, like all Federal programs, that it should not be about oversight and transparency, but that is the case at the present time.

And I do want to make thing one thing perfectly clear: We need as many people as possible to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans support the idea that you need a photo ID to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans support the idea that you should be a U.S. citizen to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans do not support the use of Federal taxpayer funds—your dollars—for partisan political activity.

Opposing these measures makes it clear that my Democrat colleagues simply aren't valuing election integrity, especially when we ask for details, and this is what the Biden-Harris administration shows the American people regarding "Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting." Republicans value election integrity. At least you can tell by our efforts here.

Folks, we just want it to be easy to vote and hard to cheat. I hope the American people are watching.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF BYRON B. CONWAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Byron B. Conway to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Born in Green Bay, WI, Mr. Conway earned his B.A. from Santa Clara Uni-

versity in 1998 and his J.D. from Marquette University Law School in 2002.

After graduating from law school, he worked as an associate at Gimbel Reilly Guerin & Brown LLP in Milwaukee from 2002 to 2006. There, Mr. Conway handled a variety of cases including misdemeanor and felony criminal matters involving drug offenses, battery, burglary, and white-collar crimes.

Since 2006, Mr. Conway has worked at Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. (Habush), first as an associate and most recently as a shareholder. His practice at Habush has been devoted primarily to civil litigation, the majority of which has centered on personal injury claims. Mr. Conway's cases have involved, among other things: explosions, environmental contamination, product defects, workplace accidents, workers' compensation, motor vehicle accidents, nursing home neglect, premises liability, and insurance coverage disputes. Throughout his 22-year legal career, he has tried 20 jury cases.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Conway as "qualified," and his nomination is strongly supported by his home State Senators, Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. JOHNSON.

With deep ties to Wisconsin and significant litigation experience, Mr. Conway is prepared to serve honorably as a district judge on the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

I am proud to support his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Byron Conway's nomination to serve as a judge for the district court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Senator JOHNSON and I have worked to set up the bipartisan Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission to provide us with recommendations for qualified candidates for open Federal judicial and U.S. attorney positions. This commission has identified and put forward highly qualified, experienced candidates such as Mr. Conway, and I am pleased to see the Senate moving forward with his nomination.

As I shared with the Judiciary Committee, in addition to being an exceptional judicial candidate, Byron Conway is Wisconsin through and through. He was raised in Green Bay, WI, and attended Notre Dame Academy. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University before coming back home to earn his law degree from Marquette University Law School.

After being admitted to the Wisconsin bar, Mr. Conway practiced in the Milwaukee area before moving to Green Bay to practice civil litigation. Mr. Conway has experience with a wide variety of cases, including misdemeanor and felony criminal matters, employment discrimination cases, and personal injury cases. I am certain that his prior litigation experience will

serve him well as a judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Mr. Conway is a very active member of his local community, having served as president of the Brown County Bar Association, as the Brown County District Representative to the State Bar Board of Governors, and as the vice president of the board of directors for the Brain Center of Green Bay, which offers resources to individuals with cognitive deficits and neurological disorders. Byron Conway has both the experience and the temperament necessary to serve Wisconsin's Eastern District with fairness and impartiality.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Chair DURBIN; Ranking Member GRAHAM; and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for advancing Mr. Conway's nomination out of the committee with bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Conway's nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

#### VOTE ON CONWAY NOMINATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Conway nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

#### YEAS—58

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

#### NAYS—37

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

#### NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Scott (FL)	Vance
Cotton	Tillis	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). 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.

The Senator from Vermont.

#### AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO CERTIFY THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE REFUSAL OF DR. RALPH DE LA TORRE TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, over 4 months ago, Steward Health Care and the more than 30 hospitals it owns in 8 States declared bankruptcy, with some \$9 billion in debt. This bankruptcy has caused devastating harm to patients, healthcare workers, and entire communities from Massachusetts to Arizona.

In July, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair, voted to authorize a bipartisan investigation into the financial mismanagement of Steward Health Care. On that same day, the HELP Committee also voted to subpoena Dr. Ralph de la Torre, the CEO of Steward Health Care, to testify at a hearing on this very important issue on September 12.

Sadly, Dr. de la Torre made the unfortunate and unacceptable decision not to show up at this hearing in defiance of a congressional subpoena. So last week, the HELP Committee voted 20 to 0 on two resolutions to hold Dr. de la Torre accountable for his failure to appear at this hearing.

The first resolution instructs Senate legal counsel to bring a civil suit in the District Court for the District of Columbia to require Dr. de la Torre's compliance with the subpoena and his testimony before the HELP Committee.

The second resolution would refer this matter to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia to criminally prosecute Dr. de la Torre for failing to comply with the subpoena.

In a few moments, I will be asking unanimous consent to pass the second resolution, which seeks to hold Dr. de la Torre in criminal contempt for fail-

ing to comply with the congressional subpoena.

But before I do that, let me take a moment to briefly explain why the HELP Committee believed it was so important for Dr. de la Torre to testify before Congress.

First, we wanted Dr. de la Torre to explain to us how it could happen that at least 15 patients at hospitals owned by his company died—died—as a result of a lack of medical equipment or staffing shortages, and why at least 2,000 other patients were put in immediate peril, according to Federal regulators.

That is something that the American people deserve to know. But perhaps most importantly, we wanted to know how it could happen that while thousands of patients and healthcare workers suffered and communities around the country have been devastated as a result of Steward Health Care's financial mismanagement, Dr. de la Torre and the companies he owned were able to receive at least \$250 million in total compensation over the past 4 years.

For months, Senator CASSIDY, the ranking member of the HELP Committee; Senator MARKEY, the chair of our healthcare subcommittee; and I have asked Dr. de la Torre to testify before our committee to answer these questions. And time after time, he has arrogantly refused, and that is simply not acceptable.

So, today, I will ask the Senate to unanimously adopt this resolution seeking to hold Dr. de la Torre in contempt of Congress.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Ranking Member CASSIDY and his staff for working with me and my staff on this very important issue. The passage of this resolution by the full Senate will make clear that, even though Dr. de la Torre may be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, even though he may be able to buy fancy yachts and private jets and luxurious accommodations throughout the world, even though he may be able to afford some of the most expensive lawyers in America, no, Dr. de la Torre is not above the law. If you defy a congressional subpoena, you will be held accountable no matter who you are or how well connected you may be.

The goal of the HELP Committee throughout this entire process has been to make sure not only that we have a complete understanding of the financial chicanery surrounding Steward Health Care but to do everything that we can to make sure that such a travesty never occurs again.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that two letters be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, one from Dr. de la Torre's attorneys to the committee and, secondly, a response letter from Ranking Member CASSIDY and myself.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows: