

I thank him for standing up for some of the judges who have come before us. We couldn't have done it without him, in some circumstances. I think he will be proud in the years ahead to reflect on what these women and men will mean to our country. I also wanted to join in Senator SCHUMER's happy memories of time off the Senate floor with JOE and his wife Gayle on his boat, which is also his residence, on the Potomac River. There were some wonderful parties there, always, always, always bipartisan. That has been the hallmark of JOE MANCHIN's career, and it really makes a positive difference in the work of the Senate.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, I rise today to discuss another topic that has become one of my major concerns throughout my Senate career, fixing our broken immigration system. As the son of an immigrant from Lithuania, my personal story exemplifies the experience of immigrants in this country and just how far the American dream can take you when you are afforded the opportunity.

That is one of the reasons why 23 years ago I introduced the DREAM Act, together with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, who was then the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bipartisan legislation was very simple. It provided a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants who were brought to the United States as infants, toddlers, and children, allowing them to remain legally in the country, the only home they ever knew, and to have a path to ultimate legality and citizenship.

Eleven years ago, I joined some of my colleagues to form the bipartisan Gang of 8, another effort for immigration reform. We worked hard, four Democrats and four Republicans, and drafted a comprehensive immigration bill that included the DREAM Act. That bill passed the Senate with 68 bipartisan votes. Yet House Republicans refused to even consider it and debate it.

Unfortunately, we haven't made much progress since. Today, as we hear dangerous rhetoric from the President-elect about immigration, I worry for the immigrants and for the future of our country.

We can all agree that any undocumented immigrant found guilty of a serious crime should never be allowed to stay in the United States. But the last time the President-elect was in office, it wasn't just criminals who were deported. We saw parents separated from their young children, some of them still separated to this day, and we saw Dreamers, veterans, and spouses of U.S. citizens deported. They weren't criminals. Many of them were pillars in their home communities.

Next week, I will hold a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee focused on the chaos and cruelty that President-elect Trump's promised mass deportations could bring to our communities and our country.

Mr. President, I rise today to highlight one of the Dreamers whose loss

would deeply impact her community and her family. This Dreamer spent her career educating America's future leaders.

This is the 147th story of a Dreamer that I have told on the Senate floor. This young woman's name is Dulce Martinez, better known by her students as Ms. Martinez.

She was brought to the United States from Puebla, Mexico, when she was 14 years old. As a child, she loved school and dreamed of becoming a computer teacher, but when the college counselor told her she wasn't eligible for college, even with good grades, she was crushed. She felt hopeless and dropped out of school. It wasn't until Ms. Martinez started working that she realized her education meant too much to throw away. The skills she was learning on the job helped her to realize just how valuable education was to her and to everyone else.

She enrolled at the Borough of Manhattan Community College to finish her high school credits. She was able to obtain DACA, which allowed her to continue her studies at BMCC, where she received an associate's degree in early childhood education. She graduated with honors.

Ms. Martinez went on to serve as a BMCC mentor and employee, focusing on advocacy for immigrants and undocumented students. She also worked on the City University of New York Women's Centers Council.

Today, Ms. Martinez has her dream as a lead teacher at a Head Start preschool in Brooklyn. She is pursuing a master's degree in early childhood education and conducted field work in early education.

A proud mother of four, Ms. Martinez uses her own life experience to educate and inspire young people. She is the embodiment of the American dream.

Would America be better off if she is deported? No, of course not. She is teaching young children to have a future and to believe in themselves and the basic education that made her life so successful.

DACA was a program put together by President Obama to pave the way for Ms. Martinez to pursue her dreams, but DACA was always intended to be a temporary stopgap until Congress did its job and fixed the broken immigration system by law.

In Ms. Martinez's case, DACA was the opportunity she was looking for to go back to school and to kick-start her dreams. But since President Obama established the program, Republicans have waged a relentless campaign to overturn DACA and deport these Dreamers back to countries they do not even remember. Now this program is hanging by a thread in the courts due to legal challenges from the Republican State attorneys general, and DACA recipients are forced to live with uncertainty day to day.

Last year, a Federal judge in Texas declared the DACA Program illegal, though the decision left in place pro-

tections for current DACA recipients while the case is on appeal. Dreamers live in constant fear that the next decision will spin their lives. You and I have heard over and over again when President-elect Donald Trump came before his rallies and described the immigrants he wants to deport as murderers, rapists, terrorists, people with mental problems, and such. It goes on and on, time and again. But, of course, Ms. Martinez did not belong to any one of those categories. She has made a life in America and made America better.

This litigation that I am concerned about prevented at least 500,000 additional Dreamers from registering for the program.

During his first term, then-President Trump tried to shut down the DACA Program, but the Supreme Court blocked him. Now he has pledged to pursue a mass deportation campaign. I am going to do everything in my power to defend Dreamers from being deported from the only country they call home, and I am willing to work with anyone, including President-elect Trump, to pass legislation to give Dreamers like Ms. Martinez a chance.

I urge my colleagues to meet with these Dreamers, come to know them, and in their States, they are going to find that they are making invaluable contributions. These young people are ready and willing to help make America better. Dreamers like Dulce Martinez have earned the right to put down roots, raise families, further their education, and continue contributing to our society, without the threat of deportation hanging over their heads.

It is time for Congress to get to work on a bipartisan basis to defy the so-called experts and to pass the Dream Act and immigration reform. It is the right thing to do, and it is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:46 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. LUJÁN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sparkle L. Sooknanan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

NOMINATION OF SPARKLE L. SOOKNANAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Sparkle Leah Sooknanan to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Born in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Sooknanan earned her B.S. from Saint Francis College in 2002, her M.B.A. from Hofstra University in 2003, and a J.D., summa cum laude, from Brooklyn Law School in 2010.

After graduating from law school, Ms. Sooknanan served as a law clerk to the Honorable Eric N. Vitaliano on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York between 2010 and 2011 and for the Honorable Guido Calabresi on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 2011 to 2012. Following her clerkships, she joined the U.S. Department of Justice through its honors program as an appellate attorney in the civil division. Ms. Sooknanan then served as a law clerk to Justice Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S. Supreme Court from 2013 to 2014.

Following the completion of her Supreme Court clerkship, Ms. Sooknanan joined Jones Day in Washington, DC, as an associate between 2014 and 2019 and, later partner from 2020 to 2021. She spent more than 6 years at the firm representing clients in complex, multifaceted Federal district court and appellate litigation.

In 2021, Ms. Sooknanan rejoined the Department of Justice as Deputy Associate Attorney General in the Associate Attorney General's Office. In the fall of 2023, she moved to the civil rights division to serve as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, the second highest leadership position in the division.

The American Bar Association rated Ms. Sooknanan as "well qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON.

Ms. Sooknanan's experience clerking at all levels of the Federal judiciary, as well as her work in private practice and public service, have prepared her to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

I am proud to support her nomination.

VOTE ON SOOKNANAN NOMINATION

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

Mr. PAUL. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 306 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

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

NOT VOTING—2

Sinema	Vance
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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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Catherine Henry, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

NOMINATION OF CATHERINE HENRY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Catherine Henry to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Henry received her B.A. from Drew University and her J.D. from the District of Columbia School of Law. After law school, she worked as a staff attorney at the Feminist Majority Foundation before serving as an assistant defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. From 1996 to 2001, she represented clients at every stage of the State criminal process as she handled cases in the major trial and felony waiver trial divisions. She also represented juvenile defendants in delinquency proceedings.

Since 2001, Ms. Henry has worked in the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. As an assistant Federal defender in the trial division, she gained

extensive jury trial and sentencing litigation experience on a wide variety of cases. In 2008, Henry was promoted to the position of senior litigator. She maintains a full caseload of Federal criminal matters and advises assistant Federal defenders in all aspects of litigation. Over the course of her career, Ms. Henry has tried hundreds of cases to verdict in State court and 35 Federal cases to verdict or final decision. In addition to her legal practice, Ms. Henry has taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School since 2009, and she previously taught students at Temple University Beasley School of Law.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Henry as "well qualified" to serve on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators—Mr. CASEY and Mr. FETTERMAN—as well as a broad range of individuals, including Federal public defenders, former Federal prosecutors, and former and retired district judges.

Ms. Henry's litigation background and extensive experience in Federal court ensure that she will be a valuable addition to the Federal bench. I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me in my support.

VOTE ON HENRY NOMINATION

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

Mr. HEINRICH. 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 Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Cassidy	Daines
Blackburn	Collins	Ernst
Boozman	Cornyn	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Graham
Britt	Cramer	Grassley
Budd	Crapo	Hagerty
Capito	Cruz	Hawley