

from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 315 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—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cornyn	Rubio	Vance
Moran	Sinema	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). The yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Keli Marie Neary, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I rise to join in the honored tradition of the Senate to offer my final floor remarks before departing.

Interestingly, I rise to let the pages know that, breaking traditional Senate practice, there are no written remarks for you to come pick up. I decided just this morning that I was going to write a different speech, that I was going to offer words of my own as I mark what is the end of a journey for me.

As I end this journey as the junior Senator representing 40 million Californians, it is a day that I want to thank them and thank Governor Newsom for giving me the honor and privilege of serving our great State.

It has been a remarkable honor, a completely unimagined adventure to

follow in the footsteps of Dianne Feinstein, who so ably served in this Chamber for more than 30 years, and to be blessed to walk the same hallways as Senator Carol Moseley Braun and share the same office space as Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. It truly has been an unbelievable privilege.

Indeed, the footsteps that I have had the opportunity to follow in this walk of service have been filled with decency, honor, integrity, and courage. I can only hope that for the people of California, I was able to do half as well as those who came before me.

As is true for all of us and for those who came before, this journey of public service is not one that we travel alone. Along with us, on the rough side of the mountain, is our staff, the staff who work so hard to help keep the pace, who help to plot the path and bring all of the supplies and make sure that no one is lost or left behind.

I want to thank my capable, incredibly talented staff for making sure that we never lost sight of our North Star, the people of California. They have given not only their hard work and long hours but their brilliant minds and all of their hearts to make sure that the last 14 months have truly been impactful. For all of that, I will forever be grateful.

I know that it is most often true that in the traversing of the roads of service, it is often our family and our friends who serve as the fuel that keeps us going day by day. That has been certainly true for me.

My wife and daughter—Neneki and Nylah—have refilled my tank and refilled my cup at the moments that I thought that I was running low. So to them, I am grateful for never letting me run out.

To my mother, who has watched more C-SPAN in the last 14 months than in all of her 71 years, my brothers, my sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and dear friends, just when the clouds get low and start to look a little heavy, it has been your cards, your texts, your letters, your visits to DC that truly have brought out the sunshine. So, to all of you, I am deeply grateful and cannot thank you enough.

To my colleagues and fellow travelers, you have truly made this journey special. The old quote by Tim Cahill that says “A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles” is true for me. You have all given me so much to make this journey one to enjoy. It could not have been more true in my short time. I don’t have the years or been able to plot the miles of any of my colleagues who have spoken up to this point as they prepare to leave, but I have had the opportunity to build what I believe will be lifelong friendships along this entire journey, and for that—on both sides of the aisle—I truly know that I am grateful.

I want to give a special shout-out to my senior Senator ALEX PADILLA and his kind and generous comments from yesterday. He has been like a tour

guide on this incredible ride, always carrying the compass, making sure I don’t stray too far off the path but knowing full well that I am a traveler who is intent on walking her own way. Senator PADILLA has supported me all along the journey, and I am grateful.

I know that Senator-elect SCHIFF is here, and I appreciate him and his support throughout this transition and also a special call to Leader CHUCK SCHUMER, who has given and, throughout these 14 months, offered his wisdom and his trust, his friendship. I am deeply, deeply grateful.

Mr. President, what I know is that I stand on the floor of the Senate as a 14-month Senator, but my road to justice and the pursuit of justice has been much longer than 14 months. I know that I only stand here because of the men and women, the working families of SCIU and our labor movement, and I couldn’t end this term without thanking them for sharing with me and inviting me into their stories of courage and hope for what is possible in our great country. I want them to know that I carry their stories with me and I carry their families with me, in my head and in my heart, here in the Senate and wherever it is that I go.

Mr. President, in my final few minutes, I want to end my time in the Senate the way that I began it. On this floor, I gave my first speech talking with and about America’s “now generation”: our young leaders, future Members of Congress, carpenters, plumbers, firefighters, nurses, police officers. I talked with them about what I had heard from them, from so many of them, about what was important. So in my last remarks, I want to come back to them, talk with and about them, offer a few lessons from this experience here with all of you.

All summer long, this “now generation” has been bopping to the masterful beats of California’s own Kendrick Lamar. We all have been hearing from radio waves and all in our iPods the anthem that “they not like us.” As I celebrate what has become a global hit—I, too, have listened to it on repeat so often all throughout the summer—I want America’s young leaders to know that the words of Kendrick are just that—words, lyrics in a historic rap battle, sources of great entertainment and joy. What they are not are words upon which we should build our communities or the future of our country because, indeed, “they” are exactly “like us.”

You see, when I was 5, I went to Levi’s Temple Head Start Center in Magnolia, MS. Of course, in Head Start, children get just that—a head start in learning the foundational lessons of preparing to be in a school environment. As I have been reflecting on this time and the lessons that this time has given me, I realized that in that old church building in Head Start, the experience there actually shaped who I have become. The seeds planted in Head Start are ones that have grown

in me every day for the 40 years since I left.

It was 1985, and my Head Start teacher was a woman by the name of Ms. Carrie Hilbert. I remember getting ready to graduate Head Start and trying on these royal-blue graduation gowns and graduation caps. For 2 weeks, Ms. Hilbert painstakingly prepared us for Head Start graduation. Our graduation song in 1985, she worked to make sure that we—little, squirmy 5- and 6-year-olds—were going to be able to sing this song and perform for our parents and our loved ones, and she did it masterfully.

Mr. President, in 1985, the lyrics Ms. Hilbert taught me were the lyrics to “We Are the World,” written by the great Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, and Quincy Jones, whom we lost just earlier this year. I remember having to practice that song day after day for probably about 2 weeks, not knowing then that all throughout that graduation rehearsal, seeds were being planted—seeds sang by Stevie Wonder and Lionel Richie:

There comes a time when we must heed a certain call, when the world must come together as one.

Seeds. Seeds from Tina Turner and Billy Joel:

We’re all a part of God’s great big family, and the truth, you know love is all we need.

Seeds sang and planted by the unlikely duo of Willie Nelson and Al Jarreau, who planted the seeds that “as God has shown us by turning stone to bread, and so we all must lend a helping hand.”

One of the most powerful seeds that really stuck with me were those offered by Michael Jackson, Huey Lewis, and Cyndi Lauper:

When you’re down and out and there seems no hope at all, but if you just believe, there’s no way we can fall. Let’s realize . . . that a change can only come when we stand together as one.

Young leaders, colleagues, Mr. President, I believe it was those 2 weeks of repetition and practice that planted the seeds of possibility and hope, seeds of determination and courage. It was learning the lyrics to that song at 5 years old that inspired a generation full of patriots who believed in the power of this country to do good in the world and for each other, because when we choose to do hard things together—the people of this Nation, all of its elected leaders, our community advocates; when we see each other’s humanity; when we see our neighbors as essential to the future we want for our children; when we understand that our differences are our greatest assets, it is then—then—when we truly are doing and being the best country in the world.

So my final prayer as a Member of this august body is that we realize that, as policymakers, we are generations’ Head Start teachers. Every single day, we can plant seeds that will grow in the hearts and minds of young leaders, and we get to decide the seeds

we plant. Will we plant seeds that help them understand and imagine what is possible for an America filled with people of different walks, different faiths, different bank accounts, different languages? Will we plant seeds to help them realize and see what is possible not just for the United States but for the world? And, as was taught to me in that old church building, we will reap what we sow.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

TRIBUTE TO LAPHONZA R. BUTLER

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I will wait for my colleague to receive her hugs of gratitude, and I have a few words I would like to say.

Mr. President, I wanted to just take a moment to add my thanks and congratulations to our colleague Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER.

You know, I look around this Chamber, and this is a Chamber that is filled with people who were once lawyers or Members of Congress, Governors or Lieutenant Governors—all incredibly fine and honorable professions—but there are not that many people in this room who came here because they were organizers. This is something that Senator BUTLER and I talked about when she first came to the Senate.

Now, organizers are different because we understand that the power of accomplishing important things comes certainly from our leadership and the work that we do, but fundamentally it comes from the people we work with every single day, the folks that are out there on the ground, living the lives and doing the work. If you understand that your power to do good work comes from those people, then you approach everything, every problem, from a different perspective.

I know this is where Senator BUTLER comes from as an organizer at SCIU and in her life, and I want to pay tribute to that because I think that kind of approach to problem-solving is something we can all learn from.

I have watched you in the short time you have been in the Senate—only 14 months, which, in the life of many Senators, is barely a blink of an eye—and I watched you figure out how to organize in this Chamber for the good of the people you represent.

I noticed, Senator BUTLER, as you were preparing to give your opening remarks, that Senator ROGER WICKER from Mississippi came up and gave you a big hug. This is our Senator who was born in Magnolia, MS. And I saw you start your building of a relationship with him on one of your very first days in the elevator when I was standing with you. That, I think, is a message and a lesson for all of us; that as you leave to go on to whatever you do next—and we can’t wait to see what you do next—we should all keep in mind the power of those relationships and building power to actually make a difference—make a difference in this world.

The last thing I want to say, as we say farewell to you—only in this Chamber but not in our lives—is that your constant reminding us and using your platform to lift up the voices, as you say, of “now leaders”—we have a tendency sometimes—those of us who are 50, 60, 70, 80—to talk about the next generation of leaders and that “Your time will come, and we will need you.”

You always speak of our young leaders in the present tense because they are the leaders that we need now.

So as I think about your service here in the Senate and the work that you have done, those are the two lessons that I will carry forward in my work in this Chamber. I offer this with much gratitude for your leadership both here in this Chamber, the work that you have done before, and the work I know you will continue to do. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 3 minutes.

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

#### CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN’S STATE-SPONSORED PERSECUTION OF THE BAHA’I MINORITY AND ITS CONTINUED VIOLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to S. Res. 74.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 74) condemning the Government of Iran’s State-sponsored persecution of the Baha’i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, for more than 40 years, this body has been passing resolutions condemning the Iranian Government’s persecution of the Baha’is.

This nightmare is not going away. In fact, the government of Iran has only intensified its ruthless agenda against the Baha’is.

Over the last 16 months, attacks against women and violent home raids have increased, hate speech has spread, and scores of Baha’is remain behind bars on arbitrary, trumped up charges.

Furthermore, Baha’is face ongoing employment and educational discrimination, as well as intrusive surveillance and invasive monitoring. The Baha’is are even denied the right to bury their dead, and when they do, their cemeteries are often vandalized or destroyed. Men, women, and children