

that he has listed and to say how grateful I will always be for BEN allowing me to be a part of the Magnitsky struggle and getting the Magnitsky Act passed and Global Magnitsky, which is renowned around the world as an effective tool against totalitarianism and corruption.

And so I would simply say that people in the audience may have happened by—I know a number of people here came for this particular purpose—but if you happened simply to be in the Gallery at this particular time, you have been—these people, Mr. President, have been subject to the testimony of a magnificent public servant. And if I serve decades more, which I do not feel that I will, if I live to be 100, I will not see a finer leader in terms of intellect, talent, in terms of savvy, in terms of accomplishment, in terms of leadership and statesmanship than I have known in the person of BEN CARDIN, and I am grateful to have been his colleague and his friend.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I am incredibly grateful for the kind comments that my Senate family has said. I have said that my colleagues are my family, and they were certainly a lot less objective than my real family has been about some of my legislative actions.

So, first, to Senator VAN HOLLEN, he pointed out that we work together; we trust each other; and we have been able to get more done because of it. That trust has never been broken. And the two of us have been able to share information. We share a common vision of what we want for Maryland and this Nation, and it has made my service in the U.S. Senate so much more rewarding knowing that my colleague is a person who shares the burdens of our office of representing the people of Maryland and takes equal responsibility to make sure we get things done in a unified way.

So, Senator VAN HOLLEN, thank you for those very kind comments, and it is mutual. Your leadership here has benefited our State to an incredible degree.

And to Senator COLLINS, I have been at several bipartisan groups with Senator COLLINS. She has a way of just reaching out and bringing people together. And I must tell you, she sort of glossed over what we did in response to January 6 and the passage of the electoral college reforms. That was not an easy task to get that to the finish line, and Senator COLLINS was the leader on that effort and allowed me to have input where it was needed in order to bring people together. But that is what she does all the time; she always looks for common ways. There is a reason why our appropriators seem to be able to get along through the leadership of Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS. I think it is a real example for all of us.

And then to Rabbi BOOKER.

(Laughter.)

I want to know when he is going to start a synagogue because I am going to join that synagogue. I want everyone to know. His d'var Torah is a lot better than a lot of Rabbi's d'var Torahs. He is just an incredible addition to our Senate family, and I will follow him anywhere.

And to Senator WICKER, you know, what we have been able to do together, it has been an incredible run. I have been with you around the world. We have stood up to dictators, and we have helped friends. We stood by people who had no other help around them so that their rights could be heard, and we have gotten a lot done together.

There is no question that we would not have had the victories on the Magnitsky bills without your personal involvement, working within your caucus to make sure that it was not politicized and we got it to the final line, and you took a lot of hours for us, and I very much appreciate that. More importantly, human rights defenders appreciate your gallantry in the U.S. Senate to get those bills to the finish line and bills that don't have your name on it. As I mentioned, you were responsible to make sure we had vehicles to get them completed.

So I thank you for your friendship. I thank you for Gayle. And it has been, as I said, a real pleasure to have that type of relationship.

I am often asked by my colleagues: Do you ever talk to Republicans? I mean, they think we are so divided here, and this is a family. And that is why I said in my parting comments, I really see the hope of our future in the relationships that have been developed here in the U.S. Senate. We can work together. We can resolve these issues. We know what our responsibilities are about. We know we have challenges in this country, but we also know we need to listen to each other, and that is what I think we do here in the Senate. We have got to do it in a more effective way. And my colleagues that are with me today have been champions in listening to each other to get the work done for the American people.

Mr. President, I am deeply honored to serve in this body, and I thank you for your attention.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA VALENZUELA DIXON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Cynthia Valenzuela Dixon to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Born in Tucson, AZ, Judge Valenzuela earned her B.A. at the University of Arizona in 1991 and her J.D. at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1995. After graduating from law school, she worked as special assistant to Vice Chair Cruz Reynoso on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights from 1995 to 1998.

Between 1998 and 2000, Judge Valenzuela served as a trial attorney in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. From 2000 to 2006, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

After that, Judge Valenzuela worked at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, first as the western regional counsel in 2006 and then as the national vice president and director of litigation from 2006 to 2011.

Between 2011 and 2016, Judge Valenzuela served as the Criminal Justice Act supervising attorney on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Since 2016, Judge Valenzuela has served as a judge on the State Bar Court of California. She served as the supervising judge of that court from 2020 to 2022.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Valenzuela as "qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. PADILLA and Ms. BUTLER.

Judge Valenzuela's substantial litigation background and service on the State Bar Court of California have prepared her to serve as a district judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. I am proud to support her nomination.

VOTE ON DIXON NOMINATION

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, 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 West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 319 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—4

Manchin	Sullivan
Sinema	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 majority leader.

PRESS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my friend Senator WYDEN for coming to the floor to champion something I have been very supportive of and he has carried, the bipartisan PRESS Act, a bill every person in this room—whether they are Senators, journalists, citizens—should want to see become law.

No democracy can survive without a free and open and thriving press. The free press keeps governments accountable to the people, exposes abuse and wrongdoing, informs the public about what is happening in government.

But if government can unduly harass the press or when leaders smear journalists as enemies of the people and when there are too few protections for journalists, our democracy is at the very real risk of eroding away.

We have seen in some countries—in Hungary, Orban—a dictator tells his friends to buy the press so there can be no real freedom and no real counter-argument. And they do. They buy newspapers, televisions, et cetera.

And so we have to protect the press. It is sacred—sacred—to America. The

PRESS Act is a commonsense and strongly bipartisan bill to ensure journalists can do their job without with facing undue harassment.

I am so proud to support this act. Senate Democrats all support this bill. And the bill has already passed the House unanimously. I hope every single Senate Republican joins us to pass it today. I know many of them are ready to do the right thing. I think it has a majority support in both parties.

This bill, again, is common sense and balanced. It would prohibit the Federal Government from using subpoenas or search warrants or other measures to force journalists or third parties to reveal confidential information without their knowledge. It has exceptions carefully tailored to address matters of national security. And it would ensure that the decision to seize journalists' records and compel them to reveal sources falls to the Federal courts, not to the Department of Justice. It is more important now than ever before, when we have heard so many in the incoming administration talk about going after the press one way or another.

And 99 percent of the work to enact the PRESS Act into law is already done; all we need is for no Senator to stand in the way today.

So thank you, Senator WYDEN, for championing this bill. Thank you to the many reporters, news organizations, press leaders, and press associations for championing this bill.

Being a journalist is a hard job. It is hard enough. Journalists shouldn't have to fear baseless government harassment on top of that for just doing their jobs. So let's pass the bipartisan PRESS Act and send it to the President's desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, before he leaves the floor, let me just thank the Senate majority leader. We have talked about this often. And I am particularly struck by the readings of the Founding Fathers because several of the Founding Fathers seem to think that a free press was at least as important as government. So the case that you are making today, Mr. Leader, is well stated.

Mr. SCHUMER. Again, let me thank the Senator from Oregon for his leadership. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4250

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in a few minutes, I am going to ask unanimous consent to pass my bipartisan bill, the PRESS Act. And this legislation is deeply personal to me.

I am very proud to be the son of Peter Wyden, who was an award-winning journalist. My dad fled the Nazis in the 1930s, and members of his family died at the hands of the Nazis.

In the United States, my dad became such a good writer, he became part of our Army's elite group, the Ritchie Boys, that wrote the propaganda pamphlets that we dropped on Nazis.

Growing up, my dad always mentioned that several of our Founding Fathers—as I indicated to the majority leader here—stressed how important the free press was to our country. And my dad emphasized how important it is that American journalists can do their jobs without unneeded government interference.

So our bipartisan bill shields journalists from being forced by the courts to disclose their sources or information provided by their sources, with—as the majority leader and I have emphasized—key exceptions exist in our legislation for national security and other critical matters. And our bill also does not otherwise limit the government's ability to pursue leakers.

So this is so common sense that nearly every State in the country has some form of reporters' shield on the books. Democratic and Republican State legislators alike have found value in preserving the free flow of information and codifying these fundamental freedoms.

My bill, with Senator LEE—and I want to thank our colleague on the other side of the aisle on all his good counsel here. Our bill would finally ensure that these protections make it to the Federal level. This is a bill—and I note this. My colleague, the Presiding Officer, knows that sometimes it is pretty hard around the Congress to be able to get folks to agree to order a 7 Up or something. This bill passed this House unanimously and has the support of both the chair of the Judiciary Committee and ranking member Senator GRAHAM. Not only that, but our bill has been endorsed by people from across the political spectrum.

I would say to my friend from Nevada, Tucker Carlson is on board. FOX News is on board. This is about as bipartisan as you can get. Past administrations, both Democratic and Republican, have exploited the lack of a Federal shield law to curtail the freedom of the press and, in some cases, even jailed journalists who have refused to break their journalistic ethics and reveal their sources.

It is long overdue that these abuses be stopped. So my substitute amendment that I put together with Senator LEE addresses feedback that we heard on this Senate floor and elsewhere.

My colleague from Arkansas, a member of the Intelligence Committee, spoke about this before, and we heard feedback from the Department of Justice that they wanted some key national security exceptions for section 702 and threats to critical infrastructure, and ensuring that the Federal Government can still respond to cases that require exigency.

I want it understood that, between the time this came up on the floor previously and today, we have reached out for feedback that addresses a number of the concerns that I heard from my colleague from Arkansas, a member of the Intelligence Committee whom I work with, that I hope addresses his concerns.