

almost two decades. In 1996, he returned to Penn State as a professor of workforce education and development.

Prior to retirement, Edgar Farmer worked in a number of roles, including head of Learning and Performance Systems and professor-in-charge of the Workforce Education and Development Program.

Barbara and Edgar Farmer have long shared their wisdom and expertise outside the classroom, coauthoring the two books: the first, "Diversity in America: Visions of the Future," and the second, "Leading with Character."

They are leading contributors to local news outlets on the issues of education and diversity. In 2017, they served on Penn State's Policing People of Color Task Force and have long been involved in diversity issues in the Borough of State College.

Barbara and Edgar are also committed philanthropists, establishing and contributing to a number of funds and scholarships at Penn State, as well as Hampton University and Norfolk State University, where Barbara and Edgar received their undergraduate degrees.

Last November, as honorees of Penn State's annual Renaissance Fund celebration, Barbara and Edgar helped to raise nearly \$200,000 for scholarships for students with financial needs. Regarding that event, Barbara summed up their approach to service, saying:

All we have done and all we hope to continue doing is part of the charge that we have been given as our life's task. Supporting one another and taking care of one another make the world and our community a better place.

No one could say it better than Barbara did.

So, once again, it is a privilege to be able to honor these remarkable Pennsylvanians and to speak briefly about their accomplishments here on the Senate floor.

Loretta Claiborne, Donta Green, Lurline Jones, and Edgar and Barbara Farmer are each, in their own right, individually and collectively, truly inspirational figures and leaders who have brought about remarkable change through their own efforts through their courage but who will continue to empower generational change, inspiring others to also fight for the change that we need across our commonwealth and our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

NOMINATION OF JULIE SU

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, this week, the HELP Committee—the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee—will be holding a vote on the renomination of Julie Su for Secretary of Labor. At the direction of the chair, this committee vote is taking place behind closed doors, without a public hearing, and with no opportunity to hear from Ms. Su directly.

It is important to note that the committee is voting on Ms. Su's nomination

for the second time. Her first nomination failed and was returned to the White House after the majority leader declined to give her a vote on the Senate floor when it was clear that based upon bipartisan opposition, she would not be confirmed.

During Ms. Su's first nomination hearing for the Secretary of Labor last April, the committee addressed a variety of concerns with her past record in California and her tenure at the Department of Labor.

Since then, concerns over her leadership at the Department of Labor have grown, and they warrant further review by the committee.

Earlier this month, I sent a formal request to the HELP Committee chair to hold a public hearing on Ms. Su's second nomination so members of the committee can discuss concerns directly with Ms. Su. Unfortunately, the chair denied our request and, instead, is holding a vote on Ms. Su's nomination behind closed doors, without a full public hearing. This is unacceptable.

It has been almost a year since Ms. Su's nomination hearing. It is important that we examine the many issues that have arisen since then and get an explanation over those serious concerns in her year of being an Acting Secretary.

She has built a troubling record as the Acting DOL Secretary, implementing policies that promote large labor unions at the expense of workers' freedoms and economic growth.

Currently, Ms. Su is overseeing the implementation of DOL's worker classification rule, dismantling the gig economy, and jeopardizing the ability of 27 million Americans who choose to work as independent contractors.

Additionally, the Department of Labor has also proposed a new overtime rule, dramatically increasing the overtime pay threshold by 55 percent, which will decrease job opportunities and raise prices for the American family.

The Department of Labor has also released a new policy that allows an outside union official to influence a workplace inspection even when that workplace is not unionized. The union is not there, but they can influence the workplace inspection.

These are all terribly problematic actions taken by an Acting Secretary who lacks Senate confirmation. The Biden administration's attempt to circumvent the advice and consent provision of the Constitution by leveraging Ms. Su's previous position as Deputy Secretary brings these actions into legal question. And, by the way, there are also serious concerns about Ms. Su's ability to manage the Department of Labor.

Under her leadership, there has been a 50-percent increase in illegal child labor since 2022. There are alarming reports that senior DOL officials repeatedly ignored warnings, downplaying the exploitation of migrant children for cheap labor. When the committee

asked Ms. Su to explain DOL's failure to address child labor violations, she repeatedly failed to comply with congressional oversight.

Additionally, DOL has struggled to process H-2B guest worker visas, crucial for employers that experience workforce shortages based on the season. These delays are already having significant impact on these employers and, again, leading to rising prices on families.

The American people deserve a competent Secretary at the Department of Labor. As outlined in the Constitution, the Senate is still supposed to vote on whether to confirm Ms. Su. HELP Committee members need the ability—the opportunity—to raise their concerns to Ms. Su and get answers.

Nomination hearings are not just checking a box; they are a crucial part of the process. Every Senator needs the information revealed in hearings to evaluate and decide how they will vote on a nomination.

The chair's decision to not hold a public hearing on Ms. Su is unacceptable, shows a lack of transparency from the majority, and undermines the committee's constitutional duty to advise and consent on Presidential nominees.

No one is above accountability, especially an unconfirmed yet acting Cabinet-level nominee with massive influence over our Nation's economy.

As ranking member of the HELP Committee, I will continue to lead Senate Republicans in holding Ms. Su accountable. We need to ensure that she fairly enforces our Nation's labor laws.

With that, I yield the floor.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote begin now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 468, Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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 Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea".

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 49 Ex.]

YEAS—56

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

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tuberville
Cotton	Lee	Vance
Cruz	Lummis	Wicker
Daines	Marshall	Young
Ernst	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—6

Cramer	Fetterman	Risch
Crapo	Ricketts	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 38.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 441 and 442; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Summer K. Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of

the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2028 (Reappointment); and Basil Ivanhoe Gooden, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALBION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the town of Albion, ME. Albion was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

The date of Albion's incorporation, February 25, 1824, was but one milestone in a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the Kennebec River Valley was the home of the Abenaki Tribe. The reverence the Abenaki had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Albion today.

In 1790, following America's independence, an early village called Free-town was established by Congregational Church minister Daniel Lovejoy with settlers drawn by the fertile soil and abundant forests. The prosperity produced by hard work and determination was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

In 1802, a son was born to Daniel and Elizabeth Lovejoy who would grow up to become one of the most inspiring and influential figures in American history. A journalist and fervent abolitionist, Elijah Parish Lovejoy founded a newspaper in the slave State of Missouri and fearlessly stood up to repeated threats and attacks. His murder by a pro-slavery mob in 1837 electrified the Nation and strengthened the anti-slavery movement. Since 1952, the prestigious award that bears his name has been presented annually by his alma mater, Colby College, to journalists who demonstrate uncommon courage. In addition, his brother Owen was a leader of the Underground Railroad in Illinois and a close adviser to Abraham Lincoln.

Albion provides an outstanding example of the Maine tradition of people working together. In 1894, construction began on a narrow-gauge railroad to connect cargo ships on the coast to the

crops and lumber produced inland. The line grew town by town and reached its northern terminus at Albion a year later, and for decades, the unique "Maine Two-Footers"—a reference to the reduced width of the locomotives and cars—helped bring prosperity to the region. Today, the Wiscasset, Waterville, and Farmington Railway is a National Heritage Railroad with excursions that keep alive this fascinating era.

That tradition of working together is evident in the energy and planning that are going into Albion's yearlong bicentennial celebration that demonstrates the pride townspeople have in their community. This 200th birthday party is a time to congratulate the people of Albion who have built a great community with a wonderful history and a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING WELLS HOMETOWN DRUG

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Wells Hometown Drug of Bloomfield, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Mylo Wells grew up near Bloomfield, IA, on his family dairy farm in Milton. In high school, Mylo had the opportunity to work with his mother, Jana, who is a pharmacist. This experience inspired him to join the industry, and in 2018, Mylo graduated from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy with a doctorate of pharmacy with the goal to open a pharmacy in his hometown community. When Mylo returned to Bloomfield and learned the local pharmacy had gone out of business, he opened Wells Hometown Drug that same year. Wells Hometown Drug fills a vital role in the area by providing access to critical prescriptions for Bloomfield and surrounding rural residents. In particular, Mylo has worked to develop a relationship with the Amish community and serves them while also respecting their culture. In 2022, Wells Hometown Drug opened a second location in Keosauqua and has grown from a staff of 5 employees to 28 between the two locations.

Wells Hometown Drug also gives back to the community through their Community Rewards Program. The program was established to donate a percentage of Wells Hometown Drug's sales to charities in both the Bloomfield and Keosauqua communities. In the past, they have donated to the Friends of Lake Wapello and Christmas for Kids charity events. In addition to serving his local communities, Mylo Wells served on the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Medical