

Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice,

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 Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) 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 72, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 245 Ex.]

#### YEAS—72

Baldwin	Hassan	Murkowski
Banks	Hawley	Ossoff
Barrasso	Heinrich	Paul
Blackburn	Hoeven	Peters
Boozman	Husted	Reed
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Budd	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Justice	Rosen
Cassidy	Kaine	Rounds
Collins	Kelly	Schiff
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Lee	Sheehy
Curtis	Lujan	Slotkin
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Ernst	Marshall	Thune
Fetterman	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	McCormick	Warner
Gallego	Moody	Warnock
Gillibrand	Moran	Welch
Grassley	Moreno	Wicker
Hagerty	Mullin	Young

#### NAYS—26

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Sanders
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warren
Coons	Murphy	Whitehouse
Cortez Masto	Murray	Wyden
Duckworth	Padilla	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 26.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### VOTE ON MEINK NOMINATION

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

Mr. TILLIS. Madam 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

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

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 246 Ex.]

#### YEAS—74

Baldwin	Hawley	Ossoff
Banks	Heinrich	Paul
Barrasso	Hoeven	Peters
Blackburn	Husted	Reed
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Justice	Rosen
Capito	Kaine	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Schiff
Collins	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cotton	King	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Crapo	Lankford	Sheehy
Cruz	Lee	Slotkin
Curtis	Lujan	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tillis
Fetterman	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	McCormick	Warner
Gallego	Moody	Warnock
Gillibrand	Moran	Welch
Grassley	Moreno	Wicker
Hagerty	Mullin	Young
Hassan	Murkowski	

#### NAYS—25

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Schatz
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Van Hollen
Booker	Merkley	Warren
Cantwell	Murphy	Whitehouse
Coons	Murray	Wyden
Cortez Masto	Padilla	
Duckworth	Sanders	

#### NOT VOTING—1

Graham
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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 actions.

The majority leader.

##### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Danly nomination be waived.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant 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. 83, James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

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 James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Ex.]

#### YEAS—53

Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Mullin
Blackburn	Heinrich	Murkowski
Boozman	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Husted	Ricketts
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Justice	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	King	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

#### NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Hawley
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

#### CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, in March of this year, I delivered remarks right here on the Senate floor about a piece of legislation—bipartisan, common-sense childcare legislation. I spoke about how the Republican Party is now the party of parents, the party of families, the party of hard-working Americans. I spoke about how we, as the party of life, the party of family, should prioritize ways to make it easier to both start and grow our families.

Since then, more and more colleagues have joined the Child Care Availability and Affordability Act. As we work to build back America, it just makes sense. I was proud to introduce this legislation with Senator TIM Kaine, and we believe it will help address our Nation's childcare crisis.

Supporters are both Republicans and Democrats. They are both parents and grandparents who understand how incredibly difficult it is to find affordable, high-quality, reliable childcare.

I have spoken about my own personal story in this Chamber, but today, I want to speak for the millions of moms and dads who don't just want Congress to do something about this, they need Congress to do something.

Recent polls show that 81 percent of America—think about that. In the time we are in right now, 81 percent of America believes affordable and available childcare is an issue that everyone should be concerned with regardless of whether they have children or not. Seventy-two percent of Republicans say that increasing Federal funding for childcare is an important priority and a good use of taxpayer dollars, and 70 percent of Independents and 90 percent of Democrats agree. Three out of every four Americans believe that the lack of childcare impacts the ability of businesses to function effectively and consistently.

The message from voters is absolutely crystal clear: It is not just parents of young children who are impacted by the lack of affordable and available childcare; it is small business owners, neighbors, grandparents, and friends. This issue cuts across different demographics and party lines.

It is a struggle that Congress absolutely should address. I believe the solution is my childcare legislation, the Child Care Availability and Affordability Act. This plan consists of targeted investments in families and small businesses. It modernizes three existing tax credits to reflect the current economic reality.

This is an example of good, common-sense policymaking. We are not creating a new entitlement; we are letting Americans keep more of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars in a manner that actually grows the economy, and we are offering job creators an incentive to invest directly in their hard-working people who have childcare needs, and those benefits would help.

These tax credits have not been updated since 2001, so almost 25 years ago. Unfortunately, inaction by Congress has contributed to the crisis. The American economy loses \$122 billion a year because of the lack of affordable childcare. In contrast, my bill would cost just over \$4 billion a year. You can do that math.

Imagine the boost to our economy if we made this targeted investment in workers and in families. Consider a parent who may be a low-income individual, many of whom find the high cost of childcare to be the single biggest barrier to reentering the workforce. We could empower those parents to get back to work and move off government assistance.

This is exactly the kind of pro-family, pro-Main Street, pro-worker legislation that has the ability to both transform our economy and support families.

I want to thank my colleagues who have already signed on—most recently, the senior Senator from Alabama, TOMMY TUBERVILLE, and the senior Senator from Arizona, MARK KELLY.

I am encouraged by the amount of support this legislation continues to build, but we can't stop now. They are counting on Republicans—the American people—to be that party of families, party of parents, party of hard-working Americans, and to actually deliver. I believe the American people are firmly behind us, and I want to encourage all of my colleagues to join with me in this effort.

We are elected to serve the needs of our constituents, and when the American people speak out about those needs, we have an obligation to listen and to do something about it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO KELSIE DANIELL

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, today, I stand here to recognize small business. Actually, today, I rise to recognize Kelsie Daniell.

Kelsie began working in my office 7 years ago, as a press secretary, and quickly proved herself, moving up to communications director and now deputy chief of staff for communications and policy. In an era of title inflation, that title doesn't encompass nearly all that Kelsie does. She truly is the glue that holds my operation together.

We all come to Washington focused on the things we really want to tackle but quickly realize that even the best planned day can quickly take unexpected twists and turns.

There are also fires to put out, and I have been fortunate to have Kelsie's

steady hand and solid counsel to count on. No matter the assignment or situation, just like her favorite meme, "This is fine"—"This is fine"—she always responds this way and calmly goes about her work.

However, most days, she is anticipating what could go wrong and getting ahead of it. She is able to put out fires, sometimes even before they start. She has already figured out how to handle the hot topics of the day, while preparing for tomorrow. We all know, if there is a problem, we can turn to Kelsie and say, "Please, fix," and the job gets done.

She is as precise as a fine-tooth comb, from pulling off press conferences abroad to wacky floor speeches, and, of course, my day-to-day operations. Kelsie is relentless in ensuring perfection in execution.

In fact, Kelsie, my staff was very nervous about surprising you today with this speech—because she hadn't edited it. That is because she always puts the finishing touches on every project that makes it better.

She has the same impact on all of us around her. She always brings up everyone by making each of us stronger, myself included.

Whether driving river to river, across Iowa, or navigating the Halls of Congress, she never, ever slows down, including when she brought one of those walking treadmills for her desk in DC. She has even led our staff in Tabata training.

Mr. President, if you have been through that, it is hellacious.

And, of course, watch out for Kelsie if you are facing off against her in pickleball.

Even while keeping us all on track, somehow, she has always found the time to pour into the people around her as a mentor and as a friend.

She is actively involved in her church, and she became a mother during the Iowa caucus.

Her commitment to excellence and drive to always push harder is a true testament to her leadership—characteristics that she has infused into my office and will take with her in whatever she sets her sights on. It is a mindset for us all to aspire to as we prepare for whatever the day brings us.

And as she likes to say before any meeting ends, "one more thing": Kelsie, I will miss your wise counsel, and I am so thankful for your friendship. I know you will continue excelling at everything you do, and I am grateful beyond words for everything you have done for me and on behalf of my Iowans.

So God bless you, Kelsie, in your journeys.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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