

cruel on the part of pharma. They have this incredible pricing power that comes, in part, because of the patent that they are granted. It comes, in part, because there is a market that is created through taxpayers with Medicare and Medicaid; but it is exploited because what pharma knows is what you and I know: If a member of your family, if your partner, a person you love is in need of a medication, you will do whatever it takes. You will get a second mortgage if you have a home. You will postpone getting a car that you need. You will go into your retirement savings. Whatever it takes.

So this predatory practice of taking advantage of the love one American has for another to exploit on the pricing side is, in my view, quite outrageous. But the cruelty of the situation is that you can have folks in Vermont, just miles from the border in Canada, where right over across the border, folks are paying five times less than what we pay on the Vermont side of the border.

And I have heard from so many folks—and I will bet you have heard similar stories—who have told me the story of dealing with, in this case, type 1 diabetes, and they are trying to get their mental health back in a better place.

The medication they were put on at the beginning of the year was helping, but the cost more than tripled, suddenly, and they can't afford to pay 800 bucks a month. And they are worried about a relapse.

And that story isn't unique. Every day, folks in Vermont and in red and blue States across the country are paying more for their drugs than the same folks are paying for in other countries.

And, by the way, one of the things that I find so compelling about this is we agree, both sides of the aisle, that costs for Americans are too high. We agree, both sides of the aisle, that folks need healthcare. And we do agree, most of us, that the pharma prices are way too high. So this is something, in my view, we can and should do together.

The Inflation Reduction Act has reined in pharma's abusive tactics—but only minimally—by forcing them to the table for the first time. That is good, but we need to do more.

Trump's Executive order is implying the "poke it with a stick" strategy, announcing a new policy and waiting to see what happens. His new Executive order will face the same practical challenges this time around as it did in Trump's first administration from pharmaceutical companies looking to obscure the pricing margins. They tell us how tough times are, even as on the phone calls with Wall Street analysts, they are saying how wonderful times are.

And we have to face up to that in order, as Congress, to support a lower price approach, which includes negotiation and includes reference pricing.

Patients across the country who can't afford these drugs need it now. They need them now, not in 10 years.

And the American people, they do want action in lowering prescription drug prices. And for the life of every person I talk to in Vermont, and I am sure this is true with the folks you talk to in Florida, they just can't understand why we have to pay five times more than folks in other countries.

And they particularly can't understand it when our taxpayers have provided much of the funding for research that went into the creation of these drugs in the first place.

I am very proud to join with my colleague from Missouri Senator HAWLEY in introducing bipartisan legislation that will offer relief for millions of patients by prohibiting pharmaceutical companies from selling drugs here in the United States at higher prices than the international average. Very basic, very fair.

Our bill will put an end to Big Pharma's practice of forcing Americans to pay the highest prices in the world for medications. The bottom line is that President Trump has issued an Executive order that I support. My hope is that he is going to follow through because we are in the need of leadership from the President of the United States and the influence he has in Congress to get us and both sides of this Capitol to get international reference pricing and to make more progress on price negotiation, all for the goal of making lifesaving medications more accessible to folks on Medicare, folks on Medicaid, to folks who have private insurance, and also to bring down the costs for our employers who are facing relentless upward spikes in healthcare premiums.

So I will extend the same challenge to President Trump that he extended to the pharmaceutical companies. Let's get real, as President Trump put it in his inimitable way, don't get cute about avoiding the responsibility we have to bring down prescription drug prices.

So I call on my colleagues and I call on President Trump to follow words with actions. We have got to follow through on this debate. We know how to do it, to bring down Big Pharma's prices and stand up to their greed and support the Hawley-Welch bill to ensure that no one in America ever faces an impossible choice between paying for prescriptions that they need or putting food on the table or paying the rent or fixing a broken-down car.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. CURTIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Kushner nomination.

#### 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 executive 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. 125, Charles Kushner, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, John Hoeven, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Bill Cassidy, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Markwayne Mullin.

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 Charles Kushner, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 260 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Fetterman	Klobuchar
Baldwin	Gallego	Lujan
Bennet	Gillibrand	Markey
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Blunt Rochester	Heinrich	Murkowski
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Coons	Hirono	Murray
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Ossoff
Duckworth	Kim	Padilla
Durbin	King	Peters

Reed	Shaheen	Warren
Rosen	Slotkin	Welch
Sanders	Smith	Whitehouse
Schatz	Van Hollen	Wyden
Schiff	Warner	
Schumer	Warnock	

## NOT VOTING—2

Hawley	Kelly
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Charles Kushner, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Monaco.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from North Dakota.

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

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

## VOTE ON KUSHNER NOMINATION

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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Ex.]

## YEAS—51

Banks	Budd	Cramer
Barrasso	Capito	Crapo
Blackburn	Cassidy	Cruz
Booker	Collins	Curtis
Boozman	Cornyn	Daines
Britt	Cotton	Ernst

Fischer	Lee	Risch
Graham	Lummis	Rounds
Grassley	Marshall	Schmitt
Hagerty	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hoeben	McCormick	Scott (SC)
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Mullin	Tillis
Kennedy	Paul	Tuberville
Lankford	Ricketts	Young

## NAYS—45

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

## NOT VOTING—4

Hawley	Schatz
Kelly	Wicker

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 whip.

## WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Bernie Moreno, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Bill Cassidy, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Markwayne Mullin.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Ex.]

## YEAS—66

Alsobrooks	Fischer	Moreno
Banks	Gallego	Mullin
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Ossoff
Blunt Rochester	Grassley	Padilla
Booker	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hassan	Risch
Britt	Heinrich	Rosen
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schiff
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Slotkin
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lujan	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fetterman	Moody	Young

## NAYS—32

Baldwin	King	Schatz
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Markey	Shaheen
Cantwell	Merkley	Smith
Coons	Moran	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Hickenlooper	Paul	Welch
Hirono	Peters	Whitehouse
Kaine	Reed	Wyden
Kim	Sanders	

## NOT VOTING—2

Hawley	Kelly
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 66, the nays are 32.

The motion was agreed to.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS ACT—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 29, 2025, AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 143.

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