

our own country. We are stopping wars and upheavals before they start and spill over borders, alleviating the future need to send our troops into harm's way and strengthening our own national security at home by mitigating instability around the world.

We are creating allies in the process and trading partners for U.S. farmers and other American businesses that make for good jobs here at home.

We are also demonstrating the best of America when it comes to our values—compassion and ingenuity—something President George W. Bush understood when he created PEPFAR, which has saved millions of lives around the world from HIV and AIDS.

That is why Ronald Reagan and John McCain—no pushovers—understood the incredible power and strategic value of helping countries across the globe become free, democratic, and prosperous.

So why in the world would we cut such low-cost but impactful programs? I don't understand it. If there were international programs that were ineffective—and I admit such work can be difficult and with mistakes—then the place to fix them is through the regular appropriations process, not the wholesale gutting of a complete program like USAID.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING
RESCISSIONS

And a word, Mr. President, on the equally shortsighted proposed cuts to public broadcasting. While President Trump claims that eliminating funding for public media will end PBS's and NPR's so-called "woke" agenda—I can't even define that for you, but that is the reason given—he fails to understand that more than 70 percent of this funding goes to local public media stations.

I think people in Central Illinois, where my home is, would be hard-pressed to even explain to you what a "woke" agenda is on National Public Radio.

In rural communities, these publicly funded news stations are often the only place to get good, up-to-the-minute information and to have the kinds of warnings that are necessary when extreme weather is on the way. They provide local news coverage, educational programming, and emergency weather alerts.

Without public broadcasting, how will people in Kansas and Texas learn of tornado alerts? How will children who lack access to preschool in Idaho or in South Dakota be able to receive any education before kindergarten?

These cuts make no sense, and I call on my Republican colleagues, in a bipartisan fashion, to look at the impacts they are going to have objectively across America.

GAZA

Mr. President, on a different topic, I want to say a few words about the tragic war in Gaza. There has been so much suffering, so much death, so much destruction.

The Hamas attacks on Israel of October 7, 2023 and the taking of hostages,

with some 20 or 30 still left in captivity, left a stunned and grieving Israel with a difficult decision. From the start, I urged Israel to learn from our mistakes in the United States that we made in anger after the terrible attacks of September 11. We shouldn't make these life-and-death decisions, we have learned, in the fury of emotion. But I fear that lesson was not followed, and the near total destruction of Gaza and humanitarian suffering will be seen as terrible mistakes—mistakes that will cause generations of pain and will hurt Israel's ultimate relationship with its allies in the future.

Late last year, after more than a year of horror on this small strip of land, I thought we were finally seeing some progress toward the release of the remaining hostages, a long-term ceasefire, and an easing of the humanitarian crisis. There have also been growing public demonstrations from Gazans who are bravely protesting for an end to the rule of Hamas. That is good news. These protesters face serious threats and risk of arrest by Hamas, but they still do so, knowing Hamas has to go and does not have the people's real interests at heart in Gaza.

But instead of building on these modest but important openings, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu continues to put his own political survival ahead of everything. Instead of a more surgical response to Hamas or offering a long-term vision for Gaza under reformed Palestinian leadership, Netanyahu has offered nothing. He has blocked all aid to Gaza for 3 months, with experts warning of mass starvation, and he has restarted the fighting with no short- or long-term strategy. The only strategy is to keep his coalition in Israel intact. Netanyahu knows his coalition won't stand for any kind of two-state solution, so he avoids this viable path, instead threatening untold innocent lives by blocking and undermining aid delivery and restarting a dubious military offensive.

Key allies and the new Pope, Pope Leo, continue to make appeals to allow aid to flow into Gaza before the famine and starvation take hold completely.

Just the other day, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said:

The government of Israel is currently waging a war without purpose, without goals or clear planning and with no chances of success.

Those are the words of former Israeli Prime Minister Olmert.

I implore our Israeli allies to pursue a cease-fire that sees the release of all remaining hostages, allows sufficient aid to flow, and advances a serious postwar vision for two states.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF JAMES O'NEILL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I urge a "no" vote on Jim O'Neill to be the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

His nomination comes before the Senate as Republicans push ahead on

an agenda that is going to cut Americans' healthcare by more than a trillion dollars and cause 16 million Americans to lose their health coverage.

The legislation is filled with ideas straight out of the for-profit insurance industry's playbook. Republicans are rolling out more redtape at a time when Americans are already sick of jumping through hoops so that insurance companies can continue to post profits.

The legislation, in my view, is also a disaster for America's senior citizens. A million low-income seniors are going to see their Medicare premiums go up by nearly \$200 a month.

The legislation is going to make nursing homes less safe for frail, older people. In a word, they are going to start taking the nurses out of nursing homes. If Mehmet Oz has his way, nursing homes would replace staff with AI bots. That is not going to work for a senior who needs help getting to the bathroom in the middle of the night.

The legislation is going to hurt hundreds of thousands of seniors and kids with disabilities by reducing services for those who count on Medicaid to get care at home.

Americans have heard a lot about Medicaid in the bill, but the legislation is such a deficit buster that it is going to trigger \$500 billion in Medicare cuts. This legislation is going to hit rural hospitals like a wrecking ball.

This comes on top of the Trump administration stepping back from tough negotiations with the big pharmaceutical companies that would lower the cost of medicine.

Here is the truth: Trump and Republicans are willing to kick millions of folks off their health insurance and hurt older Americans so there will be more tax breaks for corporations and the ultrawealthy.

I asked Mr. O'Neill in the Finance Committee to basically give us a straight up-or-down on whether he is going to oppose cutting Medicaid during his confirmation hearing. All he would do is repeat the same tired talking points about how only certain groups of people deserve healthcare.

The Trump administration and Republicans in Congress are simply unwilling to defend the bill. They know it is morally bankrupt. They basically won't even talk about it in public. I guess that is why we are not having an open-to-all Finance Committee discussion or markup of the bill because I guess the Republicans would rather just pretend to make up what the bill actually is all about.

Mr. O'Neill has gone out of his way to defend Robert Kennedy's disastrous approach to prevent infectious diseases like measles. To make matters worse, Mr. O'Neill expressed his support for Kennedy's appalling views about the livelihoods of Americans with autism.

As Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mr. O'Neill would be Robert Kennedy's right-hand man. That person needs to be willing to challenge the Secretary's worst impulses,

which the American people have now seen on full display. I see no evidence Mr. O'Neill is that person.

Each day, Americans turn on the TV, pick up a newspaper, or turn on radio stations and podcasts only to hear that Donald Trump and his Republican cronies are ripping away basic healthcare for millions of Americans who are just trying to get by. These families are worried sick about what will be next on the chopping block.

I want to make it clear. I don't think it makes sense to support a nominee who would do whatever Robert Kennedy says, including destroying Medicaid and the rest of the American healthcare system.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on the O'Neill nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ANDREW EISENBERG

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today, I speak to urge my colleagues to confirm John Eisenberg as the next Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division at the Department of Justice.

With more than two decades of government service, there is no question that Mr. Eisenberg has the experience, the know-how, and the qualifications needed to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of this important position.

In addition to his wide-ranging and impressive resume, I should note that Mr. Eisenberg also worked at the Department of Justice when the National Security Division was created in the first place. In fact, he was part of the very team that envisioned the Division's role in using our law to help protect our Nation against national security threats.

So I believe Mr. Eisenberg will bring an invaluable breadth of experience and depth of knowledge to this role that would advance America's national security.

Mr. Eisenberg is a family man, a patriot, and an exemplary American. I commend President Trump for nominating him to the position of Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division.

I thank Mr. Eisenberg for his willingness to answer the call to serve once again.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of his confirmation.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Eisenberg nomination.

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

Mr. COTTON. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON O'NEILL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the O'Neill nomination?

Mr. SCHATZ. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 293 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—5

Luján	Padilla	Warren
Ossoff	Sheehy	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). 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.

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 bill 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. 120, John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, David McCormick, Ted Budd, Roger Marshall, Cynthia M. Lummis, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Mike

Crapo, John R. Curtis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Bill Hagerty, Dan Sullivan, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 294 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—5

Luján	Padilla	Warren
Ossoff	Sheehy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 43. 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 John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

LIFE MONTH

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today having introduced a joint resolution