

Now, we just heard the minority leader come to the floor and say: People want fair judges who will uphold the law. By Monday afternoon, Democrats had filed a lawsuit in Boston, MA, challenging the very law that was just signed on the Fourth of July.

Now, I have spoken about this Massachusetts district court in the past. Look, this is one of the Democrats' favorite venues when they want to obstruct the law—the law of the land. That is because 11 of the 13 judges were appointed by Democrat Presidents.

Well, by Monday evening, an unelected district court judge appointed by President Obama granted a temporary injunction—there they go again, another temporary injunction—blocking the law of the land. The judge did not issue a legal opinion or explain her decision. Instead, this one, lone judge, who has a history of radical rulings and partisan activism from the bench, halted the duly enacted law. As a result, millions of taxpayer dollars could be forced to be spent. This is money that taxpayers will never be able to recover.

One judge in one district trying to dictate and derail national policy and a national law—this is another example of radicals in robes undermining the elected branches of our government.

As Law Professor Elizabeth Foley recently wrote in the Wall Street Journal, the separation of powers is “under assault by rogue judges claiming national power.”

Over 40 nationwide injunctions have been filed against the Trump administration in the first 6 months. Thirty-five of them were issued by district courts in just four States and the District of Columbia—California, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Washington State. This is nearly triple the number of injunctions that President Biden faced his entire 4 years in office.

Look, Democrats continue to use the courts to try to reverse President Trump's popular policies. Democrats aren't seeking an unbiased review; they are using the courts as a political tool. It is not how the Constitution is supposed to work.

Even Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, an Obama appointee, has opposed nationwide injunctions. In 2022, Justice Kagan said:

It just can't be right that one district judge can stop a nationwide policy in its tracks and leave it stopped for the years it takes to go through the normal process.

I agree with Justice Kagan.

The Supreme Court has recently and repeatedly taken steps to rein in these radical judges. The Supreme Court has overturned 11 injunctions against the administration just since January. That includes Tuesday's 8-to-1 order in the case of *Trump v. American Federation of Government Employees*.

This abuse of the courts needs to end. That is why I support the Judicial Relief Clarification Act. This legislation was written by the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, CHUCK GRASSLEY of

Iowa. His legislation would limit lower courts from using sweeping injunctions to block national policies.

Additionally, the Senate must move quickly to confirm judges who apply the laws as written, not judges who try to legislate from the bench.

Later today, we are going to begin the process of confirming President Trump's first judicial nominee this term. It is for President Trump's nominee to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Her name is Whitney Hermandorfer. She is smart. She is tough. She is ready to serve. She has the full backing of her home State Senators, Senator BLACKBURN and Senator HAGERTY of Tennessee. She also has the support of the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY.

Mr. President, the Constitution is clear: Congress controls Federal spending. The power of the purse belongs to Congress—doesn't belong to unelected district court judges with a gavel and a grudge.

The American people deserve better. Enough is enough. It is time to restore constitutional order. It is time to rein in rogue judges. It is time to confirm judges who respect the rule of law.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Gould and Hermandorfer nominations.

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

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Tennessee.

NOMINATION OF WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I am here today to urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Whitney Hermandorfer. Whitney Hermandorfer is President Trump's nominee to be a judge on the Sixth Circuit.

This is a defining moment for the second Trump administration because Whitney is the first judicial nominee to be brought forward to serve at the circuit court level. She is the first Trump nominee to come before the U.S. Senate, and she is a perfect candidate to be that first nominee.

She is going to set the benchmark for excellence for all future judicial nominees. Indeed, I don't think President Trump could have made a better choice.

Ms. Hermandorfer is eminently qualified. She graduated first in her law school class. Then she clerked on the district court for DC, the DC Circuit, and, not once but twice, at the Supreme Court of the United States.

Whitney served as lead strategist and advocate for our home State of Ten-

nessee, representing the Volunteer State in its most complex and important cases, and, unsurprisingly to everybody that knew her and knows her, she did an exceptional job.

Ms. Hermandorfer has the experience and the demeanor that our very best judges possess, along with a genuine humility, kindness, and a sense of optimism that I think everybody will appreciate.

Most important, Ms. Hermandorfer will faithfully discharge the solemn duties of a judge. She will interpret the Constitution according to its original meaning. She will administer justice without fear, without favor. She will rule without preference for the poor or the rich, the weak or the powerful. She will protect the precious rights recognized in the Constitution and safeguard the delicate separation of powers that our Founders established.

Whitney Hermandorfer is an outstanding nominee. Any delay in confirming her deprives our courts of the very best and the very brightest that our Nation can offer.

So I am here today to urge my colleagues to support her nomination on today's procedural vote, and I am going to encourage this body to quickly proceed to her confirmation.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). 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. 64, Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

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 Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, 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 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.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr.

BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted— yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 381 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Blumenthal	Graham	Tillis
Duckworth	Murphy	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 50, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

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. 261, Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Shelley Moore Capito, Ted Budd, Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, Bernie Moreno, Cynthia M. Lummis, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Marsha Blackburn, Markwayne Mullin, Steve Daines, Jim Banks, Chuck Grassley.

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 Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, 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 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 South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea," the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 382 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Blumenthal	Graham	Murphy
Duckworth	Hickenlooper	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). The yeas are 51, the nays are 43, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Whitney D. Hermandorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

(The remarks of Mr. WELCH pertaining to the introduction of S. 2247 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WELCH. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator from Texas.

CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, 2 days ago, I came to the floor to speak

about the catastrophic flooding in Central Texas, and I would like to update my colleagues on the status of those recovery operations and also to express my gratitude to many of them who have reached out and offered their condolences—not to me but through me to my constituents and the people who are still grieving and who were so adversely affected by this natural disaster. For many who are affected by this tragedy, the pain will never go away.

At this point in the rescue and recovery efforts, more than 119 deaths so far have been confirmed across the State. Remember, this happened mainly the early morning of July 4, in the early morning hours. But that 119 deaths so far includes 36 children in Kerr County alone.

Sadly, we learned a couple of days ago that, after counting all of the day campers and other people who were camping alongside the Guadalupe River during the Fourth of July weekend, where they were expecting to celebrate the Nation's birth but also fireworks displays and cookouts and things like that, unfortunately, people outside of the organized camps, mainly children and counselors—170 of them are missing in addition.

So, for many of my constituents back home in Texas, the nightmare is not over. Of course, these loved ones who were lost were mothers and fathers and teachers, high schoolers, and precious children, young children.

Those who died at Camp Mystic, an all-girls Christian summer camp, included two 8-year-old girls from Austin named Linnie McCown and Mary Stevens. As hard as it is to look at the pictures of these young girls, I think it is important to remember that these are not just numbers; these are human lives that were lost in this tragedy and families left behind who will never ever forget this terrible tragedy, nor fully recover.

These two young girls were sleeping in a cabin called the Bubble Inn, which was close to the banks of the Guadalupe River.

Linnie attended Casis Elementary School in West Austin. Her father Michael drove down to the Hill Country to search for his daughter. He told a reporter that when he went to the cabin at Camp Mystic and saw the stuffed animals, charm bracelets, and photos, he wanted to take some of those for each parent, even while he himself was looking for answers about his own daughter.

After learning about Linnie's death, Michael wrote on social media:

She filled our hearts with so much joy we cannot begin to explain. We are going to miss her very much but know she's up there shining bright.

Mary Stevens attended Highland Park Elementary School in North Central Austin. Her mother Stacy said on a post after her death:

Our world is shattered but I have peace getting your letters and knowing you were