

implemented that now she will have to review as a supposedly independent inspector general.

When you, my fellow veterans, have complaints, that is not the kind of advocate that you need. That is not the kind of investigator of corruption or waste that the country deserves, and that is not what we need from an inspector general in the VA. Veterans and taxpayers deserve an independent, nonpartisan inspector general who will conduct investigations free from interference and any collusion from the administration. Someone who is accountable and transparent, someone who comes forward candidly and forthrightly with the truth, not evading questions that are posed by Senators or the public.

We simply cannot have faith that she is going to be the kind of inspector general that our veterans deserve and the country needs at this moment. We can't have faith that she will be unbiased in her judgment relating to President Trump or Secretary Collins.

She is supposed to be judging them, but she is beholden to them, and she has been part and parcel of the policies and actions of this administration that have been so dangerous and damaging to the VA in these past months.

Our veterans deserve better than a political loyalist who is going to be rubberstamping those policies. Her confirmation, in fact, will diminish the credibility of the office of inspector general at the VA and in other Agencies as well.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this nomination. We can do better. The country needs and deserves better. And maybe, most important, our veterans need and deserve better.

I yield the floor.

(Mrs. BLACKBURN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The Senator from Missouri.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gadyaces Serralta, of Florida, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

VOTE ON SERRALTA NOMINATION

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

Mr. DAINES. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 460 Ex.]

YEAS—59

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

NAYS—39

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

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Kelly

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.

VOTE ON MASON NOMINATION

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

Mrs. BRITT. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 461 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Cornyn	Graham
Barrasso	Cotton	Grassley
Blackburn	Cramer	Hagerty
Boozman	Crapo	Hawley
Britt	Cruz	Hoever
Budd	Curtis	Husted
Capito	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Cassidy	Ernst	Johnson
Collins	Fischer	Justice

Kennedy	Moreno	Scott (SC)
Lankford	Mullin	Sheehy
Lee	Murkowski	Sullivan
Lummis	Paul	Thune
Marshall	Ricketts	Tillis
McConnell	Risch	Tuberville
McCormick	Rounds	Wicker
Moody	Schmitt	Young
Moran	Scott (FL)	

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Kelly

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). 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 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. 254, Andrea Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2030. (Reappointment)

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

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 Andrea Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2030 (Reappointment), 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 462 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	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	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Gallego	Kelly
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Andrea Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2030. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that at 7 p.m. today, the Senate vote on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 254, Andrea Lucas, and following disposition of the Lucas nomination, the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar Nos. 59, 118, 165, and mandatory quorum calls be waived; further, if cloture is invoked on the nominations individually, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democrat leader no earlier than August 1; finally, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. THUNE. I also ask unanimous consent that all votes after the first vote this evening be 10 minutes in length.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security.

VOTE ON KOZMA NOMINATION

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

Mrs. BRITT. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 463 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	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	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Gallego	Kelly
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). 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 Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is one of my colleagues from my office, Mr. Nick Ayers, whose good judgment and counsel I depend on.

MEDICAID

Mr. President, I want to talk about the Medicaid portion of our reconciliation bill, which the President calls our One Big Beautiful Bill, and I want to talk about the rest of the story.

The Congressional Budget Office is a bipartisan entity, as you know, that advises us on fiscal and financial matters. I appreciate their good work—a lot of smart people over there. The CBO, as we call it, has issued a report that says that as a result of our reconciliation bill, the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill, that 10½ million Americans are going to be thrown off of Medicaid. Let me say that again. The CBO says that as a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill, 10½ million Americans are going to be thrown off the Medicaid rolls as a result of our bill.

I don't want to be unfair to CBO, but sometimes CBO makes these statements, and they don't give you the context in which they are making the statements. If you say we are going to throw 10½ million people off of Medicaid and don't explain in detail why they have come to that conclusion, that is not fair. You are not getting the full story. You are not getting reliable information. That would be like asking a nun for advice about sex. So let me tell you the other half of the story.

I talked about this last week a little bit. The 10½ million people who CBO says we are throwing off of Medicaid—they weren't eligible for Medicaid in the first place. Let me say that again. CBO says we are throwing 10½ million people off of Medicaid. They weren't eligible for Medicaid in the first place.

I talked about this a little bit last week. For example, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services just came out with a report that of those 10½ million people we are throwing off of Medicaid, 2.8 million of them are double-dipping. They are double-dipping. That is illegal. That is a violation of the rules. I am from Louisiana. That means that some people are signed up in both Louisiana and Mississippi, for example. You can't double-dip.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services also found that of that 2½ million people, 1.6 million of them are double-dipping by joining Medicaid and ObamaCare. So, yes, they are going to lose their Medicaid. They should.

That double-dipping costs us \$14 billion a year, \$140 billion over 10 years. We think in 10-year cycles. That is money that we could use to help people who really deserve Medicaid.

So, yes, my friends at CBO, those people are going to lose their Medicaid. Did I mention that they weren't entitled to it in the first place?

Point 2, the main determinant for Medicaid is income. That is not the only one, but the main determinant is income. States are not supposed to sign up people for Medicaid who make too much money. I regret to say this—I don't know why, but it is human nature—but some people don't tell the truth.