

asked anyway—but why would any Member of the Senate object to the principle of protecting the records?

I mean, I am confused. Don't all of us believe that when there is evidence related to a crime, it should not be put into a shredder or a wood chipper?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. It is a very fair question. And as I indicated, we didn't get an explanation for the objection. We had the objection made and no further comment from our colleagues on the Republican side.

I do think it is important that we underscore the fact for our colleagues and anybody listening that this amendment is very straightforward: Don't destroy evidence. It does also require, within 60 days, that a report be provided that provides certain relevant information regarding the Epstein case, and I am not sure why anybody would not want that information to be presented either.

I mean, this is like—oppose an effort to save the records and don't void the evidence and also voting against the idea of the Attorney General providing the U.S. Senate with answers to some fundamental questions.

Again, as we discussed this morning, the fastest and most complete way of doing it would have been to support the Senator from Oregon's motion this morning—UC request this morning. Just release all the files, right? That is what should be done. We should release the files, and we should do it now.

You don't even have to have a vote in the House to do that. The Attorney General could do what she said she was going to do and just release them on her own. That is what many of us have called for. That is what the Senator's motion this morning was all about.

But my goodness, you should be releasing them. But for goodness' sake, why not at least send a directive saying, "Don't destroy the evidence"?

Mr. MERKLEY. Well, I appreciate my colleague from Maryland bringing this forward. It seems like the absolute minimum we should do now is protect the evidence for the future. Certainly, it should be released, as both of us have spoken to.

I really appreciate my colleague from California who brought his legal expertise, along with our colleague from Rhode Island who put out how extraordinary it is that a Deputy Attorney General would go and sit in a prison interviewing a key witness to criminal activity and that magically, within hours thereafter, she is transferred to minimum security, and the President starts talking about the possibility of a pardon.

Americans, this is just stinking to high heaven. I will repeat the point I made earlier today. No one should be above the law. No powerful man should be able to rape young girls and be protected by friends in high places or by legions of lawyers or any other circumstances. Let the rule of law come forward in full force to hold those who have committed egregious crimes be held accountable.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I could not agree more. Our message is simple: Release the damn Epstein files, and for God's sake, don't try to destroy the evidence while we wait for those files to be released.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. 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. GRASSLEY. 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 Iowa.

NOMINATION OF JEANINE PIRRO

Mr. GRASSLEY. One of the next two votes will be for Ms. Pirro, nomination for U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia. Ms. Pirro is a trailblazer. It is shameful for Democrats to oppose this trailblazing woman. Her qualifications speak for themselves. She graduated from law school in 1975, and began prosecuting domestic abuse cases at a time when very few other women did so. She was the first woman to serve as a judge in Westchester County Court. She was the first woman to serve as district attorney for that county. And she was the first woman to serve as president of the New York State District Attorneys' Association.

Her record is remarkable. She spent 27 years prosecuting criminals and another 3 as a judge. In those three decades, Ms. Pirro gained a reputation for fierce advocacy against domestic abuse and crimes against children.

In 1977, she helped create the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Bureau in Westchester County, serving as its first-ever chief. She also created the Elder Abuse Bureau to prosecute crimes against elderly citizens.

In the 1990s, she stood up one of the first law enforcement sting operations against sexual predators on the internet. Her reputation was so widely known that online predators referred to suspected police officers in the internet chat rooms as "Pirro's Boys."

Today, many Americans know her as Judge Jeanine, and she is beloved for her straight talk and witty commentary.

You may hear my Democratic colleagues criticize Ms. Pirro for some of her colorful remarks during her time as a TV personality. Yes, she has a larger-than-life personality, but she has decades of distinguished record as a prosecutor and judge.

DC is fortunate that the President nominated her to serve as its U.S. attorney. Her job in the interim role where she is stationed now has been heralded. She boosted morale. She has the support of the DC Police Union and the National Fraternal Order of Police.

I look forward to supporting her nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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. MERKLEY. 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 Oregon.  
Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

VOTE ON QUINONES NOMINATION

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

Mr. MERKLEY. 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 Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 490 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—4

Gallego	Welch	Wicker
McConnell		

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the cloture motions filed on July 31 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 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. 322, Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

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 for quorum under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four 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 Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 491 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Blumenthal	Cantwell
Baldwin	Blunt Rochester	Coons
Bennet	Booker	Cortez Masto

Duckworth	Klobuchar	Schatz
Durbin	Lujan	Schiff
Fetterman	Markey	Schumer
Gillibrand	Merkeley	Shaheen
Hassan	Murphy	Slotkin
Heinrich	Murray	Smith
Hickenlooper	Ossoff	Van Hollen
Hirono	Padilla	Warner
Kaine	Peters	Warnock
Kelly	Reed	Warren
Kim	Rosen	Whitehouse
King	Sanders	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Gallego	Welch	Wicker
McConnell		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 51, and the nays are 45. 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 Jeanine Pirro, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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. THUNE. 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 majority leader.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times: Tuesday, August 5 at 1 p.m.; Friday, August 8 at 1:05 p.m.; Tuesday, August 12 at 8 a.m.; Friday, August 15 at 10:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 19 at 10 a.m.; Friday, August 22 at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, August 26 at noon; and Friday, August 29 at 7 a.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, August 29, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296; finally, notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion filed on Saturday, August 2 ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the

Senate, I ask that the following disposition of the Molinaro nomination and the recognition of the majority leader to dispense with wrapup items, including filing cloture on the MTP to NDAA, it stand adjourned under the previous order.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the votes going forward be 10 minutes in length and that people stay here so we can roll through them as quickly as possible.

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

NOMINATION OF JEANINE PIRRO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Jeanine Pirro to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. I urge my colleagues to examine this nominee's record and oppose her nomination.

I have heard some of my Republican colleagues claim that Senate Democrats are blocking U.S. attorney nominees in an unprecedented fashion. That is simply not true.

Two years ago, then-Senator VANCE announced he would block all U.S. Attorney nominees in order to "grind the [the Justice Department] to a halt."

I went to the floor eight times seeking unanimous consent to quickly confirm the U.S. attorney nominees whom Senator VANCE was blocking.

Senator VANCE argued it was no problem to take rollcall votes on U.S. attorney nominees, stating that it is "not too much to ask . . . to vote on cloture and vote on these nominees on the record."

I have said time and again that there cannot be one set of rules for Republicans and one for Democrats. That said, I am willing to work with my Senate colleagues on a path forward.

However, President Trump is not making it easy to reach an agreement when he insists on installing MAGA loyalists as interim U.S. attorneys without Senate confirmation.

U.S. attorneys are supposed to be apolitical law enforcement officials focused on protecting public safety. But shortly after her interim appointment to the District of New Jersey, Alina Habba told a news outlet that she aimed to "turn New Jersey red."

And just last year, John Sarcone, the interim U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York said the Democratic Party is "evil in my opinion."

District of Nevada interim U.S. attorney Sigal Chattah has a long trail of extreme, hateful comments. To take just a few examples, she called a Black Member of Congress a "hood rat"; called a Black woman prosecutor "ghetto"; called a prominent Black entertainer a "monkey"; and said that Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford, who is Black, "should be hanging from