

But I agree with Senator WHITEHOUSE, and these are critical appointments, as many of them are. I am glad that Mr. Telle was able to make it through at the very end. He has already had a visit to West Virginia, and he is going to do a great job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would just like to offer one set of figures into the record in the hopes that it helps clarify things. My office tells me that Trump nominations that have been confirmed in the Senate as of September 3 number 135. President Biden's nominations confirmed as of that same date in his first months, September 3 of 2021, was 150, not counting judicial nominations. Biden has 141, and Trump has 130.

So the numbers are actually fairly close in terms of the outcome, although the processes have been different.

But, again, I want to reemphasize my desire to work with the chairman to get these cleared. I voted for all three, and I would like to support them as soon as we can get, what seems to me to be, fairly elementary problems resolved.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

HEALTHCARE

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, last month I traveled up and down my State to speak directly with Nevadans about how Washington Republicans and their devastating cuts to Medicaid are going to hurt our communities.

From the University Medical Center in Las Vegas to Northern Nevada HOPES in Reno, I heard firsthand from medical providers about how worried they are about the cuts being made to their funding by the Republican budget law.

According to a report, Nevada hospitals are set to lose up to a half a billion dollars from the Republican Big Beautiful Bill. At a time when our State is already facing a dire shortage of doctors and nurses, we are going to lose up to a half a billion dollars because of Washington Republicans' irresponsible bill.

And remember, Washington Republicans did this so they could pay for even more tax breaks for billionaires.

In Las Vegas, I met with doctors and leaders at the only level 1 trauma center in the entire State of Nevada.

Our conversation made it clear: These Medicaid cuts will be devastating for the hospital's finances, and they will make patients less likely to seek preventative care, often waiting until it is too late.

This will strain our hospital's resources even more and could have terrible consequences for individuals and their families.

There is a similar story in Reno where I visited the Northern Nevada HOPES, a nonprofit community hospital center that serves families in

need. The staff there painted a harrowing picture. When Medicaid is cut and people don't have access to health insurance, what do they do? They delay care. Minor conditions become severe. Emergency rooms overflow, and the financial and human cost escalates.

And as their CEO Sharon Chamberlain said:

This is not a budget issue. It's a public health emergency. And let's be clear: No amount of innovation, no amount of efficiency can fully offset the damage caused by policies that strip coverage of those that need it the most.

These are not abstract worries. They reflect real fear and an urgent concern from families, medical staff, and local leaders. And what is worse, these stories aren't unique to Nevada. The looming crisis is going to hurt communities all across this country.

Republicans, time after time, put politics and tax cuts for billionaires over people's health, over communities' health. And make no mistake, people will die because of the Republican cuts. And it really doesn't have to be this way.

I have joined my Democratic colleagues in helping to introduce a bill to overturn the cruel Republican Medicaid cuts and protect Nevadans, Nevada's families, Nevada's children, everyone—to protect their access to healthcare.

Our hospitals and community clinics, the people on the frontlines of our healthcare system, they work so hard, they care so much, and they are sounding the wake-up call. It is not just their fight; it is our fight.

So let's pass this bill and repeal the damage being done to our healthcare systems before it is too late.

The health of Nevada families is on the line. The time to act is now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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. 262, Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

John Thune, David McCormick, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Ron Johnson, Kevin Cramer, Jim

Banks, Pete Ricketts, Rick Scott of Florida, Ted Budd, Josh Hawley, Jim Justice.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 501 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—45

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

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute.

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

NOMINATION OF EDWARD L. ARTAU

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, in a few moments, Mr. President, Senate Republicans will vote to advance another Donald Trump loyalist to the Federal bench, Edward L. Artau of the Southern District of Florida.

Mr. Artau's nomination is a textbook example of a quid pro quo if there ever was one. Listen to this: While Artau was actively lobbying the White House for a Federal judgeship in the aftermath of Donald Trump's election last

year—while he was begging Donald Trump for a nomination to the bench while he was meeting with Republican Senators to angle for their recommendation—he was, at the same time, part of a panel of Florida State judges hearing Donald Trump's defamation case against the Pulitzer Prize Board earlier this February.

Did Mr. Artau do the right thing and recuse himself from the case? Of course not. Did he inform anyone about this potential conflict of interest? Of course not. Instead, Artau stayed on the case and—surprise, surprise—ruled in favor of Donald Trump. That is no coincidence; that is no accident. That is Donald Trump rigging our courts with his loyalists. Donald Trump gave Artau the chance to prove his fealty to him. Artau eagerly obliged, and Donald Trump rewarded him with a nomination for a Federal judgeship.

This nomination is just another example of Donald Trump making a total mockery of our Federal judiciary. And it proves the point that the only thing—the only thing—Trump cares about when it comes to judges is unyielding fealty to him and why we need to vote on these judges and be able to speak about these judges—because there is so much—so much—bad stuff and corruption going on.

I yield the floor.

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. 291, Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Mike Lee, Eric Schmitt, Katie Boyd Britt, John Barrasso, Marsha Blackburn, Chuck Grassley, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, James Lankford, Rick Scott of Florida, Jim Banks.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, 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 Vermont (Mr. WELCH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 502 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—46

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

NOT VOTING—1

Welch

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 46, 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 Edward L. Artau, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2296, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION SHOOTING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator SMITH because once again our State is in mourning. After a painful summer where we lost Leader Melissa Hortman

and her husband Mark in a horrific act of violence, we were once again shaken to our core by a deadly mass shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis.

It happened during the first mass of the year, an exciting time for so many students, back to school, meeting their new teacher, seeing new students. Right in the middle of that mass, two children, Fletcher Merkel and Harper Moyski were murdered.

We mourn for their lost lives, their families, the 21 people injured, including 18 children, ages 6 to 15. I think about the teachers and clergy who never imagined having to instruct children to duck under church pews to save their lives, and all the kids who were forced to grow up way too quickly. They will never forget that morning.

On the day of the shooting, literally within an hour of the shooting, I found out that one of my former employees who worked in this building, whom I am very close to, Kate Nilan, she had three kids in that church that morning. She left Washington, got married, had these three children, two of them twins, and they were all three in that church.

Her daughter Cora, who is in middle school, saw two of her best friends get shot—one in the stomach, one in the neck—and she had to run out of that church when they could get to safety and told one of their dads that his daughter had been shot.

We have since heard about a teacher who got a kid out of a wheelchair, a child with disabilities, put him under the pew, and then shielded him with her own body.

We have heard the words of a young, young child who was saved because his friend laid on top of him and got shot in the back. We heard the stories of the police officers who ran toward and not away from danger and saved lives. And we have heard the stories of the medics and the first responders and the doctors and the nurses in the operating rooms that somehow were able to save all those other lives at two fine hospitals, Hennepin County Medical Center, as well as a children's hospital in Minneapolis, and I am sure several others.

You know, it is such a close-knit neighborhood that surrounds this beautiful church. Annunciation is a church on a hill, but it is not a church alone on a hill. It is a church that is attached to a school, and it is a church and a school that are right next to houses literally a few yards away. And then next to the houses are more houses, and then next to the houses are a shop. And next to that is a restaurant, and then next to that is another big high school. And then next to that are more houses.

So many houses filled with families who, on that day, Wednesday, August 27, had to tell their own kids the horror of what happened in every single one of those houses. You can't hide from this, as much as you want to shield your kids from these kinds of stories, but