

with respect to the Vought nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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 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. 13, Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Lindsey Graham, Tommy Tuberville, Jon Husted, Rick Scott of Florida, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, David McCormick, Ted Cruz, Tom Cotton, Markwayne Mullin, Ashley Moody, Mike Lee, Cynthia M. Lummis, Bill Hagerty.

QUORUM CALL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair now directs the clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 3]

Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Mullin
Bennet	Hawley	Murray
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Paul
Blunt Rochester	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Britt	Hirono	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rosen
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Sanders
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Coons	Kaine	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Sullivan
Crapo	Kennedy	Thune
Daines	Kim	Tillis
Duckworth	King	Warner
Ernst	Klobuchar	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Lee	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	Wyden
Gallago	McCormick	Young
Graham	Moody	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum is present.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 36 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Cramer

Crapo	Justice
Cruz	Kennedy
Curtis	Lankford
Daines	Lee
Ernst	Lummis
Fischer	Marshall
Graham	McConnell
Grassley	McCormick
Hagerty	Moody
Hawley	Moran
Hoeben	Moreno
Husted	Mullin
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Johnson	Paul

NAYS—47

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
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 53; the nays are 47.

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 Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I yield 30 minutes of my postcloture debate time on the Vought nomination to Senator SCHUMER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

The Senator from South Carolina.

CONFIRMATION OF ERIC TURNER

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's mission is to create strong, sustainable communities and support of affordable homes. Yet under President Biden and his administration, the Department failed to serve our Nation's most vulnerable.

Here is the truth: We are facing a homelessness crisis in America. The latest homelessness survey found an 18-percent increase in homelessness year over year, increasing the number of homelessness in our country to nearly 772,000 Americans not able to find a place to lay their heads. This is unacceptable.

On top of that, we are facing an affordability crisis in our country as well. During President Biden's tenure, mortgage rates ballooned 150 percent and rents 20 percent.

Over the last 4 years, far-left housing policies and burdensome regulations have put the American dream out of reach for millions and millions of hard-working, dedicated patriots throughout our Nation. It is no secret that HUD is in serious need of new leadership.

Fortunately, there is good news: Help is right over there, and it is on its way.

My good friend, Scott Turner, has a remarkable life story, a tremendous life story. Scott is a native Texan who has had an exceptional journey from professional athlete to public servant. Scott came from humble beginnings, but he never let those circumstances define who he is. Actually, Scott, in high school, I believe it was, worked at a barbecue shop. What I love about Scott is he has this affection for the truth. He told me himself—he conceded—that South Carolina barbecue is better than Texas. I am glad he has no microphone to say anything right now. I am just telling you that that is a man I can appreciate.

He went on and had a successful career in the NFL: nine seasons as a cornerback playing for the Denver Broncos, the San Diego Chargers, and, yes, the Washington Redskins. And I note that he did not play for America's team, the Dallas Cowboys. Nobody can be perfect.

After hanging up his cleats, Scott served two terms in the Texas State legislature and then went on to work in the Trump administration.

As the Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, Scott helped implement the opportunity zones initiative I created, directing over \$50 billion in private sector capital into hard-hit, typically majority minority communities, breathing hope and opportunity not only to the neighborhoods but into the lives of people who desperately, passionately were praying for hope, and with less than a 5-percent gentrification. That is what I call success.

His story and his perspective are essential tools that he will bring to the table to fight the increase of homelessness, to fight the 150-percent ballooning of our mortgages, and to fight back against the 20-percent increase in rents.

As HUD Secretary, Scott will make himself known. He will create access to quality, affordable housing as a top priority. He will work to reverse decades of failed housing policies, and make targeted reforms across all segments of the U.S. housing market.

It is time to make America's economy work for working-class Americans. It is time for a blue-collar comeback. And I am so thankful that we have a man prepared to put in 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, if necessary, so more people—not 772,000 Americans, but more Americans—will have a place to lay their heads because they are no longer homeless. More Americans will be able to afford a home because the interest rates will come down, the housing supply will increase. And we will thank God Almighty that we live in a land where opportunity is more available because the right person, at the right time, in the right place, says yes.

I am very thankful that Scott Turner is the Secretary of Housing and Urban

Development. But I am more thankful that we have a President making good decisions to put America back on the right track.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I would like to say I look forward to Texas and South Carolina running for No. 2 to be the best barbecue in the country, with Alabama being a clear No. 1.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I will yield.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. It sounded like you were suggesting that there was a place on the planet that has better barbecue than South Carolina. I know my ears mistook the words coming out of your mouth. I know you are a fine coach, Coach, but we both know we can't lie to the public.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. The Senator will yield.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Your neighbor to the southwest has been recognized as the No. 1 barbecue in the United States by many, many authorities, so I think we probably could leave it at that.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Will you yield?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I will.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Thank you, Coach.

I will just simply say that although there are many, many people living in Alabama coming to the conclusion—it makes total sense to me. Alabama is a fine State. You guys produce national championships, and you know something about that. Of course, the home of barbecue, the beginning place of barbecue and sweet tea is South Carolina.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Yes, sir.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. That sounds like a challenge.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. We will have a taste test.

NATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, November 5, 2024, that is the day that the American people sent shock waves to the swamp in DC when they overwhelmingly reelected Donald John Trump as President of these United States of America. And 77 million Americans didn't just deliver a mandate for President Trump, they also wanted his "America First" agenda.

I come to the floor today to remind my Senate Republican colleagues that a critical part of the "America First" agenda includes prioritizing the safety of our women and girls in sports and protecting their privacy in bathrooms and locker rooms.

I am here to call for a vote on my legislation, S. 9, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, that would save title IX and save women's sports.

Today is National Girls and Women in Sports Day. That is today. To celebrate, President Trump will sign an Executive order this afternoon in the White House ending Democrats' intentional destruction of title IX and saving women's sports. I am very thankful for his leadership on this.

President Trump's Executive order will make sure women's sports are protected for at least the next 4 years. But, unfortunately, Executive orders can be reversed.

Congress needs to act on this to make sure the next Democrat administration, whenever it is, can't take the same steps to destroy title IX that the Biden administration took.

For the past 4 years, the Biden administration waged an all-out assault on gender. Since the beginning of time, people have agreed that sex is assigned at birth and determined by God. But under the Biden administration, you had people claiming that men can get pregnant. Here on this floor, I heard that. Pure insanity.

But it didn't stop there. They weren't content to just erase gender norms that have been accepted for thousands and thousands of years. No, they wanted to allow transgender men to participate against women and girls in sports.

This has been happening in schools all across the country. Young women have been forced to compete against men and even share locker rooms and showers. On top of that, your taxpayer dollars are paying for this nonsense.

Over the past several years under the Joe Biden administration, 900 women's medals have gone to men—900. That is absolutely wrong.

This one is personal for me. My first coaching job was in women's basketball years ago. Title IX was just starting to be implemented when I took that first job. I saw firsthand the immediate difference it made.

Before title IX, at a lot of schools, college women's athletics didn't really exist. Back then, there were more than 10 times as many male athletes in college as female athletes. After title IX, that quickly changed. For the first time, the young women I coached had equal access to facilities, resources, and competition.

I saw these hard-working young women go on to earn college scholarships, start careers, and become leaders of our country. I still keep in touch with many of these young women today, and I am deeply proud of them.

Looking back on it now, I wonder if they would have had the same opportunities without title IX. Would they have had the same success if they had to compete against males 40 years ago?

This really shouldn't be controversial. It is just common sense.

A recent poll from the New York Times, of all publications, showed 79 percent of all Americans believe men should not compete in women's sports—79 percent.

President Trump campaigned largely on this issue. If you remember his cam-

paign, he spent nearly \$20 million on TV ads about the importance of keeping men out of women's sports.

So on November 5, 2024, the American people didn't just elect President Trump; they also decisively rejected this ridiculous notion that men can get pregnant and boys should compete against women's sports—ridiculous. And they definitely didn't want their tax dollars funding schools that allow boys to share locker rooms with girls.

My bill would prevent a school from receiving any Federal funding if they let boys compete in women's sports. It also defines gender as male and female for this purpose.

I was glad to see President Trump sign an Executive order defining gender during his first few days in office. The President also made it clear under that Executive order that he wants Congress to take action on this as well because he understands it can go away with the signing of an ink pen.

That is why today, I am also reintroducing a bill to prohibit men from competing in women's Olympic sports because men competing against women at any level is dangerous.

We are all deeply disturbed—all of us were deeply disturbed this past summer to see videos of boys and men boxing against women.

You know, when I was growing up, we were taught to never hit a girl. But I guess that is over now because of the Democrats.

One study found out that males can punch up to 162 percent harder than females. Somebody is going to get killed or seriously injured if we don't stop this absolute nonsense. It is unsafe, it is unfair, and it is just plain wrong.

The Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act will make sure men aren't allowed to compete against women in any sport but especially not in a violent sport like boxing. This bill will restore fairness for the American women who train their whole lives to represent our country on the world stage. Their entire lives, they train.

I know we are all looking forward to the United States hosting the Summer Olympics in 2028 in Los Angeles. I hope our bill has been passed and signed into law long before that so we can all enjoy some healthy, safe women-against-women or men-against-men competition during those Olympics.

But this issue goes way beyond politics. I have heard from parents, students, teachers, and coaches all over the country about this. These are people who have personally seen the benefits of title IX and are very concerned about Democrats' attempts to take these opportunities away from women and girls.

There are countless stories of girls who have benefited from title IX in my State of Alabama. This includes athletes like Rachel Argent of Thorsby High School in Chilton County, AL. Rachel's athletic ability and good grades drew the attention of college coaches across Alabama. Rachel's athletic ability and her good grades drew