

the companies still working with Agencies during this shutdown are not penalized. This legislation would do just that. Private and Federal cooperation is necessary to ensure that we are putting our best foot forward in keeping the data of all Americans safe and protecting consumers from the most devastating consequences of cyber attacks, such as identity theft and financial loss.

These are the facts: Malicious cyber attacks on our Nation's critical infrastructure—such as our healthcare facilities, electrical grid, and more—are becoming more frequent, impactful, and sophisticated.

Prior to this authority, non-Federal entities did not have a readily available method of sharing cyber threat information.

Every day that goes by that this operation goes without reauthorization, both Federal Agencies and private entities risk not knowing the extent of current cyber threats and the resources needed to mitigate those threats.

Just last October, media reports surfaced about Salt Typhoon, one of the largest telecommunications hacks in U.S. history, carried out by hackers sponsored by the People's Republic of China. It is insane to think that almost a year after reporting on such a catastrophic event, that we would even consider not passing legislation specifically focused on these types of national security issues.

We must do better, and today we have an opportunity to make a commonsense decision that will support national security and keep Americans safe from cyber attacks.

I urge my colleagues to act and pass the Protecting America from Cyber Threats Act.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 182, S. 2983; that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The 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 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. 294, Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, John R. Curtis, Jon A. Husted, Jim Justice, Ashley B. Moody, Roger Marshall, Joni Ernst, Roger F. Wicker, Ron Johnson, John Boozman.

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 Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 578 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	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 46. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

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. 372, William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

John Thune, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Pete Ricketts, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Eric Schmitt, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ted Budd, John R. Curtis, John Boozman.

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 William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, 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.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 579 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	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of William W. Mercer, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

REMEMBERING KEVIN McDONALD

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, today I rise with a heavy heart in honor of longtime Capitol Hill staffer and friend Kevin McDonald.

He began his career as an intern and worked his way up to the top political strategist in the office of the President pro tempore of the Senate, Senator Patrick Leahy, with whom he spent 30 years serving alongside. This alone speaks volumes to Kevin's professional character, his loyalty, dedication, and his selflessness.

His former colleague Ann Berry, who served as deputy chief of staff to Senator Leahy before her appointment as Secretary of the Senate, had this to say about Kevin:

I have always viewed public service as an honor, and Kevin McDonald represented the best in being a public servant. Whoever he was helping, he wanted them to have the best experience. Whether it was pulling together a meeting of Senators or showing the latest crop of interns the ropes.

For over 30 years, he set our boss—

She said—

Senator Patrick Leahy up for success. He advised and handled logistics to keep the Senator and the Senate running smoothly.

Kevin loved assisting guests from Vermont and around the country [to] experience the majesty of the U.S. Senate by organizing tours, helping them attend special events, and [always] offering [expertise that made] DC a truly special place [for everyone to visit.]

Kevin set an incredible example for all public servants with the positive impact he had on the lives of countless people, including me.

Like former Secretary Ann Berry, many of us were fortunate to call Kevin a friend. We didn't just work with him, we got to know him on a personal level. I worked closely with Kevin when I served as chief of staff to Senator Richard Shelby. As the top ranking appropriators in Congress for several years—and while they certainly did not see eye to eye on most every policy-related issue—Senators Shelby and Leahy, alongside their wives Annette and Marcelle, enjoyed a close personal relationship, a relationship and tradition that Senator WELCH and I are committed to upholding.

Their teams benefited tremendously from their friendship as well. Kevin and I had the privilege of joining Senators Shelby and Leahy on many congressional delegation trips around the world. I will forever cherish my time with Kevin as we learned a great deal from our bosses on those trips and in this Chamber.

His friendship meant the world to me and all who knew him, including Toni-Marie Higgins, chief of staff to Senator JOHN BOOZMAN. She said this of Kevin:

[He] was one of the best colleagues I've [ever] had the privilege of serving with in the Senate. . . . Whether we were part of a [congressional delegation] or attending events in DC, he brought energy, joy, and kindness to every single moment. . . . His presence made every experience more meaningful—and a lot more fun.

I couldn't agree more. He truly radiated light and kindness, and we were all better because of it. Although Kevin touched many lives—some in this Chamber, some outside in Vermont and across the country—Kevin was, first and foremost, an integral part of Team Leahy. I know his decades of service meant the world to Senator Leahy and his wife Marcelle, who had this to say about Kevin:

Kevin McDonald was more than a senior advisor and scheduler. He was like a member of our family and our whole family felt that way.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of those who loved Kevin: Brian, Tom, his nephews, Declan and Griffin.

While many Members of Congress receive their day in the Sun for their devotion to our great Nation, staffers can often be overlooked, and their tremendous contributions cannot be undervalued. This institution, the State of Vermont, and the country are better for the service of Kevin. And there are few more deserving to be recognized than he. So I am honored to stand here today on the Senate floor and remember his life and legacy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are now on week four of Republicans insisting that they would rather keep the government shut down than talk about how we can stop healthcare premiums from skyrocketing.

In a sign of how serious Republicans are taking all this, House Republicans are still not even here. They are still on a vacation that has now lasted over a month. Senate Republican leaders are still refusing to sit down with us and do anything other than pull the same failed vote on their partisan bill over and over and over.

President Trump is gloating and lying about having more power than ever. He is illegally mass firing people who do important work for the American people. He is illegally hacking away at "Democratic" programs, and he is tweeting out more lies and truly obscene videos.

Let's be clear. President Trump does not have to fire people and slash funding. He didn't do any of this during the last shutdown he caused. Instead, Trump is choosing to cause pain and chaos because he wants to use the American people as leverage. Meanwhile, he is doing nothing about the fact that millions of Americans—the majority in red States, by the way—are about to see their premiums double. Open enrollment starts next week. In fact, it already began in Idaho. And

where are the Republicans? They are on week 4 of sticking their heads in the sand. Again, House Republicans are not even here.

But, in a shock to no one, Republicans' ignoring reality has done nothing to change it. That became even more obvious today, as health plan window shopping started in my home State of Washington. It is going on in many other States as well, which means that right now, today, families are logging on and looking for plans for 2026 and seeing the full cost of the Republicans' inaction.

For millions of families, they are seeing for the first time that their premiums are going to double next year because Republicans are refusing to act. For many families, it will be even worse: Premiums will triple or even quadruple. I have heard from seniors not yet old enough for Medicare who have learned that their premiums will jump by more than \$1,000 a month. I have heard from many small business owners who are trying to figure out if they are going to give up on their dream jobs or risk going without healthcare.

The Republicans' response is silence. The Republicans' solution is, just wait.

To my colleagues, what are you talking about? Wait? Until what? Until those premiums get locked in? Until people are officially priced out of coverage?

The billionaires did not have to wait for their tax cuts. Republicans made sure to pass that last July.

Why do working families have to wait for you to talk about healthcare?

It is completely absurd to me that Republicans are trying to say that they won't talk about this during a shutdown, but "Trust us because, later, we may possibly think about or talk about something that is going to be way too late."

It is just not credible for Republican leaders to insist that they won't talk about healthcare until the shutdown ends. After all, they wouldn't talk about it before the shutdown. As a matter of fact, I think they have talked about healthcare more during the shutdown than they have all year. They have been ignoring this issue. And their only offer to Democrats right now is to say we should ignore it too? No deal. I will not ignore my constituents.

And to my Republican colleagues: I won't let you ignore yours either. So join us at the table, and let's get serious about ending this shutdown and stopping those premiums from skyrocketing.

I have heard from families and small businesses in Washington State about how painful this is going to be. I have also heard from my neighbors in Idaho and Montana. Why is it so hard for Republican leaders to listen to these stories? Why is it so hard for them to listen to the voices of their constituents?

We saw that same issue with the protests last weekend. The No Kings protests were possibly the most massive,