

sowing fear there, conducting lawless raids in your cities? It is up to all of us to denounce this kind of conduct.

Just incidentally, they did a survey of 600 of the people who have been arrested in Chicago in the Midway Blitz, going after "the worst of the worst" criminals. What percentage of those 600 do you think actually had any kind of criminal record that was serious? It was 2 percent, 16 of them—16 people out of 600.

Millions of dollars being spent to terrorize innocent people and wreck these communities and their economies, and it turns out the return rate was 2 percent. Sixteen would-be criminals were brought to justice at the expense of our community.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate subject, in just a few weeks, the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits are set to expire. We have precious little time to act. That means, on January 1 of next year, millions of Americans will see their health insurance costs skyrocket, and some will have to drop health insurance coverage completely because they just can't afford the premiums. Will they get sick? You bet. Will they go to the hospital? Many will. Will they get treated? Yes. Will they be able to pay their bills with their health insurance premiums? Unfortunately, not if they drop coverage.

That includes my constituent Jess, a hair stylist in Chicago who was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. Jess said that if the tax credits go away, as they are supposed to on January 1, she would be forced to pay more for healthcare and will have to make a "lifestyle change to pay the difference," potentially working more shifts. She also worries about a lapse of coverage if the price increase forces her to switch plans. Any gap in coverage could jeopardize her lifesaving cancer treatment.

How would you like to have that hanging over your head? Premiums of your health insurance plan go through the roof, and you need constant coverage because of a diagnosis of breast cancer. No American family should face that.

Here is the good news though. We can make a difference here in the Senate. We can stop Americans like Jess from falling off this looming healthcare cliff. As part of the bipartisan agreement to end the longest government shutdown in American history, Leader THUNE, who was on the floor this morning, gave me his word, and I accepted it, that he will hold a vote in this Chamber extending these subsidies to Jess and others who desperately need help.

Last week, reports emerged from the White House about plans to release a proposal that would extend these subsidies for 2 years. The President was supporting that. Imagine my surprise

after trying to cut or repeal the Affordable Care Act more than 70 times, after he promised on the campaign trail that he had "concepts of a plan," whatever the heck that is—finally, we were to see the details of the Republican healthcare agenda for America.

But congressional Republicans jumped all over the White House and told the President he couldn't do it. They threw cold water on the idea of the President cooperating with the Democrats to solve this problem. The President has been tough to pin down on this subject, and Republicans know that they have a losing hand because they have no plan.

So far, their signature accomplishment is a law that would kick 11 million Americans off Medicaid and shutter rural hospitals in my State and others.

It is my hope that the President and Republicans will come to the table and negotiate in good faith in the few days that remain in the December session. Let's do this together. Let's fix the tax credit that is available to families who struggle to pay health insurance premiums. If they don't, we will put our proposal on the floor, and the American people will see where each party stands when it comes to helping deserving American families who need a helping hand.

If our offer on the Democrat side is rejected, the American public will know, with every paycheck, with every prescription, with every hospital bill, which party stood on their side and which didn't.

The time to make a good-faith effort on a bipartisan basis is now. Just 13 days from now is the deadline to enroll or change plans before the first of the year. Before and during the shutdown, my Republican colleagues argued there was plenty of time to craft a fix before the subsidies expire. The clock is ticking, and we need to act on a bipartisan basis.

When I voted to end the government shutdown, it was controversial. But I said I would not wage a political strategy at the expense of my neighbor's paycheck or food for his family. I meant it. But I, too, cannot sit idly by while 20 million Americans go without gas or groceries in order to pay their health insurance premiums. This is a question of fundamentals: Will you be able to afford the healthcare you and your family need? Let's get this done on behalf of every American in red and blue communities alike.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Maine.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Freeman nomination.

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

(The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3296

are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The youthful junior Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Youthful. I like that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM AND STAFF SERGEANT ANDREW WOLFE

Mr. JUSTICE. Mr. President, I would tell everyone just this—all those up in the Galleries, everybody—I am probably going to need your prayers to get through this, because we have had something happen in the small but great State of West Virginia that absolutely is tragic beyond belief.

I mean, look at these two young, beautiful people. We have lost Sarah, haven't we? And Andrew is just clinging for his life.

West Virginia is really hurting—really hurting. Our National Guard is really hurting but nowhere close—nowhere possibly close—to how these families are really hurting. So in every single way, I ask for your prayers.

Just think of the call that came right before Thanksgiving—Thanksgiving, of all times of the year. Think about that call. Think about basically the senseless attack on America, but think about that call to these families and how bad that really is.

You see, in my little State of West Virginia—I will just tell you this—the people are proud; the people are smart; the people are craftsmen; they are good people; they are loving people; they are neighbors. They are absolutely a people that are appreciative—appreciative of all. It is amazing just how deeply appreciative they are when somebody does something that helps them in any way.

I have got to tell you this real quick. I had brown hair at one time, and I was really skinny. I grew up in the little town of Beckley, WV. I used to ride my bike absolutely from where we lived on a little dirt road, a little red dog road at the time—and "red dog" is something they just make out of, you know, coal piles that become slate and just got burnt, and they built a great road. With all that being said, I would ride my bike 8 miles across town to Little League practice. You see, I lived in Mayberry. That is all there is to it.

Now, think about our National Guard. You know, there is story after story.

I was able to be the Governor of the great State of West Virginia for 8 years, and I worked hand in hand with them. It was unbelievable what General Hoyer and General Crane and all the great people of the National Guard—they are phenomenal beyond all possible comparison. That is why

Sarah and Andrew wanted to be guardsmen. Absolutely they are unbelievable.

I have been right in the middle of the flood. And my family happens to own the Greenbrier Hotel, and it is a little place in West Virginia. But with all that being said, with the terrible flood that happened in 2016, we hunted bodies on the golf courses and found three bodies on the golf courses. We hunted for 6 weeks for a little 14-year old girl, Mykala Phillips, and we found her 5 miles downstream 6 weeks later.

I have been with the National Guard, and I have seen every single part of the National Guard and just how great—and I mean great—these people are. I think, though, just at this time, please, please keep your focus on these families.

Andrew is clinging to life and showing signs of goodness towards maybe coming out and coming through this, but life will be really, really tough, won't it?

And Sarah—20 years old, beautiful beyond belief, and gone. And why? Why? Why on Earth? Why?

You know, many of you may say this. You may say: Well, we don't agree with what the President has done.

And I would say to you just this. I would say to you: How many body bags—how many body bags do we have to have in our cities to do something?

What was he trying to do? What does he continue to try to do? He is trying every way in the world to give Mayberry back to us, to give us what we all deserve in every single way. He is trying with all in it.

My little town of Beckley, WV, now has turned into, in many ways, not a great place from the standpoint of crime. If you ask JIM JUSTICE this, if you said to JIM JUSTICE "Well, you know, I will tell you what we have got. We have got three Canadian Mounted Police that can come to Beckley, WV, and can really make a difference, they can really help," who would turn that down? Who would say "No, no, we don't want to do that. No, we don't want to do that because that is going to infringe on somebody" or whatever it may be? Do you not realize that every day that goes by, it gets worse? We have got to do something.

I would say: If this isn't the answer, then you fix it because we want to be Mayberry. We deserve to be Mayberry.

Last thing I would say is just this: America, please listen to me and listen now. What in the world has happened to us? What in the world has happened to us? Is the next thing you don't have enough dead bolts or locks on the front door of your house or your back door? Are we going to absolutely lock our bedrooms when we go to bed at night? because we will put locks on that too.

America, something is really wrong, and we have to really do something about it.

From the standpoint of Congress, are we dysfunctional? You are dad gum right in a lot of ways. I haven't been

here very long, but I see absolutely the food fight going on all the time and the respect level almost nonexistent. That is bad.

We should absolutely respect one another, and we should look at each other's views and opinions and honor them, and we don't. And vote after vote after vote after vote, 59—51, 49. It is not good. It is not good, America, and it is not a game.

You see, at the end of the rainbow on every single thing we do here, there is a name. Today, the names are Sarah and Andrew.

America, please let's not gloss over. Let's absolutely let them have the opportunity to be a change—a change of who we are. Think about what they have given. Think about how many are hurting.

Absolutely first and foremost, again, I ask for your prayers for these great, great, great young people and their unbelievable families. God bless each and every one of them.

God bless this great Nation. And let's do something about it. Absolutely, let's let them change America. Don't forget them. Don't forget them no matter what you do. Don't ever forget them.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of David A. Bragdon, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

NOMINATION OF DAVID A. BRAGDON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm David Alan Bragdon to the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina.

I will vote in opposition to Mr. Bragdon's confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench.

While in college, Mr. Bragdon ran a personal website, whose homepage was titled, "DAVID BRAGDON'S RADICAL Conservative, Republican, Libertarian Home page." He took it upon himself to share his views on a host of issues, and these views gravely concern me. Mr. Bragdon wrote that seeking an abortion is the "wrong decision" and it is due to "the woman's poor judgment." Even more disturbing, he said that a woman "must face the consequences [sic]" if she does not use birth control. Mr. Bragdon also argued that welfare caused immorality and encouraged drugs and crime. He also contended that children of welfare recipients are more likely to drop out of school, end up in prison, and have children out of wedlock.

I recognize that nominees often write things in college that no longer reflect their views today. But when I asked Mr. Bragdon about the views he expressed on his website, he refused to disavow his prior writings.

For these reasons, I will oppose Mr. Bragdon's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON BRAGDON NOMINATION

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

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 625 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	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	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
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Galleo	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Hassan	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth Fetterman

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). 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: