

Affairs, including improvements for both patients and employees of the Department responsible for scheduling such appointments.

(b) ELEMENTS OF PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(A) such actions, resources, technology, and process improvements as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure the Department achieves, in a timely manner, improved delivery of health care, access to health care, customer experience and service relating to the receipt of health care, and efficiency with respect to the delivery of health care; and

(B) a proposed schedule and timeline to carry out such plan.

(2) OBJECTIVES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that the plan required by subsection (a) addresses the following objectives:

(i) To develop or continue the development of a scheduling system that enables both personnel and patients of the Department to view available appointments for care furnished by the Department, including primary care, mental health care, and all forms of specialty care.

(ii) To develop or continue the development of a self-service scheduling platform, available for use by all patients of the Department, which shall—

(I) enable such patients to view available appointments and, subject to the method provided under subclause (II), fully schedule appointments for all care furnished by the Department;

(II) if a referral is required for an appointment, provide a method for the patient to request a referral and subsequently book an appointment if the referral is approved; and

(III) provide such patients with the ability to cancel or reschedule appointments.

(iii) To create a process through which all patients of the Department can telephonically speak with a scheduler who can assist the patient to determine appointment availability and can fully schedule appointments on behalf of the patient for all care furnished by the Department.

(iv) To carry out such other functions, oversight, metric development and tracking, change management, cross-Department coordination, and other related matters, including improvements to employee-facing information technology, training, and processes, as the Secretary determines appropriate as it relates to scheduling tools, functions, and operations with respect to health care appointments furnished by the Department.

(B) EXPLANATION OF INABILITY TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN OBJECTIVES, FEATURES, OR SERVICES.—If the Secretary determines that an objective under subparagraph (A), or any feature or service in connection with that objective, cannot be implemented or otherwise incorporated into a final product pursuant to the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall include with the plan submitted under such subsection a report containing—

(i) an explanation as to why that objective, feature, or service cannot be implemented or incorporated, as the case may be; and

(ii) a plan for implementing the plan required by subsection (a) without that objective, feature, or service.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than two years after submitting to the appropriate committees of Congress the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall fully implement the plan.

(d) COORDINATION WITH ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM.—In developing the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that the elements and objectives of such plan set forth under subsection (b) are developed in consideration of the deployment schedule and capabilities of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program of the Department to ensure a smooth transition to using the tools and features under such plan as relevant and appropriate.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS.—Not later than each of one year and two years after the date on which the Secretary submits the plan required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress of the Secretary in implementing such plan, including—

(1) the costs incurred to implement the plan as of the date of the report;

(2) the expected costs to complete implementation of the plan (including costs for management and technology);

(3) the schedule for deployment of any capabilities developed pursuant to the plan; and

(4) the goals and metrics achieved, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing the plan.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Secretary to include in the plan required by subsection (a) any technology or process that would preclude or impede the ability of a veteran to contact or schedule an appointment directly with a facility or provider through a non-online scheduling process, should the veteran choose to do so.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) FULLY SCHEDULE.—The term “fully schedule”, with respect to an appointment for health care, means that the appointment booking is completed, rather than simply requested.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported title amendment be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 607), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement a plan to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived in relation to the Simmons nomination.

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

VOTE ON EN BLOC NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there no further debate?

If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 532?

Mr. THUNE. 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 655 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—43

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

NOT VOTING—4

Booker	Smith	Warren
Durbin		

The en bloc nominations were confirmed as follows:

Calendar Number 166: Henry Mack III, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Calendar Number 267: James Percival, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Calendar Number 354: Pedro Allende, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security

Calendar Number 429: Michael Powers, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 430: Benjamin Kohlmann, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Calendar Number 431: Amy Henninger, of Virginia, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, Department of Defense

Calendar Number 432: David Denton, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy

Calendar Number 452: Benjamin Hobbs, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 453: Ronald Kurtz, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 454: Jonathan Burke, of Georgia, to be Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing, Department of the Treasury

Calendar Number 455: Chris Pilkerton, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security

Calendar Number 456: David Courcelle, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 461: Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training

Calendar Number 462: Derek Theurer, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury

Calendar Number 463: Jonathan Greenstein, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury

Calendar Number 465: Crystal Carey, of New Jersey, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of four years

Calendar Number 466: Rosario Palmieri, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor

Calendar Number 467: James Murphy, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2027

Calendar Number 468: Kirsten Davies, of Tennessee, to be Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense

Calendar Number 469: Derrick Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 470: James Mazol, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 477: Braden Boucek, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee for the term of four years

Calendar Number 478: Dominick Gerace II, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio for the term of four years

Calendar Number 479: Jerome Francis Gorgon, Jr., of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years

Calendar Number 480: Bryan Stirling, of South Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years

Calendar Number 481: Thomas Wheeler II, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 482: Thomas Albus, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of four years

Calendar Number 483: Adam Mildred, of Indiana, to be United States Attor-

ney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years

Calendar Number 484: Harry Kumar, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Calendar Number 486: Joyce Meyer, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs

Calendar Number 488: Andrew Veprek, of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration)

Calendar Number 489: John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Calendar Number 509: William Kirk, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration

Calendar Number 510: Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Calendar Number 511: Mitch Graves, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029

Calendar Number 512: Jeff Hagood, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2029

Calendar Number 513: Randall Jones, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2028

Calendar Number 514: Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for the remainder of the term expiring May 18, 2026

Calendar Number 516: Douglas Troutman, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency

Calendar Number 517: Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Department of Labor

Calendar Number 518: Platte Moring, of South Carolina, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense

Calendar Number 520: Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety

Calendar Number 521: Stella Herrell, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

Calendar Number 522: Peter Metzger, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury

Calendar Number 523: Charles Arrington, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term expiring July 1, 2030

Calendar Number 524: Edward Forst, of Florida, to be Administrator of General Services

Calendar Number 525: Stephen F. Rickard, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years

Calendar Number 526: Elana S. Suttenger, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Su-

perior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years

Calendar Number 527: John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years

Calendar Number 528: Thomas Ferguson III, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years

Calendar Number 529: Robert Kadlec, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 530: Marc Berkowitz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 531: Joseph Jewell, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 532: Brendan Rogers, of Connecticut, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy

Calendar Number 533: David Beck, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration

Calendar Number 534: Charles Young III, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army

Calendar Number 535: Michael Borders, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force

Calendar Number 536: William Lane III, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force

Calendar Number 537: John Noh, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 538: James Caggy, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position)

Calendar Number 539: Timothy Dill, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 540: Michael Payne, of Virginia, to be Director of Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, Department of Defense

Calendar Number 541: Maurice Todd, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense

Calendar Number 550: Ethan Klein, of New Jersey, to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Calendar Number 551: Stephen Carmel, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration

Calendar Number 552: Timothy Petty, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

Calendar Number 553: Laura DiBella, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2028

Calendar Number 554: Trent Morse, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2030

Calendar Number 555: Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring November 30, 2030 (Reappointment)

Calendar Number 556: Paul Hollis, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years

Calendar Number 557: Francis Cassidy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

Calendar Number 558: Joseph Gormley, of Maryland, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association

Calendar Number 559: Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years

Calendar Number 561: Jeffrey Goettman, of Virginia, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Africa, Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Environment, Labor, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the Rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 562: Arjun Mody, of New Jersey, to be Deputy Commissioner Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2031

Calendar Number 563: Julie Callahan, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 564: Leo Brent Bozell III, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of South Africa

Calendar Number 565: Benjamin Leon, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Andorra

Calendar Number 566: Brent Christensen, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Calendar Number 567: Morvared Namdarkhan, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs)

Calendar Number 568: Thomas Bell, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services

Calendar Number 569: John Walk, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Agriculture

Calendar Number 570: Andrew Duva, of Florida, to be an Assistant Attorney General

Calendar Number 575: Erin Creegan, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years

Calendar Number 576: Ryan Anthony Kriegshauser, of Kansas, to be United States Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of four years

Calendar Number 577: James Kruger, of Mississippi, to be United States At-

torney for the Southern District of Mississippi for the term of four years

Calendar Number 578: Scott Leary, of Mississippi, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi for the term of four years

Calendar Number 579: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Calendar Number 580: Michael Selig, of Florida, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2029

Calendar Number 582: Melissa Argyros, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia

Calendar Number 583: Yehuda Kaploun, of Florida, to be Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, with the rank of Ambassador

Calendar Number 584: Bernardo Navarro, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Peru

Calendar Number 585: Darryl Nirenberg, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania

Calendar Number 586: Tammy Bruce, of California, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations

Calendar Number 587: Christopher Yeaw, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Arms Control, Non-proliferation, and Stability)

Calendar Number 588: Mary Anne Carter, of Tennessee, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of four years

Calendar Number 589: Scott Mayer, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029

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.

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. 560, Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, David McCormick, Ted Budd.

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 Joshua Simmons, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency, 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 656 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—43

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

NOT VOTING—4

Booker	Smith	Warren
Durbin		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.