

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 52 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—48

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider will be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

Under the previous order, the cloture motion with respect to the Rollins nomination is withdrawn.

The cloture motion was withdrawn.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Rollins nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brooke Rollins, of Texas, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

NOMINATION OF BROOKE ROLLINS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the nomination of Brooke Rollins of Texas to be Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

I met Mrs. Rollins during President Trump's first term when we worked together to pass the largest criminal justice reform legislation since the 1990s, the First Step Act.

Now, she is focusing on her agricultural roots, having grown up participating in 4-H and FFA.

I am encouraged by her attention to detail and hard work, something I am sure will serve her and America's farmers well.

Mrs. Rollins is taking on a large role, leading 100,000 employees, making policy decisions that will affect family farmers across the country, and impact the efficiency and transparency of government.

In her confirmation hearing, Mrs. Rollins assured me that she would, to the best of her ability, respond to my letters and make the Department of Agriculture a place where whistleblowers can come forward confidently.

I look forward to working with this highly capable nominee to advance policies that will help Iowa farmers, including the enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act and advocating for new markets for our ag products.

VOTE ON ROLLINS NOMINATION

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 53 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Gallo	Mullin
Banks	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Ossoff
Bennet	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hassan	Peters
Booker	Hawley	Ricketts
Boozman	Heinrich	Risch
Britt	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schiff
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Slotkin
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Durbin	McCormick	Warnock
Ernst	Moody	Welch
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Young

NAYS—28

Alsobrooks	Kim	Schatz
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hirono	Padilla	Wyden
Kaine	Reed	
Kelly	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

REMEMBERING PAUL GALLO

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is with a sense of sadness but also an honor to celebrate the life of someone who truly made a profound impact on my home State of Mississippi: Paul Gallo. My State mourns Paul, who died January 19, 2025, after a brave fight with cancer.

Known across the airwaves as the host of "The Paul Gallo Show," Paul was far more than just a broadcaster. If there is anyone who can be considered a Mississippi icon, it is him. He earned that status over decades as a steady voice for news and opinion in my State.

I will never forget the first time I had the honor of being on "The Paul Gallo Show" as a newly elected State senator. Paul treated me with kindness, fairness, and respect, qualities he extended to everyone he encountered, whether they were politicians, movers and shakers, or simply everyday listeners. He made you feel like you were a part of every conversation, someone you could rely on and someone you could trust.

In the 1990s, Paul helped transform a longtime vision into reality with the creation of SuperTalk Mississippi, a statewide network that gave Mississippians a platform to be heard, uniting our State through shared conversation.

Paul, the son of the Mississippi Delta, was a true believer in Mississippi. He recognized its potential and its strengths, but he wasn't afraid to address its challenges head-on. He shaped the conversations that mattered to the people of Mississippi, no matter where they lived across the State.

Throughout his career, Paul was a voice for change. He spoke out on critical issues affecting our communities and held our leaders accountable. His dedication to the people of Mississippi and his unabashed commitment to doing right by them was evident in everything he did.

Beyond his broadcasting career, Paul and his colleagues at SuperTalk Mississippi became champions for the Palmer Home for Children. Their tireless efforts have raised millions of dollars to support children in need, giving them a better chance at a brighter future. Paul's compassion for the people of Mississippi, especially its children, was unwavering.

My heart goes out to his wife Patsy, their children, grandchildren, the entire SuperTalk family, and the countless listeners whose lives he touched.

Paul's impact on Mississippi will be felt for generations through the stories he shared, the people he connected with, the policies he has influenced, and the legacy he leaves behind.

Paul Gallo will always be part of Mississippi's story and always a part of our hearts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last week, the Senate voted to confirm Pam Bondi as U.S. Attorney General. I was proud to support her nomination both at the Senate Judiciary Committee level and on the Senate floor.

Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a markup on the nomination of Kash Patel for Director of the FBI. Likewise, I was happy to support his nomination in committee, and I look forward to supporting him here on the Senate floor as soon as that vote comes before us.

One of President Trump's most important pledges during the campaign was to end the politicalization and the weaponization of the Department of Justice, including the FBI. Pam Bondi and Kash Patel, I think, are outstanding picks to fulfill this pledge, which is very important. I am pleased the Senate is moving to confirm them with no delay.

I believe that the FBI and the Department of Justice are two of the most important institutions in America. If you look around the world, you see a lot of countries that have a similar economic system to ours, and you wonder, why is America uniquely prosperous? Why is it that we succeed where others fail?

I believe it is two things. One is our independent judiciary, and secondly, our institutions of justice like the FBI and the Department of Justice that are supposed to discharge their responsibilities without regard to politics and without regard to the sorts of activities we have seen in recent years.

We know that both of these individuals—Mr. Patel and Ms. Bondi—have their work cut out for them.

The mission of the Department of Justice, after all, is to uphold the rule of law, to keep the country safe, and to protect civil rights. The FBI's mission is to protect the American people and to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Under the Biden administration and even before that, the Department of Justice and the FBI failed to achieve those noble and worthy goals. Of course, back even during President Trump's first term of office, there was the infamous Crossfire Hurricane FBI investigation. There was the so-called Russian hoax based on a phony piece of Russian propaganda known as the Steele dossier, which ultimately we found out was part of the opposition research that Hillary Clinton's campaign collected during her campaign against President Trump back in 2016. This was dressed up to make it look like a credible bit of intelligence, when, in fact, it was Russian propaganda, we ultimately found out, Russian disinformation.

Two weeks ago, during his hearing at the Judiciary Committee, Kash Patel

told me that the rule of law is one of the fundamental precepts that make America an exceptional nation. Without the rule of law, he said, "we go back to the Uganda that my father fled."

Kash Patel's adherence to the mission of the FBI and its parent Agency, the Department of Justice, is a stark contrast from what we have seen in recent years. We saw, for example, Merrick Garland's misguided memo in October of 2021 directing the FBI to work with U.S. attorneys to "discuss strategies for addressing threats from parents" who were taking an active role in their children's education by participating in parent-teacher meetings and school board meetings.

Similarly, we have the FBI Richmond Field Office that sent a memo in 2023 suggesting that traditional Catholics might pose a threat as violent domestic extremists.

So we know that there is example after embarrassing example of how the FBI and the DOJ have gotten off track.

A report from the House Judiciary Committee highlighted, for example, the FBI's misguided attempt to artificially inflate the number of domestic extremism threats by claiming Americans who were exercising their First Amendment rights were somehow potential domestic terrorist threats, not to mention the FBI's role in censoring information related to Hunter Biden's criminal activities.

A Senate report from the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, in 2020, detailed many of Hunter's and his associates' unseemly—and likely illegal—activities, including payments from Ukrainian, Russian, Kazakh, and Chinese nationals and revealed that the FBI may have had knowledge of these activities for some time and done nothing.

In September 2020, when the House Judiciary Committee sent a followup letter to Director Wray, related to Hunter Biden's alleged misconduct, the FBI stonewalled them and refused to confirm or deny any ongoing investigations.

I know that is a common response by the FBI. Well, they are not going to talk about ongoing investigations, and, certainly, we understand that, as a routine matter, there shouldn't be any sort of interference in ongoing investigations. But Congress has a unique constitutional role of oversight, and, essentially, what Director Wray was saying was, he wasn't willing to give the Congress, as an oversight body, the information we need in order to do our job.

Of course, despite these numerous efforts within the FBI and the Department of Justice to protect Hunter Biden from accountability for his crimes, we know his own father issued a Presidential pardon in the final weeks of his Presidency, even though for months he had said he would never do such a thing. But then he did, claiming his son was selectively and unfairly prosecuted.

Well, my recollection was Hunter was convicted of one crime by a jury but pled guilty to others. So it is not clear to me how President Biden can say that he was selectively and unfairly prosecuted for the crimes that he pled guilty to.

It is hard to imagine thinking someone was unfairly targeted when the entire government—all the government Agencies involved—did everything they could to assist the Biden family and to protect that person from justice.

While it is no surprise that the American people were upset and even outraged by this, who could forget the marked differences, the double standard, in response to when President Trump was found to have sensitive documents in his home in Mar-a-Lago and when President Biden was found to have sensitive documents in his home in Wilmington, DE.

And all the while, during the historic crime wave we have experienced in recent years, Merrick Garland directed his Agency not to enforce mandatory minimums against most drug crimes. He did this while Americans across the country were suffering from fatal drug overdoses at record numbers, especially from fentanyl, which took the lives of approximately 70,000 Americans last year alone.

The results of all of these abuses of authority has been a loss of trust and confidence by the American people in these important institutions: the FBI and the Department of Justice. These institutions were no longer believed to be engaged in the fair administration of justice based on facts and evidence, as opposed to political gamesmanship.

Now, I realize that Attorney General Bondi and soon-to-be Director Patel are going to have a huge task ahead of them to restore these Agencies to their core missions and to restore the trust that has been eroded of the American people in our American system of justice. But both of these individuals have pledged to do just that, and I believe they should have an opportunity to do that.

Pam Bondi, after all, has been a career prosecutor. She then went on to be attorney general of Florida for two terms. As a former attorney general of my State in Texas, I know how tough that job can be. But she has done an outstanding job, and I have no doubt that her promotion to U.S. Attorney General by President Trump was well deserved. She is prepared for this important job.

My goal for the Department of Justice and the FBI is to restore the non-partisan functioning of our country's chief law enforcement Agencies. The American people deserve an FBI and a Department of Justice that they can trust. They deserve to live under a system where the guilty are prosecuted and where the innocent are not unfairly targeted. They deserve to live in a place where political views are not a basis for a criminal investigation and where an accused person is still presumed innocent until proven guilty. In