

This law has been called the SAVE America Act. It is a striking name to me because when I think of when America has needed to be saved, I think of our determination to be saved from British tyranny in our fight for independence; our need to be saved from the Depression or economic hardship; from disunion or division. But apparently this President thinks that America needs to be saved from her own voters, that America needs to be saved from “we the People.”

I also think it is worth noting what the SAVE America Act will not save. It will not save American families from paying more for their groceries or at the pump. It will not save the small business that has had to close its doors because the President decided to launch senseless trade wars against our friends. It will not save a young couple money on their downpayment when they are trying to buy their first home—not as long as we have a President who would rather build monuments to honor his name than help our country build more homes that people can afford to live in. It will not save a single American from pricey healthcare premiums, nor will it save the future lives lost to diseases that could have been treated had the President not fired America’s best doctors and researchers. It will not save our children from burdensome debt tomorrow to pay for tax giveaways to billionaires today. It will not save America from the dangers of dictators like Vladimir Putin, whom the President still vainly tries to appease.

But more than that, this law won’t save America from the flames of division that the President so often fans, from the meanness and coarseness that he revels in. It will not save America from the march of extremism or the grip of conspiracy. It will not save us from more discouraging broadcasts of the nightly news, of watching our supposed leaders with disbelief, of wondering just how much higher prices will soar. It won’t save a young girl who wanted to get involved in public service, wanted to help her country, from becoming disillusioned when she sees what happens in Washington these days, from wondering if our country’s politics can offer anything of promise or if only cynicism reigns. It will not save an old veteran from shaking his head and asking what yet might happen to his country he loves, in whose service he risked so much.

This law, in short, won’t save our fellow Americans—certainly not from high costs. It will not save America. This law seeks to save nothing but the President’s political fortunes. Because, in the end, one does not save America by ensuring that fewer Americans vote. One cannot save America by making America less free.

Does this body wish to save America? to learn to become a country once more? to do great things together once more? The answer remains what it has always been: Don’t restrict the right to

vote. Don’t turn to answers from the would-be strongman. Instead, leave the saving to the “we the people” and put it in their hands. When we do that, truly, as Lincoln said, we cannot be wrong, and we cannot go wrong.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MARKWAYNE MULLIN

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in just a few moments, this body will vote for the next Secretary of Homeland Security. It happens to be a friend of mine. His name is MARKWAYNE MULLIN.

MARKWAYNE MULLIN is the pride of Westville, OK, which—ironically enough—is the easternmost town in our State. On a normal day, there are more people inside the U.S. Capitol than there are in all of Westville, OK. But it is a bunch of really nice folks that work really hard, and MARKWAYNE MULLIN has risen from being a country boy in a cow-calf operation with his dad, running a very small plumbing company, to now being nominated, and tonight being confirmed as our next Secretary of Homeland Security.

He graduated from Stilwell High School, but the most important thing wasn’t his graduation from Stilwell High School. It is the girl that he met in the third grade.

In the third grade, he fell in love with Christie, and they waited all the way until she was 18 and he was 19 before they got married. And now, decades later and six children later, that proud family will now be the lead family to be able to serve to keep every family safe in the country.

Responsibility at Homeland Security is dramatic. There are a quarter million Federal employees that work for the Department of Homeland Security. It is a massive operation, and it is incredibly important to our country.

And I think he will be a terrific leader for it. He not only loves our country, but he is passionate about security.

He served in the House of Representatives for a decade and has now served in this body for 3 years. He has spent a lot of time on the issues of national security. He has done a lot of research in that area.

He has worked to be able to pass the bills that actually fund Homeland Security, and now he will be the one to actually implement those same bills.

So he is keenly aware of the law and the issues that he will actually be carrying out.

Interestingly enough, MARKWAYNE MULLIN is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He is actually the second Senator ever to serve in this body that is a member of the Cherokee Nation, but there has not been a Cherokee that has

actually been in the Senate for more than two decades.

The Cherokee Nation leadership sent in a letter with their overwhelming support for him and for what he has done and his awareness of the Tribal issues, as well as just national issues and family issues.

He has been my friend, and we have worked side by side on a lot of issues.

I will never forget, multiple years ago, with my wife and MARKWAYNE and his wife Christie—the four of us—sitting down for a dinner in a quiet place in a booth in the middle of a restaurant, just to talk, because MARKWAYNE was thinking about saying, “I am done with all of this chaos that is in Congress,” and he was actually praying through what to do next.

And it was over that dinner that the four of us just talked and visited, prayed together, and he determined: I am going to stay at it because there is more work to be done.

And I am glad he did.

In the days ahead, the Nation will be glad that he did because I think he will make a fantastic Secretary of Homeland Security.

As we approach this moment, I can’t help but also note a challenge that he is going to walk into on day one, because when he walks in tomorrow morning into a new office, into a new role, and being sworn in, there will not be funding for the people around him. The staff that will be there, working alongside him, won’t have been paid for more than a month.

And this is not an anomaly for them. As of this week, half of the fiscal year, Homeland Security employees have not been paid—half of the fiscal year. They faced 43 days without any paycheck, and they are at 37 days now. Half of the year, they have not been paid. As of this week, it will be six paychecks that they have either lost entirely or partially.

This body has the responsibility to solve this problem. And as MARKWAYNE steps in to be able to lead so capably in Homeland Security, it is the responsibility of this body to be able to make sure that Homeland Security actually has the funding that it needs to be able to protect the Nation.

So my expectation is twofold tonight: One is that we will confirm my friend MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and he will be the next Secretary. And the other one is that soon we will finish this argument, and we will resolve our differences. And so the fine folks that work at Homeland Security, in all areas, whether it be Coast Guard, Secret Service, whether it be FEMA, whether it be TSA—yes, even ICE and Customs and Border Protection—wherever they may be, that their families can also reap the benefit of their service by actually getting a paycheck—what a novel idea.

Let’s finish the task tonight.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the confirmation vote for Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN to be the Secretary of Homeland Security right now.

VOTE ON MULLIN NOMINATION

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

Mr. LANKFORD. 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.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—1

Gallego

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. SCHMITT assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). 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. 697, Colin McDonald, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Roger Marshall, John Barrasso, Bill Hagerty, Pete Ricketts, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Rick Scott of Florida, Shelley Moore Capito, Jim Banks, Jon Husted, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, 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 Colin McDonald, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

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	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Gallego Tuberville
Mullin Van Hollen

(Mr. SCHMITT assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Colin McDonald, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, on Friday, March 20, 2026, I attended the funeral service of MSG Nicole Amor, of White Bear Lake, MN, who was killed in action while serving in Kuwait. I would have voted against the DHS appropriations bill that was before the Senate, (rollcall vote No. 59), as I had on rollcall vote Nos. 38, 39, 47, and 54.

As I have stated in the past, I support proposals that will immediately fund the Department of Homeland Security's critical national security functions such as cyber defense, airport safety, and the Coast Guard. But, following DHS's actions in Minnesota which resulted in the deaths of two American citizens, as well as repeated violations of the Constitution and defiance of court orders, I will not vote to support continued funding for ICE, which already has \$75 billion in guaranteed funding from the bill that was passed last summer, until critical reforms to rein in unlawful behavior and restore accountability are secured.

REMEMBERING REV. DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, JR.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and service of a great advocate for justice and nonviolence, Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Jr.

Dr. Lafayette was a Freedom Rider who risked his life challenging segregation across the South. He helped organize the Selma voting rights movement, laying the groundwork for the march from Selma to Montgomery and the eventual passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As a young activist in Nashville, Dr. Lafayette worked closely with John Lewis, who later became my mentor and a moral compass for so many of us who serve today. Together, they believed deeply in the power of nonviolence and the courage it takes to stand up for justice, even in the face of violence and hatred.

The late Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette helped shape a generation of leaders