

of Federal program fraud are not just the intended recipients of program funding; the American taxpayers, who entrusted us in the government with their hard-earned money, are victims as well.

The Trump nominee, Mr. McDonald, understands this, and he will fight all fraud against all victims. In his hearing, this is what Mr. McDonald committed to: “prosecute criminals who exploit the generosity of our country by stealing from taxpayer-funded programs. Every dollar stolen is a dollar that didn’t put bread on the table, that didn’t reach the hospital bed, that didn’t meet the needs identified by Congress. Fraudsters should never be allowed to rip off the United States of America.”

I agree with Mr. McDonald.

What happened in Minnesota and around the country is unacceptable, and we, as elected officials, need to support the Justice Department in stopping this fraud. Confirming Mr. McDonald today as head of the National Fraud Enforcement Division is the very critical first step.

Mr. McDonald is the right person to lead this effort. He spent his entire career in public service as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of California. As a prosecutor, Mr. McDonald handled an array of criminal offenses, and he specialized in investigating and prosecuting fraud, money laundering, unlawful transactions, and tax crimes. He has tirelessly worked to protect the rights of victims. He has never shied away from hard cases; he runs toward those hard cases. At every turn, he has advocated with candor and the highest ethical standards. In doing so, he gained the respect of his colleagues, his opposing counsel, and even the judges he appeared before.

I believe the American people will be in good hands with Mr. McDonald working on their side, and I encourage my colleagues to support this nomination.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

VOTE ON MCDONALD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the McDonald nomination?

Mr. RISCH. 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.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Moreno
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	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

WELCOMING ALAN ARMSTRONG TO THE SENATE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 2 hours ago, Markwayne Mullin was sworn in as the Secretary of Homeland Security. I am grateful that he is there and is taking on that role. We finished that vote last night, and at the end of that vote last night, he walked over to his desk, which is right over there, and signed paperwork to resign from the U.S. Senate.

This morning, the Governor of Oklahoma announced his selection for the interim Senator to be able to come in. It is solely the Governor’s decision to be able to make this decision, and I think he has made a great decision on this.

The Governor signed paperwork this morning in Oklahoma and announced that he was appointing Alan Armstrong, who is the just-past president and CEO of the Williams Companies, a third-generation Oklahoman and Tulsan to be our next Senator for the State of Oklahoma.

He and his wife Shelly have been married for 40 years. They have four grown children. They have three grandchildren. He has just stepped down and retired from his position in leadership at Williams and was looking forward to spending a lot more time with grand-

children, and the Governor contacted him and said: Hey, would you, instead, consider giving the next 9 months to the United States of America and to the State of Oklahoma to be able to serve as the junior Senator for Oklahoma.

I am grateful that he said yes because I think he will do a terrific job in this role. He comes with a tremendous amount of business experience coming in, but people lose track of the fact that he was president and CEO of one of the largest natural gas and mid-stream companies in the country; in fact, one of the largest companies in the world to be able to handle the movement of clean, natural gas all over the country.

There are literally families all over America that are depending on the services that Williams provides for them every day. They may not know the name Williams, but the reason that their stove works, their heater works, or their hot water tank works is because Williams is actually providing the access to be able to get that energy to that spot at that moment.

He graduated from the University of Oklahoma years ago and graduated as a civil engineer who went to work for Williams almost four decades ago as just a civil engineer. He literally worked his way up the ranks, serving in multiple different roles in the Williams Companies until he finally attained president and CEO where he has led the company since 2011, just stepping away to, as I said, get more time with grandchildren until he got that call just about a week ago.

So I am grateful that he is coming. I am looking forward to my colleagues having the opportunity to be able to meet him and to be able to integrate him into this body of 100 Members.

He will join as rank No. 100 and will serve here through the rest of this year, but I am very grateful that he has chosen to set aside his private life to be able to step into a season of public service.

So I look forward to my colleagues, in just a few moments, getting a chance to be able to meet the newest Senator to join us, the soon-to-be Senator Alan Armstrong.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate.

If there be no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived and it will be printed in full in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Oklahoma, I, J. Kevin Stitt, the governor of said State, do hereby appoint Alan Armstrong, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Markwayne Mullin, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our governor J. Kevin Stitt, and our seal hereto affixed at Oklahoma City this 24th day of March, in the year of our Lord 2026.

By the Governor:

J. KEVIN STITT,
Governor.

Attest,

BENJAMIN LEPAK,
SECRETARY OF STATE

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. If the Senator-designate will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-designate, Alan Armstrong, escorted by Mr. LANKFORD, advanced to the desk of the President pro tempore; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Ms. ROSEN. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Armstrong	Boozman	Cassidy
Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cotton

Cramer	Johnson	Paul
Crapo	Justice	Ricketts
Cruz	Kennedy	Risch
Curtis	Lankford	Rounds
Daines	Lee	Schmitt
Ernst	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Fischer	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Graham	McConnell	Sheehy
Grassley	McCormick	Sullivan
Hagerty	Moody	Thune
Hoeven	Moran	Tillis
Husted	Moreno	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—2

Hawley Tuberville

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The majority leader.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I withdraw the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The motion is withdrawn.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to table the Schumer motion to suspend rule XXV.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I noted the absence of a quorum.

I ask unanimous consent that I speak for 1 minute.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Democratic leader be able to speak for a minute.

Mr. SCHUMER. I thank the leader for his courtesy.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, with this next rollcall vote, the Republicans are tabling my motion to suspend the Senate rules to provide a path to pay TSA workers. I will vote against tabling because I want to see the TSA workers paid.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to table the Schumer motion to suspend rule XXV.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

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 yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Graham	Moreno
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	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—47

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The majority leader.

MOTION TO TABLE THE MOTION TO REFER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to table the motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Rules and Administration and report back forthwith with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 68 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Armstrong	Crapo	Johnson
Banks	Cruz	Justice
Barrasso	Curtis	Kennedy
Blackburn	Daines	Lankford
Boozman	Ernst	Lee
Britt	Fischer	Lummis
Budd	Graham	Marshall
Capito	Grassley	McConnell
Cassidy	Hagerty	McCormick
Collins	Hawley	Moody
Cornyn	Hoeven	Moran
Cotton	Husted	Moreno
Cramer	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski