

a few months ago. The victim of that killing wasn't even the target of the operation.

ICE's recent orders to pause vehicle stops is too little too late, and that is before Trump reinstated the order 20 hours later. We need to stop this violence before it happens.

The tragedies in Maine and Texas could have been prevented if Republicans had passed our bill to hold ICE to the same standards we expect from all other law enforcement.

If Republicans had agreed to our proposal for body cameras, use-of-force training, warrant requirements, other basic reforms, the victims killed in Texas and Maine so tragically might be alive today. We can't let Trump's untrained, unaccountable agents continue to bring chaos to our streets.

Republicans, where are you? Wake up. Rein in these rogue agencies.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Kuntz nomination.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, few votes in this body are as important as the vote to fund our troops, our military.

Yesterday, right here on this floor, the U.S. Senate—every single Democrat—voted to block that funding. And just 10 minutes ago, the minority leader came to the floor and bragged about the fact that the Democrats had blocked the funding for our military. He stood here and said they are proud of the fact that they are, once again, choosing politics over the security of our Nation.

That is what we're facing here in the U.S. Senate today. We're talking about the National Defense Authorization Act, and this Congress has passed this bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act every year for the past 65 years.

And when it came to the floor of the Senate yesterday, the minority leader said to the Democrats: Say no. Say no to the military.

I am going to go through the list of all the things they said no to yesterday. This year should be no different than the other years—65 years in a row.

This year's Defense bill gives our military every tool it needs to keep us, as Americans, safe. It invests in peace through strength at home and abroad. Importantly, this bill provides a pay raise for the men and women who defend our Nation.

Every single Democrat in this Chamber joined Senator SCHUMER, joined BERNIE SANDERS, and joined ELIZABETH WARREN and said: No, we are not voting for it. We are not voting for it.

That is what they said. They refused to allow the debate to even begin. This was before the bill even started the debate here on the floor of the Senate. And it is interesting because many of them flip-flopped. What do I mean by that? It means that, first, many of them voted for the bill in the committee in order to send it to the floor. Then it gets to the floor, and what happens? All of them vote to block it from even beginning the debate. Apparently, Democrats were for it before they were against it.

Here is what Democrats voted against: They voted against higher pay for our troops. They voted against better healthcare for our service members and their families. Democrats voted against better housing for our troops. Democrats voted against stronger deterrence. Democrats voted against a more lethal military. Democrats voted against a larger, stronger Navy.

Democrats even voted against a modern nuclear deterrent. Don't we want to deter nuclear war? This is at a time when nuclear weapons are proliferating all around the world. In my home State of Wyoming, we have F.E. Warren Air Force Base. The airmen who serve there are the lynchpin of our land-based nuclear force. The deterrence there has been known over the decades as our Nation's "ace in the hole." That is how it works—the desire to protect us as a nation.

Democrats voted against all of it. They actually even voted against expanding our military recruitment effort. They don't want us to be able to recruit for the military, and they don't want the military to be properly funded and equipped in a way that protects us as a nation.

Democrats actually even voted against more savings for taxpayers. Democrats voted against protecting women's sports at our military schools. No, they don't want any of that. Democrats voted against promotions based on merit and merit alone: Oh, no. You have merited and earned a promotion? No, you are not getting it on merit alone.

That is who the Democrats have become. That is the threat to our Nation—this far-leftist group that is telling the Democrats here on the floor of the Senate what to do. And for things that had been bipartisan in the past, they said: No, we can't do that anymore.

This far-left wing of the party is telling us what to do and how to march in step.

Democrats voted against ending harmful DEI mandates. They voted against stronger border security. They like open borders. They don't want border security. They voted against funding to combat against the cartels that are moving poison into the country—

killing young people in record numbers. Democrats voted against stopping the flood of deadly drugs and illegal border crossings.

Just 2 days ago, right here on the Senate floor, the Senator from Maryland, Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, said this: Missile defense—to defend against incoming missiles for the American people—was wasteful spending.

It is remarkable. Defending the country is wasteful spending. That is who the Democrats have become.

The Democrats act like penny-pinchers when it comes to paying our troops to protect our homeland; yet, they accept the astronomical cost of the waste, the fraud, and the abuse—free healthcare for illegal immigrants, the fraud that is happening like we are seeing in Minnesota, and all of those things. The Democrats are for all of that, but they are not for our troops, and they are not for defending our Nation. That is the Democrat Party of today.

The Democrats of today are radical; they are extreme; they are dangerous; they are scary. Well, the world is a dangerous place, and by voting against the National Defense Authorization Act, the Democrats are disrespecting the American troops; they are undermining American security; and Democrats are jeopardizing America's strength.

Look, our friend Lindsey Graham believed in peace through strength. I do, as well as do most Americans—but not the Democrat Party of today. It is time for us to act on that belief: that America is best when we are strong and it helps make us more safe. It is time for the Senate to pass a bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act, and it is time for Democrats to act like Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote at noon now begin immediately.

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

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 bill 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. 779, Jeffrey T. Kuntz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, Ashley Moody, James Lankford, Todd Young, Ted Budd, Pete Ricketts, Jon Husted, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, John Cornyn, Chuck Grassley, James C. Justice, Eric Schmitt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jeffrey T. Kuntz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

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

The yeas and the nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 196 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—3

Gallego	McConnell	McCormick
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID WEINBERG

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today, I am honored to recognize an exceptional public servant and Michigander who is sitting right next to me here. His name is David Weinberg.

For nearly 18 years, David has served on my team, guiding our office through major challenges and always delivering results for the people in Michigan as well as all across our country.

David's Michigan roots run deep. His great-great-grandparents Max and Jenny Fisher left Eastern Europe in the 1890s and sought an opportunity in the United States of America. They eventually settled in Kalamazoo, where Max's work as a peddler went on to become a three-generation family business of buying scrap metal and fabricating steel. They also founded their synagogue in Kalamazoo, which remains there today.

David's grandfather Martin Kalb first came to Michigan after enlisting in the Army, which stationed him at Fort Custer. He took an additional intensive language training program at the University of Michigan before deploying to Europe during World War II, where he served as an interpreter and a military police officer.

Martin's education started a long line of Wolverines in David's family. His grandmother Marcia was the first in her family to go to college, graduating with a degree in political science. David's parents Neal and Susan, who are up in the Galleries here today, met at the University of Michigan in 1970. And just 35 years later, David graduated with a political science degree as well.

Before becoming one of the longest serving members of my team, David got his start on Capitol Hill by working for two titans in Michigan's congressional delegation. David interned for venerable Congressman John Dingell and then served as a law clerk for Senator Carl Levin in his role as chairman of the powerful Subcommittee on Investigations.

In the 18 years that David has worked for me, I have been able to watch him grow from a recent law school graduate and junior campaign staffer to one of the longest serving staff directors in the U.S. Senate. Over the years, David has helped shape some of the most consequential policies that I have been privileged to work on as a legislative assistant and as a legislative director in both my House and Senate offices and, most recently, as staff director of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

During my tenure in the House, David helped create—and later expand—the State Small Business Credit Initiative which helped small businesses grow and create jobs.

He worked hand in hand with Senator Debbie Stabenow's team and across the aisle to deliver \$170 million to support the city of Flint during its water crisis.

(Mr. ARMSTRONG assumed the Chair.)

On the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, David has led an incredible team, supporting my work to make government more efficient and effective for the American people. With his help, I have been able to enact bipartisan bills into law that save taxpayer dollars, streamline Federal contracting, track and improve Federal Agency performance, modernize Federal cloud computing, and dozens more.

He and I share a mindset that Congress can't just focus on the problems right in front of us; that we also have to look ahead, look ahead to the challenges that we will be facing in the future.

David helped me steer the Cyber Incident Reporting for the Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022 across the finish line, passing what the Washington Post called "the most significant cyber legislation in history." Once this rule is finalized, it will help keep our critical infrastructure safe from dangerous cyber attacks and ransomware attacks.

He has also helped me look ahead and prepare for emerging threats by working to pass bipartisan legislation that strengthens the cyber security for State and local governments, secures our Federal supply chains, and improves our disaster preparedness, gives us the tools to defend against drone threats, and protects Americans' most sensitive genetic data.

He has also been instrumental in helping author cutting-edge legislation to prepare our Nation for emerging technologies. In 2017, he played a critical role in my efforts to craft bipartisan legislation—along with Senator THUNE—to help guide the safe deployment of self-driving cars.

Through that process, David and I both became equally steeped in artificial intelligence policy. And since then, he has helped me enact several bills to help drive the responsible adoption and use of AI by the Federal Government.

David also understands the vital role that congressional oversight plays in making our government accountable to the public. He played a vital role in bringing together our Republican partners for major investigations led by my committee, including the January 6 Capitol attack and the assassination attempt on President Donald Trump.

David has a keen—keen—understanding of exactly what it takes to be successful and be successful in moving bills or accomplish a goal in Congress. If there is a path of something getting in the way of being done, David will find it. Over the years, he has built incredibly strong relationships with fellow staffers on both sides of the aisle, which is how this place has to work. I watched him deftly handle markups on some of the most complicated legislation that this body considers.

Helping to keep both Democratic and Republican Senators together is absolutely important to advance critical bipartisan bills. He knows when a deal can be made to compromise on legislation without ever sacrificing core principles that drive my work on behalf of the people of Michigan. He is able to see around corners, identifying potential roadblocks and determining how to break through them in order to get things done.

David's ability to distill complex information to get to the heart of an issue and to find the right path forward have made him one of my most trusted