

quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026, 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 Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	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	Young
Ernst	Moody	

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	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Galleo	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hassan	Whitehouse	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BANKS and I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the scheduled recess.

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

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, I started my 46th executive year of holding meetings in each of Iowa's 99 counties. During the Q&A's in 13 southwest Iowa counties, we discussed the

need to lower prescription drug costs by reining in pharmacy benefit managers, PBMs for short. We also spoke about the Working Families Tax Cut Act, which puts more money back into Iowans' pockets. For the average Iowa household, that is \$2,063 of your hard-earned money back to you. I look forward to hearing directly from more Iowans throughout the year as I continue with all the meetings in each of our 99 counties.

On February the 3rd, President Trump signed into law the fiscal year 2026 funding package that included a very important priority of mine, legislation called Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act. This law is meant to simplify the process so that kids with complex medical needs can get the specialized healthcare that they need in a timely manner.

I would like to spend a few minutes explaining the importance of this new law and how we got to this point. Kids with complex medical needs often face redtape, face delays, and face frustrations when getting their specialized medical care.

The Federal Government defines kids with complex medical needs as having a life-limiting illness, a rare pediatric disease, or one or more chronic conditions that impact multiple organ systems and reduce cognitive or physical abilities.

This can be kids with cancer, cystic fibrosis, or congenital heart disease. These kids, on average, see 5 to 6 specialists and up to as many as 20 or 30 allied health professionals. You can see, managing these types of medical needs takes patience and help because parents are often overwhelmed at the scope of that care and overwhelmed how to navigate the system to get that care for their special needs kids.

The specialized medical care for kids with complex medical needs tends to come from only a few providers, and here is the rub: often out of State at a pediatric hospital.

This requires coordination with in-state and out-of-State providers and State Medicaid officials to allow this care to happen. The process to get care is difficult and full of redtape, delaying care that these kids desperately need and, in some cases, not receiving care at all.

To solve this problem, in 2018, I introduced the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care bill. Our aim was simplification of this redtape process. This law will give States the ability to use a streamlined screening and enrolling process for out-of-State specialized pediatric care providers that need to enroll in the State's Medicaid Program. We do this while also retaining safeguards to protect program integrity.

When I first started on this law in 2018 during the 115th Congress, we had eight bipartisan sponsors. In this, the 119th Congress, it garnered 46 bipartisan sponsors and became one of the most cosponsored Medicaid bills before the Finance Committee.

Over the past few years, we built support from well over 200 organizations dedicated to pediatric care. I also worked with my colleagues, including those on the Finance Committee, and I want to give a special shout-out to Chairman CRAPO of the Finance Committee for his partnership in getting this law passed.

The passage of the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act is a win for kids with complex medical needs and also very helpful to the families that care about their children.

It is a win for kids like Charlie, a brain tumor survivor who also spoke before the Finance Committee in 2023 about the importance of this legislation.

It is a win for kids like 3-year-old Edwens from Perry, IA, whose family travels out of State so he can receive pediatric gene therapy at the M Health Fairview Hospital in Minnesota. Only a few medical centers provide this kind of care in the country for Edwens' rare disease. There are many other kids whose lives will improve because of this law.

Another person I can think of when I talk about this law is the late Katie Beckett. Katie was from Cedar Rapids, IA. She was born in 1978, and at 5 months, she contracted a brain infection that required a ventilator to breathe.

After many years in the hospital, Katie was unable to leave because Medicaid rules didn't allow her to receive care outside of the hospital, even though it was possible for her to get care at home being with family and, of course, having this treatment at home be very cost effective to the taxpayer. In the early 1980s, President Reagan heard about Katie Beckett's story, and he removed redtape for Katie through a Medicaid waiver.

I had a colleague from Iowa in the House of Representatives at that time, Congressman Tom Tauke of Iowa, who was the main mover to get the President to grant this waiver, and I will never forget Tom Tauke's hard work in this area.

Since then, Katie Beckett waivers have resulted in more than a half a million disabled kids being able to receive care at homes with their families rather than being forced into hospitals and institutions.

This law also established the Family-to-Family Health Information Centers. Today, these centers in each State are helping families and their kids navigate the complex system of services and support. This is the kind of empowerment Washington ought to promote—public policy that illuminates opportunities instead of keeping people in the dark.

In my time in the Senate, we have seen medical advancements for kids with complex medical needs, and Congress has responded by giving these kids and their families the proper medical resources. One of these resources was the Family Opportunity law that

President Bush signed 20 years ago this very month. That law did several things. This, by the way, was a cooperation between this Senator from Iowa and then-Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts.

First, the legislation, the Family Opportunity Act, enabled middle-income families who have kids with disabilities to buy into Medicaid. It has helped families get the healthcare they need for their kids with disabilities without going into poverty. It was a pro-work, pro-family, and pro-taxpayer piece of legislation.

More recently in 2019, Congress passed my Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids law, or a law that goes by the short term of ACE Kids. ACE Kids better aligns Medicaid rules and payment to incentivize coordination of care. It does this by establishing a pediatric health home for kids with complex medical conditions.

Kids with complex medical conditions often see multiple doctors and dozens of healthcare professionals. You can see, that is a lot of care coordination that often doesn't happen, or it is left to the parents to figure out. ACE Kids fixes this and ensures care coordination happening.

While I am sure more work will need to be done, I want to recognize the hard work that went into the passage of the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care law and the importance of it—its bipartisanship, its backing by a couple hundred organizations that advocate for kids with special needs. Yet it is another step towards supporting the dignity of exceptional kids.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Indiana.

(The remarks of Mr. BANKS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3917 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BANKS. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:24 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BANKS).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON DELEEUW NOMINATION

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

Mr. TILLIS. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 41 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	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	Young
Ernst	Moody	

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	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Hassan	Whitehouse	

The nomination was confirmed.

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.

The Senator from Tennessee.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Executive Calendar No. 651, Ryan McCormack.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, new court documents that were made public last week revealed that nearly one in five—one in five—young teenagers have reported seeing "nudity and sexual images on Instagram" that they did not want to see. That is one in five—things that were just fed to them. They were not aware they were going

to see this pop up on their screen. That is what was reported. These are the kids that said: Hey, this is what has happened on my Instagram screen.

That is just one shocking fact that we have learned from a landmark trial that is taking place in California that is focused on how social media platforms are harming our Nation's children.

It is appalling what these companies have done. Yet when he testified last week, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg actually doubled down on his record of denial. While sitting just feet away from parents who have tragically lost their children due to social media harms, he said: We didn't do this—nothing to see.

And, once again, he asserted that there is no link between youth, social media use, and, worse, mental health outcomes.

But we know that this is not what the facts and the data and the research tell us. We also know it is not what parents and principals and teachers and pastors and pediatricians and psychologists are telling us. We also know it is not what the kids are telling us.

We know that Meta has buried their child safety research because it didn't fit their narrative. They didn't like the results. They did not want to admit that the product that they are pushing is something that is harming kids. We learned that last year. We learned from brave whistleblowers who testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law that Meta knows what is going on, but they tried to hide it.

The whistleblowers have alleged that there is a toxic culture at Meta, starting at the top with Zuckerberg and the C-suite, and that they have encouraged a coverup and a denial of what their own research is telling them.

Years ago, internal reports showed that Meta downplayed the toxic impact of Instagram on teenage girls. To no one's surprise, Zuckerberg dodged questions last week about how Instagram can worsen anxiety, depression, body image issues, and eating disorder risks.

He claims that their platform does not allow people under the age of 13 to be on the platform. Yet internal Meta documents—their own documents—show that the company was building "social products"—using their term—"social products" that are targeting children as young as 6 years old. Let's start this addiction early.

Now, Meta promises that their Instagram "Teen Accounts" are going to protect kids online. Yet reports show that only 17 percent of their safety features work as advertised. You know, that is a failing rate, and Big Tech companies have proven that you cannot trust them to police themselves. They cannot be trusted to tell the truth about the way their products are affecting young users.

Well, what we have seen is that parents are indeed outraged. And they have the right to be outraged. These