

operate throughout the country. I thank this administration and Secretary Duffy for taking action to hold States accountable for their mistakes.

While some States look the other way, my home State of Mississippi has tried to rein in this abuse in the trucking industry. Mississippi has taken decisive action and, in just the last 3 months alone, has identified 85 illegal drivers and referred them to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The State of Mississippi does not issue nondomiciled licenses and strictly enforces English language proficiency testing to keep our roads safe. My State is doing its part, but States cannot do this alone. The Federal Government must close these loopholes and enforce the law.

As chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, I successfully included language in the fiscal year 2026 bill and report that builds upon the President's Executive order to strengthen English proficiency requirements for commercial drivers.

I am also a proud cosponsor of Senator MARSHALL's Commercial Motor Vehicle English Proficiency Act to ensure all applicants for CDLs must pass the English proficiency test in English and not in any other language.

This commonsense measure would help guarantee that all truckdrivers can read traffic signs, communicate with law enforcement, and understand directions clearly and safely.

In addition, I cosponsored Senator MOODY's Safer Truckers Act, which restricts the issuance of CDLs to only U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals who are authorized for employment by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration services.

These are commonsense reforms to restore integrity, accountability, and safety to our highways. At the same time, I commend the Trump administration for taking action on this front, particularly Secretary Noem and law enforcement officials who recently carried out Operation Midway Blitz.

This enforcement action led to the arrest of 223 illegal aliens, 146 of whom were truckdrivers. And just a few weeks ago, ICE announced the arrest of a man from Uzbekistan with a Pennsylvania CDL who was allowed in our country by the Biden administration even though he was wanted by the Government of Uzbekistan because of his links to a terrorist organization.

Needless to say, seeing ICE and State law enforcement come together to make America's roads safer is a step in the right direction. Republicans in the Senate and this administration remain committed to protecting American lives and keeping our roads safe. One key to do that is to ensure CDL holders are here legally and are proficient in the English language and can actually read road signs.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RELATING TO "COASTAL PLAIN OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM RECORD OF DECISION"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 131, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 131

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 632 Leg.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Bennet	Blunt Rochester
Baldwin	Blumenthal	Booker

Cantwell	Kaine	Rosen
Collins	Kelly	Sanders
Coons	Kim	Schatz
Cortez Masto	King	Schumer
Duckworth	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Durbin	Lujan	Smith
Fetterman	Markley	Van Hollen
Gallego	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Murray	Warnock
Hassan	Ossoff	Warren
Heinrich	Padilla	Welch
Hickenlooper	Peters	Whitehouse
Hirono	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—6

Graham	Murphy	Shaheen
Moran	Schiff	Tuberville

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 131) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

MEASURE INDEFINITELY POSTPONED—S.J. Res. 91

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, S.J. Res. 91 is indefinitely postponed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator, please state your inquiry.

Mr. BENNET. The precedent of September 11, 2025, that established a majority threshold vote for cloture on an executive resolution that provided for the en bloc consideration of nominations excluded nominations at level 1 of the Executive Schedule under 5 U.S.C. 5312 or article III judges. Is that correct, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. BENNET. I am sorry to say, this slate of nominations in S. Res. 520 includes Calendar No. 476, Sara Bailey, of Texas, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy. That position is among those listed in 5 U.S.C. 5312. Therefore, the threshold for cloture on this vote would be three-fifths of those duly chosen and sworn. Is that correct, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. BENNET. I object.

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

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 senior assistant executive 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 Executive Calendar No. 3, S. Res. 520, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Pete Ricketts, Roger F. Wicker, Steve Daines, Todd Young, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bernie Moreno, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Marsha Blackburn, Tom Cotton, David McCormick, 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 S. Res. 520, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 633 Ex.]

YEAS—43

Barrasso	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Curtis	Johnson
Boozman	Daines	Justice
Britt	Ernst	Kennedy
Budd	Fischer	Lankford
Capito	Grassley	Lee
Collins	Hagerty	Lummis
Cornyn	Hawley	Marshall
Cotton	Hoeven	Moreno
Cramer	Husted	Mullin

Murkowski
Paul
Ricketts
Risch
Rounds

Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Sheehy
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Wicker
Young

NAYS—37

Alsobrooks
Baldwin
Bennet
Blunt Rochester
Booker
Cantwell
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Fetterman
Gillibrand
Hassan

Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Kim
Klobuchar
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murray
Padilla
Peters
Reed

Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—20

Banks
Blumenthal
Cassidy
Cruz
Gallego
Graham
Kelly

King
McConnell
McCormick
Moody
Moran
Murphy
Ossoff

Sanders
Schiff
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Slotkin
Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 37. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Susan Courtwright Rodriguez, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

VOTE ON RODRIGUEZ NOMINATION

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

Mr. TILLIS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 57, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 634 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Banks
Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Britt
Budd
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cotton
Cramer
Cruz
Curtis
Durbin
Ernst
Fischer

Gallego
Grassley
Hagerty
Hassan
Hawley
Hirono
Hoeven
Husted
Johnson
Justice
Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell

McCormick
Moreno
Mullin
Murkowski
Paul
Reed
Ricketts
Risch
Rosen
Rounds
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sheehy
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Wicker
Young

NAYS—32

Alsobrooks
Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt Rochester
Booker
Cantwell
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Fetterman
Gillibrand

Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Kim
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Sanders

Schatz
Schumer
Slotkin
Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Wyden

NOT VOTING—11

Daines
Graham
Hyde-Smith
Kennedy

Moody
Moran
Murphy
Schiff

Shaheen
Tuberville
Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). 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 Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we have a little over 2 weeks before the Christmas recess, and we still have a lot of work to do here in the U.S. Senate, including passing a fully conferenced National Defense Authorization Act bill—by that, I mean reconcile the differences between the House version and the Senate version and get it to the President for his signature. There are many different players across both the House and the Senate, and they have to come together to make this happen.

Of course, we all have different priorities, but our main priority ought to be the welfare and the training and the equipment of our men and women in the military and their ability to protect all of us. But we can't forget about the real-world consequences of the