

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT

DR. ROBERT CALIFF—NOMINEE FOR COMMISSIONER OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The following 124 organizations have submitted letters in support of Dr. Califf's nomination to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions. The list does not include press releases or other statements of support that were not submitted to the Committee.

Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure, Accelerated Cure Project for Multiple Sclerosis, Action to Cure Kidney Cancer (ACKC), Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute, Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation, Alliance for Aging Research, Alliance for Lupus Research, Alpha-1 Foundation, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American College of Cardiology (ACC), American Heart Association, American Sleep Apnea Association, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), American Statistical Association, Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI), Association of American Medical Colleges.

BCM Families Foundation, Bert's Big Adventure, Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation, C-Change, Cancer Research Institute, Cancer Support Community, CancerCare, Celiac Disease Foundation, Center for Medical Technology Policy, CEO Roundtable on Cancer, Chase After a Cure, Childhood Cancer Guides, Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy, Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy, Clinical Research Forum, Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups, COPD Foundation, Cure AHC, Cure SMA, CureHHT, Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation, DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation, Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, Dysautonomia International, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG), EveryLife Foundation.

Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE), FasterCures, a center of the Milken Institute, FH Foundation, Fight Colorectal Cancer, Foundation Fighting Blindness, Foundation for Mitochondrial Medicine, Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance, Friends of Cancer Research, Gastroparesis Patient Association for Cures and Treatments, Genetic Alliance, Geoffrey Beene Foundation, Glaucoma Research Foundation, Grandparents In Action, Heart Failure Society of America, Healthcare Leadership Council, Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, Hepatitis Foundation International, Institute for Clinical Bioethics, Institute of Catholic Bioethics, International Myeloma Foundation, JDRF, Kids v. Cancer, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Lung Cancer Alliance, LUNGevity Foundation, Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Lupus Research Institute, LymeDisease.org, Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance.

Martin Truex Jr. Foundation, Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation, Melanoma Research Alliance, Men's Health Network, MLD Foundation, MPN Research Foundation, Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), National Alopecia Areata Foundation, National Brain Tumor Society, National Health Council, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Organization for

Rare Disorders (NORD), National Patient Advocate Foundation, National PKU Alliance, NCCS, New England Journal of Medicine, New York Stem Cell Foundation, Oncology Nursing Society, Oncology Nursing Society (ONS), Pac2, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy.

Pediatric Congenital Heart Association, Personalized Medicine Coalition, PFO Research Foundation, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation, Prevent Cancer Foundation, Progeria Research Foundation, Prostate Cancer Foundation, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association, Research!America, Rett Syndrome Research Trust, Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation, Society of Women's Health Research, Solving Kids' Cancer, Sophia's Fund, St. Baldrick's Foundation, Stand Up To Cancer, T1D Exchange, The ALS Association, The diaTribe Foundation, The Hide and Seek Foundation, The Nicholas Connor Institute, The Swifty Foundation, USAgainstAlzheimer's, Wake Up Narcolepsy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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 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 Robert McKinnon Califf, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Bill Cassidy, Chuck Grassley, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Richard Burr, Tim Scott, Orrin G. Hatch, Michael B. Enzi, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, Cory Gardner, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt.

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 Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 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. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Da-

kota (Ms. HEITKAMP), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 24 Ex.]

YEAS—80

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Alexander | Fischer | Murray |
| Baldwin | Franken | Paul |
| Barrasso | Gardner | Perdue |
| Bennet | Gillibrand | Peters |
| Boozman | Graham | Reed |
| Boxer | Grassley | Reid |
| Brown | Hatch | Risch |
| Burr | Heinrich | Roberts |
| Cantwell | Hirono | Rounds |
| Capito | Inhofe | Sasse |
| Cardin | Isakson | Schatz |
| Carper | Johnson | Schumer |
| Cassidy | Kaine | Scott |
| Coats | King | Sessions |
| Cochran | Kirk | Shaheen |
| Collins | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Coons | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Corker | Leahy | Tester |
| Cornyn | Lee | Thune |
| Cotton | McCain | Tillis |
| Crapo | McConnell | Tillis |
| Daines | Menendez | Udall |
| Donnelly | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Mikulski | Warren |
| Enzi | Moran | Whitehouse |
| Ernst | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Feinstein | Murphy | Wyden |

NAYS—6

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------|
| Ayotte | Manchin | Nelson |
| Blumenthal | Markey | Portman |

NOT VOTING—14

| | | |
|--------|-----------|---------|
| Blunt | Heitkamp | Sanders |
| Booker | Heller | Shelby |
| Casey | Hoeben | Toomey |
| Cruz | McCaskill | Vitter |
| Flake | Rubio | |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 80, the nays are 6.

The motion is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of South Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

(The remarks of Mr. NELSON pertaining to the introduction of S. 2558 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

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

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I recently joined my good friend from

Iowa, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, in writing an opinion piece. We expressed our joint view that the death of Justice Scalia represented a significant loss for our country and that while finding the right person to take the seat he occupied will clearly be a monumental task, it is one we think the American people are more than well equipped to handle. Some disagree and would rather the Senate simply rush through yet another lifetime appointment for a President who is on his way out the door.

Of course, it is within the President's authority to nominate a successor even in this very rare circumstance. Remember, the Senate has not filled a vacancy arising in an election year when there was a divided government since 1888—almost 130 years ago. But we also know that article II, section 2 of the Constitution grants the Senate the right to withhold its consent as it deems necessary.

It is clear that concern over confirming Supreme Court nominations made near the end of a Presidential term is not new. Given that we are in the midst of the Presidential election process, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and I believe that today it is the American people who are best positioned to help make this important decision rather than a lameduck President whose priorities and policies they just rejected in the most recent national election.

MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for today's vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services. I would have voted nay.●

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to the nomination of Dr. Mary Wakefield to the position of HHS Deputy Secretary.

The reason for my objection is the following: Last summer, separate inquiries from Chairman JOHNSON and myself and from Senators ERNST and BLUNT were sent to HHS regarding fetal tissue harvesting practices of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, an HHS grant recipient. Response to the letters did not fully answer the questions raised and, furthermore, raised additional concerns. Follow-up inquiries to HHS also failed to address some of the questions.

Today I sent a followup letter to Secretary Burwell in order to determine whether any audits of the fetal tissue programs have ever been undertaken.

REMEMBERING DAVID HURD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor David Hurd on his passing.

David was 86 years old, but his family and friends would tell you he packed much more into his years than even his long life would suggest.

He was a prominent businessman, chief executive officer of the Principal Financial Group from 1989 to 1994, and a member of the Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

He is credited with helping to build Principal into the global powerhouse company it is today.

David also was a well-regarded civic leader.

He wasn't a native Iowan, but Des Moines became his home in 1954 when he came to work for what was then Banker's Life, now Principal Financial.

Having lived in Des Moines for so many years, he became an advocate and an activist for making Des Moines an attractive place to live and work.

Des Moines is a thriving city today, and David did a lot to contribute to its success.

It was fitting that his longtime home was a high-rise building downtown, right in the middle of everything, where he could enjoy the benefits of city living and watch Des Moines change in so many positive ways.

David also held many hobbies and interests in diverse areas: running, patronizing the arts, playing Scrabble, rowing, protecting the environment, and more.

He made friends across these many fields who were united in their regard for his zest for life, sense of humor, and intellectual curiosity.

The phrase "renaissance man" is sometimes overused, but in David Hurd's case, it is 100-percent accurate.

Des Moines and the State of Iowa are richer for having had this renaissance man in our midst.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING VICTOR L. CAMPBELL

• Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, it is my honor today to congratulate Victor L. Campbell on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Federation of American Hospitals.

Mr. Campbell has devoted 44 years of service to the Nation's health care delivery system and the patients it serves. He has represented the hospital community with distinction and has earned the great respect of his colleagues as a voice of wisdom.

He has played a role in shaping Federal health care policy for decades. Mr. Campbell is a three-time chairman and longtime board member of the Federation of American Hospitals. He has also served on the board of the American Hospital Association.

Mr. Campbell's commitment and tireless leadership has led to the cre-

ation of positive legislative solutions designed to strengthen and improve our Nation's health care infrastructure. He has also developed numerous collaborative initiatives between hospitals and the communities which they serve.

As a longtime resident of Nashville, in my home State of Tennessee, Mr. Campbell is also active in various community organizations, which promote innovation, education, and charitable activities.

Mr. Campbell, through force of personality, geniality, and dedication, has worked relentlessly to promote market-based, creative approaches to health care delivery which have made difference in the lives of countless patients at community hospitals across our Nation.

I sincerely congratulate Mr. Campbell on earning this distinguished award and wish him well.●

RECOGNIZING MAINE STITCHING SPECIALTIES

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the success of Maine Stitching Specialties, a fast-growing company that is quickly establishing itself as an important business in the Skowhegan manufacturing community. During the first week of March, Maine Stitching Specialties' founders, Bill and Julie Swain, will celebrate a major step forward in the expansion of their company as they team up with Wal-Mart to sell their premium textile goods. The company will commemorate this milestone with a ceremonial loading of the first truck and a celebratory farewell as the first shipment of goods departs to be sold at Wal-Mart stores.

Bill and Julie Swain founded their pet products company, Dogs Not Gone, 8 years ago, and since then, their business has expanded to employ 22 people at their new Maine Stitching Specialties manufacturing facility. Their successful expansion 15 months ago set Bill and Julie apart from their competition, and today their company is one of the largest in Skowhegan.

Maine Stitching Specialties' commitment to local manufacturing and high-quality products has garnered respect from numerous mainstream retail stores. In recent years, Bill and Julie have had the opportunity to sell their products to well-established companies like L.L. Bean and now Wal-Mart. Their reputation for manufacturing durable products and their commitment to the traditions and spirit of our State will ensure that Maine Stitching Specialties continues to grow and prosper.

Bill and Julie represent a strong community of small business owners who are devoted to boosting our State's economy and creating jobs in local communities. Manufacturing is at the heart of industry in Maine, and the success of hard-working people like Bill and Julie helps our State remain economically competitive.