

McCabe, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 54, Janet Garvin McCabe, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Cory A. Booker, Martin Heinrich, Chris Van Hollen, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Bernard Sanders, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

Mr. SCHUMER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 68.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 68, Colin Hackett Kahl, of California, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Cory A. Booker, Sherrod Brown, Ber-

nard Sanders, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 58.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 Executive Calendar No. 58, Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Cory A. Booker, Chris Van Hollen, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Bernard Sanders, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

DRINKING WATER AND WASTE-WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2021—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S. 914.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S. 914, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control

Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S. 914, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Thomas R. Carper, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Michael F. Bennet, Amy Klobuchar, Mazie Hirono, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, April 22, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about the rise in hate crimes in the Pacific Northwest and to thank my colleague the Senator from Hawaii for her tremendous leadership in guiding us through this process to get this legislation passed in the U.S. Senate.

I want to thank her for her incredible work as a member of the Judiciary Committee and for getting this out and moved to the floor and to thank Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL for both helping us to get to this point today and our colleagues for passing this incredible legislation. But, again, thanks to Senator HIRONO for knowing—knowing and understanding and being a great member of the Judiciary Committee—that we needed to get this legislation done now.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a long history in our country. And their contributions have been significant, both in cultural vibrancy to our economy and to our way of life.

But, unfortunately, that has also been marked by periods in our history of hate and damaging stereotypes and xenophobia, and we saw this again with COVID-19. That is why we needed to act today, to pass hate crimes legislation to protect Asian Americans in the United States of America and to make sure that they have tools to protect them.

Our AAPI communities are facing the same challenges we face in the pandemic. And trust me, we have lost

some incredible Asian Americans, who ran markets, who ran restaurants, who were small business leaders and continued to work during this crisis and ultimately paid the price with their lives. But they also, in addition to facing the pandemic, have had to face a range of hate and racism against them during this time period.

According to Stop AAPI Hate, nearly 3,800 incidents of violence and hate against AAPI individuals were reported nationwide over a year since the pandemic. And sadly—sadly—women made up over half of this. Nearly 68 percent of the reported incidents of violence against Asian Americans were against Asian-American women. This must stop.

And it is very important that we think about how a fraction of these statistics that are the reported information—how many more are out there that go unreported.

My State, the State of Washington, has the seventh largest Asian-American population and the third largest Pacific Islander population in the Nation. And like the rest of the United States, we have seen an increase in these incidents.

In fact, in 2020, the State had the third highest rate of hate crimes targeted against AAPI community members. That is why I am for getting a full slate of people over at the Department of Justice, including Kristen Clarke, to deal with hate crimes. Why? Because my State is plagued by these issues, and we are not going to tolerate it. We are going to fight back and make sure that we have the infrastructure in place to recognize these things.

Just this past February, a teacher driving in the Seattle International District was assaulted with a sock containing a rock. The attacker was charged with felony assault but not a hate crime.

We have been told that there are widespread reports of AAPI elders and women throughout Western Washington who have been verbally harassed and randomly physically assaulted. The King County Coalition Against Hate and Bias is collecting information about these attacks. But we know that there have been many throughout many communities in our State.

Just a few months ago, a woman in King County and her two children were accosted with a man yelling, screaming at them just to get out—“Get out! Get out!” And a man was captured on video in downtown Seattle attacking an Asian couple, spitting on them, slapping the man’s face, and yelling at them: “It’s your fault.” So we know these incidents are happening.

In fact, just a week or so ago, I participated in a roundtable of the Asian American-Pacific Islander community from my State to talk about the need for this national legislation and why it is so important we have community-based solutions, which include more cultural education to teach our chil-

dren the history of the Asian-American community in the United States, mental health support in multiple languages, investing in community groups, and this legislation that was passed today that will give us better tools to prosecute those individuals who participate in hate crimes.

This bill would designate a point person within the U.S. Department of Justice to expedite the review of hate crimes and continue to work with all of us.

It requires the Attorney General to issue guidance to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement to establish an online hate crime reporting and data collection system. These are all important tools.

So I, again, want to thank our colleagues, and I want to also thank Senator BLUMENTHAL. His bipartisan amendment would authorize the Attorney General to provide grants to States and localities to better train law enforcement on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes and to operate State-run hate crime reporting hotlines.

So this legislation will help us in shining a very bright light on an alarming rise in violence against the Asian American-Pacific Islander community and help us with new tools to combat that crime.

I, again, thank my colleagues. We all must work together to stop this kind of violence.

I thank the President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to join my colleague Senator CANTWELL in congratulating Senator HIRONO and all of us for almost unanimously passing this bill that would try to stop discrimination against Asian Americans. I am happy that passed. There was only one vote against it.

I just don’t think it goes far enough. I think it is ludicrous, it is odious to me, that in the year 2021, we have major universities in the United States of America that are setting quotas on their admissions for Asian Americans—not quotas to have enough Asian Americans, quotas to keep Asian Americans out. They are, and everybody in this body knows they are doing that.

Harvard is in litigation over it. Harvard officials have already stated that but for their quotas, there would be twice as many Asian Americans at Harvard as there are now if they base the decision solely on academic achievement. And that is wrong.

There is no way to discriminate in the right way. Discrimination is discrimination. Judge people on the basis of their academic achievements.

President Biden has talked an awful lot about the error of discriminating against Asian Americans, and he is absolutely right. What is the first thing he did? He pulled his Justice Department off of filing litigation to try to stop these quotas on Asian Americans

and universities. I mean, if there weren’t double standards around here, there would be no standards at all.

So I strongly encourage—Senator CRUZ and I offered an amendment to Senator HIRONO’s bill to try to fix this. Unfortunately, we couldn’t get 60 votes. In fact, I don’t think a single—maybe I am wrong in saying this, but not very many of my Democratic friends voted for it.

But I would say to President Biden, now, if you are serious about ending discrimination against Asian Americans, tell your Justice Department to get off its ice cold, lazy rear end and do something about it. Stop the quotas in higher education.

Anyway, that is not, really, what I came up to talk about.

DISPOSE UNUSED MEDICATIONS AND PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, you are aware, as we all are, of the scourge of opioid abuse in this country. It is horrible. It is terrible. We sometimes lose as many as 50,000 of our people a year.

And as you also know, many people who become addicted to opioids don’t necessarily buy the opioids on the street. They get the opioids from family and friends. So one of the best things you can do to try to stop the scourge of opioid abuse is to clear out your medicine cabinet so that people aren’t tempted to use the drugs. Turn them in, if they have been prescribed to you, and you don’t need them any longer.

To make this easier, our DEA, as you know, Mr. President, holds pretty regularly what we call Take Back Days. On a Take Back Day, any person can go into his or her medicine cabinet, find drugs, including opioids, that they are not using anymore, that could be dangerous if abused, and they can take those unused medications and drop them off at a previously announced DEA drop site.

Take Back Day is this Saturday, April 24. I want to encourage all Americans and Louisianans to do this. Go through your medicine cabinet. If you have opioids that have been prescribed to you—legally, of course—and you don’t need them any longer, don’t just leave them hanging around. Turn them in, please.

But not every day is Take Back Day, and last year Congress, in its wisdom, passed a law, a very good law, instructing the Department of Veterans Affairs to ask—well, actually to require—VA medical centers to have these drop boxes permanently so that American veterans can throw away medications, including but not limited to opioids, that they don’t need. And it has worked out really well.

The question that occurred to me after we passed the bill was why limit that kind of access only to our veterans. So I have a bill to basically open up the Veterans Administration drop