

Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 64, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 346 Ex.]

#### YEAS—64

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Rubio
Butler	Kennedy	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Cassidy	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	McConnell	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Mullin	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Fetterman	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

#### NAYS—22

Blackburn	Ernst	Schmitt
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Britt	Lankford	Sullivan
Budd	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	Paul	
Cruz	Ricketts	

#### NOT VOTING—14

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blumenthal	Hagerty	Sanders
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Tuberville
Cramer	Johnson	Welch
Daines	Lummis	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). 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 Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1147

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today I rise to ask unanimous consent that the Senate pass H.R. 1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

But before I start talking, I just want to take a quick drink of this superdelicious milk.

Here is to the dairy farmers of Kansas and across the entire country.

Now, a fun fact: Besides water, milk is the only beverage allowed here on the Senate floor. And, as you all know, milk is the most delicious, most nutritious wholesome drink known to humankind. There is nothing that has ever been made anything like it.

Now, milk is pretty special to me, and you might ask why. And it is pretty simple.

My dad grew up on a dairy, where they milked Holstein cows every morn-

ing, every day of the year, 365 days a year. And I remember, all the way through high school, my grandma still milking cows.

When your grandma milks cows, you get to have milk for breakfast, for lunch, for supper. Even in school, we got to have milk and a little snack at 10 a.m., and I was one of the lucky kids who got two cartons of milk every lunch.

And I just learned—I didn't know this. I just assumed that this is what everyone was doing—that if you didn't leave whole milk out for Santa Claus, then he wouldn't leave you presents.

Now, whole milk helps to keep growing kids and adults healthy and strong because it has 13 essential nutrients packed into one drink. And because of the fat content, specifically in whole milk, it promotes the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K.

Now, as an obstetrician, I can't stress enough the importance of drinking whole milk during pregnancy. It helps you have healthy babies. It helps with breastfeeding. It helps us all to grow strong bones.

Now, science has also shown that milk consumption provides additional positive health outcomes. It lowers blood pressure. It reduces risk of cardiovascular disease and reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes.

As medical costs skyrocket and the obesity epidemic worsens, I rise today to set the record straight: Milk is part of the solution; it is not part of the problem.

Now, many fingers have been pointed at the dairy industry, and millions of lobbying dollars have been invested in making lawmakers believe that milk is the enemy. Anti-dairy policies have resulted in decreased milk consumption and, ironically, in an increase in negative health outcomes.

In fact, the most recent "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" cites calcium, potassium, and vitamin D as three of the top four underconsumed nutrients that Americans are deficient in. Well, guess what is rich in those same nutrients? Well, of course, it is milk. All of those deficiencies can be resolved with an increase in milk consumption, and that is why I recommend at least a glass of whole milk every day.

No other food or drink has the ability to pack that kind of nutritional punch—none. But, sadly, over a decade ago, this misinformed Chamber voted to remove whole milk from our Nation's schools, and now we are facing the consequences. Because we are not encouraging our children to drink milk, we have a generation of young men and women who are going to have osteopenia and osteoporosis 10 to 15 years earlier than their predecessors.

Now, let me reiterate: Preventable diseases will occur more frequently as a consequence of a Federal Government overreaction that is based on obsolete research—research which corrects modern nutritional science and discourages healthy eating habits for children.

Today, we can right this wrong and bring back nutritious whole milk to our children's lunchtime. Let's bring back this tasty and nutritious option.

Whole milk has a litany of health benefits to offer our children. And did I mention that it tastes great? The benefits of whole milk can't be overlooked and certainly not substituted with skim milk or 1 percent, and certainly not by artificially flavored milk that is loaded with empty calories.

Bringing more healthy options back to school cafeterias is a slam dunk for American families, and delivering this to the President's desk before Christmas would help promote the consumption of healthy fats that help kids grow physically and cognitively. It supports American farmers and ranchers and promotes a brighter, stronger future for us all.

Milk—it is what is for lunch.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1147, which was received from the House and is at the desk; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Ms. STABENOW. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first of all, my friend and colleague, esteemed member of our Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee is making me hungry. I am thinking about growing up with cookies and milk.

I grew up with dairy farmers in my family. So I am certainly a supporter of milk and the dairy industry, certainly in Michigan as well. And this is a really important conversation today to have and to continue to have.

I fully support healthy options for students. Dairy is a very important part of a balanced meal. But one thing is clear, and that is that school meal standards, currently based on dietary science, should continue to be based on dietary science, not based on which individual food products we support or are in our States.

USDA is in the process, right now, of updating school meal standards. It is important that the administration rely on the latest dietary science to make decisions about what is best for our children to eat and to drink. Intervening in that process creates, I think, a very unfortunate precedent and will lead to other ideas and options that may be coming forward about individual products.

So I encourage groups to be reaching out to the USDA and to engage in the process of updating meal standards. But, at this point in time, I do not believe it is in the best interest to be able to move forward on this bill. So I object to this UC request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection has been heard.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO ZACH MCCUE

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today for a moment of reflection about an extraordinary person, and I would like permission to give Zach McCue permission to sit next to me while I give these remarks that will most certainly embarrass him tremendously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you very, very much, Mr. President. Thank you very much for the fist pump, Mr. President. I know that you have a lot of appreciation and love for New Jersey, so this is really a New Jersey moment. So thank you, sir.

I rise today with an extraordinary amount of joy but sadness, an extraordinary amount of pride but a sense of loss because today I get a chance to say a few words about my very embarrassed, longtime friend, member of my staff, Zach McCue.

Now, Zach has been a member of my staff my entire time in the U.S. Senate. In fact, he predated me in this office because Zach worked for my predecessor, Senator Frank Lautenberg. So he has served in this institution and has served the people of New Jersey for 12 years.

But now he is moving out to new gardens within the Garden State. Zach has a title in my office. He is the deputy State director, but the truth of the matter is, that title does little justice to the grand import and enormous impact of this incredible young man.

Zach, I believe, is one of those people who is an unsung hero, who makes Congress work and, in so many ways, has made indelible contributions to New Jersey. If the highest calling of our country is service to it, then Zach is someone who embodies that ideal of public service and patriotism.

He has worked tirelessly. He has worked indefatigably. He has worked relentlessly in service of our State. I know he works around the clock because occasionally I disturb him at some late hours.

But the truth of the matter is, as hard as he works, he works away from the limelight, not capturing headlines, not sucking oxygen out of rooms but, in so many ways, making the difference that New Jerseyans feel.

I have seen him and how he deals with people. In a time when so many people don't feel like they are seen or appreciated, he is somebody who embodies empathy and has an extraordinary ability to connect with others,

to allow them to feel like they matter, to feel heard, and to so often have their issues addressed.

And more than just being someone who is extraordinary with people, he has a pretty incredible mind to grasp complicated policy. He is a bit of a wonk. He has a flash of the nerdiness in him. But that knowledge, that acumen, that policy expertise, he has put to work on behalf of New Jerseyans.

Now, I know that infrastructure is not the sexiest issue in America, but for New Jerseyans, it is vital. Over 700,000 people commute just to New York, and that doesn't include those who commute into Philly as well. And infrastructure in our State is critical, and this has been one of Zach's primary areas of focus. He has had extraordinary drive and focus that has helped to advance so much critical infrastructure work in our State.

And more than this, his mastery of knowledge of other issues of import to New Jerseyans, from environmental justice to social justice, has made him such a powerful force in our State and, indeed, he has made me a better U.S. Senator.

Zach is a Jersey boy. I think if there were a Mount Rushmore of New Jersey, he might be eligible to stand up upon that pantheon of some of the great Jerseyans like Bruce and Bon Jovi. He is a rock star, at least in our office, and a guy that grew up in Jersey. He grew up in Rumson, and he has raised his family with his incredibly indulgent wife Meg in Cranford.

Zach joined Lautenberg's office early, right after graduating from Penn State, which is sort of a Western Jersey college. And after 2 years with Senator Lautenberg, including a stint actually as his driver—and I hear that he was OK as a driver—Zach joined an environmental nonprofit in New Jersey focusing on environmental issues, where he worked on the issues that he still holds dear, things like protecting our coastal and marine resources and leaving behind a cleaner and healthier New Jersey environment for generations.

And then, in 2014, he joined my office and, as a new Senator, as a junior Senator, he grew with my office and helped to lead our office to being the success we are today.

He continues to lead on our team on issues he knows so well, from environmental issues so that we can make sure that we deal with the threat of climate change head-on; transportation and infrastructure, moving critical programs that, but for him, would not be seeing the kind of success we see today, like the Gateway project moving forward; and overall improvements to consumer safety and to reliability and so much more.

During the earliest and darkest days of the COVID pandemic, when our team was working overtime to help constituents in need and doing Zoom call after Zoom call, working early in the morning to late at night, I got to see Zach's

leadership in this dark time shine like a North Star.

No. 1, he helped to hold our office together amongst the strain and the challenges that were on each and every one of us. He helped us to stay focused on our purpose. He brought humor and groundedness to the work. And every day, he rose with that heroic compassion and empathy for the challenges that New Jerseyans were facing.

Look, this is an extraordinary institution, and very famous people have sat in the seats here since 1859. But the truth of this institution that doesn't get told often enough is that, for every great Senator, there are usually greater staff people who empower them in the mission.

I have served in this institution for a decade, and I say, with no false modesty but just the truth, that I have been the Senator I am today because of the leadership that Zach has brought to my team each and every day.

We have a calling here as Senators in this deliberative body, and that is to be of service, that is to rise to challenges, and that is to give dignity to the office and to be there for people.

This office has been successful over these 10 years because of Zach. I am grateful to him. I am grateful to his family who raised him. I am grateful for his spouse and his children who have supported and loved him through his service. And most of all, I know that even though New Jerseyans don't know his name up and down our State, I know that our State is profoundly grateful.

As Zach prepares to leave our office, the good news is, he may be leaving the employ of the U.S. Senate, but he is not leaving the service of our State. He is going on to another public service job.

I and my team wish him the best of luck. Once you are a part of the Booker team, you are always part of the Booker team.

But what excites me most is that Zach is a young guy with a heart full of love and a soul driven by commitment to country and to people. And so as great as his service was to us, I suspect that he still has some extraordinary great days ahead of him.

And so it is with a lot of sadness but a lot of gratitude, it is with a lot of pride but a lot of just missing him already, I say from the Senate floor into the Senate RECORD, a hearty, hearty thank-you to my friend, to my team leader, and to a great American, Zach McCue. Thank you.

No applause from the Gallery, please. That is against Senate regulation. Thank you very much.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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