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No. 62

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, April 10, 2024)

The Senate met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our powerful deliverer, we trust in You for protection, for You save us from those who shoot from the shadows. You keep the faithful from vanishing from our planet, providing a refuge for the oppressed and a shelter when gloating evil seems to have the upper hand.

Today, use our lawmakers to help bring unity to a divided Nation and peace to a war-torn world. May our Senators make their positive impact by living blameless lives, speaking the truth, keeping their promises, and honoring You in their thoughts, words, and deeds.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROHIBITING THE USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT, ADMINISTER, OR ENFORCE CERTAIN RULES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 350, S. 4072, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. CARDIN. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 478, and 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Coons	King
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Duckworth	Lujan
Booker	Durbin	Manchin
Brown	Fetterman	Markey
Butler	Gillibrand	Merkley
Cantwell	Hassan	Murphy
Cardin	Heinrich	Murray
Carper	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Casey	Kaine	Padilla
Collins	Kelly	Peters

Reed
Rosen
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema

Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock

Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Braun
Budd
Capito
Cassidy
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer
Graham
Grassley

Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Mullin
Paul
Ricketts

Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Tuberville
Vance
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—7

Britt
Cornyn
Cramer

Hirono
Menendez
Murkowski
Sanders

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S2715

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 478, Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF RYAN CORBETT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 638 submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 638) calling for the immediate release of Ryan Corbett, a United States citizen who was wrongfully detained by the Taliban on August 10, 2022, and condemning the wrongful detention of Americans by the Taliban.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 638), was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (Legislative Day of April 10, 2024) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, I am very proud that the Senate just passed Leader McConnell's and my resolution calling for Ryan Corbett's immediate and unconditional release.

By passing this resolution today, the Senate sends a resounding message that it is time to bring Ryan home. This weekend is Ryan's birthday. We are all thinking about him because it has now been 609 days since Ryan, a New York native, was unjustly detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan during a routine business trip.

I met with Ryan's beautiful family this week, and I told them the Senate is standing with them and has their back. I promised them that as long as Ryan is held by the Taliban, I will never stop fighting to bring him back home and unite him with Anna, his children, and his family as quickly as possible.

Again, I thank Leader McConnell for joining me in this legislation.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a few other matters. This morning Prime Minister Kishida Fumio became only the second Japanese Prime Minister to ever formally address a joint meeting of the Congress.

The best way the House can heed Prime Minister Kishida's words is to pass the national security supplemental as soon as possible, to approve defense funding, not just for Ukraine, but also for the Indo-Pacific.

If we want to protect against the Chinese Communist Party endangering Taiwan, the House should quit stalling and pass the supplemental. If we want to prevent handing Putin a victory in Europe, the House should do the right thing for democracy and pass the Senate's aid package now.

GUN SAFETY

Mr. President, on another matter, today is a big day for America for commonsense gun safety reform.

This morning, the Biden administration announced a rule expanding background checks and closing loopholes for online sales at gun shows, a direct result of the bipartisan gun safety law passed 2 years ago.

This gun safety announcement has been decades in coming. It is the first significant expansion of background checks since I led passage of the Brady Bill way back in 1993. Today's announcement expanding background checks shows change is possible when both sides work together, even if progress is hard and halting. After all, a few years ago, this announcement would have been unimaginable.

Because Democrats and Republicans both, together, cast aside the influence of groups like the NRA and worked together, today's announcement has been made possible. The expansion of background checks will save lives. It will be easier to prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands. It will show parents, kids, and teachers, and Americans everywhere impacted by gun violence that Congress is listening.

We have a lot of work to do. But today is a clear step in the right direction.

As all through the Brady law, today's announcement on background checks is a proud moment and a galvanizing one. We should build on these historic bills passed in 2022 and cure our Nation of the disease of gun violence.

FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Mr. President, finally, just a note. Yesterday, I led a group of 40 Senators introducing a bill that would curtail judge shopping and restore fairness to the judicial system. I will work with my colleagues to enact this important legislation.

We here in Congress have a duty to hold the Federal judiciary accountable. And when the Federal judiciary is being exploited by dangerous practices like judge shopping, it is both proper and appropriate for Congress to exercise oversight authority.

Some of my Republican colleagues have suggested it is unconstitutional for Congress to oversee its judicial branch. That is ridiculous and avoids a plain reading of the Constitution. Even the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court—hardly a liberal—agrees that judge shopping is a problem and ought to be addressed.

Congress has clear authority under the Constitution to exercise oversight of the courts. We will continue weighing legislative options to ensure the Federal judiciary is committed to equal justice under the law.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion filed today ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 15.

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

MOTION TO RECESS

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to recess until 3 p.m. on Monday, April 15, and 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hassan	Paul
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Cotton	Hoeven
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Boozman	Cruz	Johnson
Braun	Daines	Kennedy
Britt	Ernst	Lankford
Budd	Fischer	Lee
Capito	Grassley	Lummis
Cassidy	Hagerty	Marshall