

Americans across the country. I urge my colleagues to support this bill's swift passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, soon, the Senate will have an opportunity to ensure that essential Federal resources remain available to fire departments all across our country.

Every day, firefighters risk their health and safety to protect our communities. They don't just respond to fire emergencies; they also help keep us safe from threats like chemical hazards, terrorist attacks, and even active shooters.

The Fire Grants and Safety Act gives our firefighters the support they deserve. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes two vital grant programs administered by FEMA. These programs help fire departments purchase safety equipment, address staffing needs, train their staff, and provide cancer screenings to first responders.

The bill also reauthorizes the U.S. Fire Administration, which represents firefighters at the Federal level. The USFA helps ensure that our local fire departments get the proper support, and it takes the lead on data collection, research, education, and training for the fire service.

Federal programs like these enable fire departments to do their jobs safely and effectively, and I have seen it firsthand while visiting local departments across my home State of Michigan. Without these programs, many fire departments would simply not have the resources and equipment they need to stay safe in the line of duty. Every day, firefighters have our backs, and now we can do the same for them.

I would like to thank Ranking Member PAUL, Senator CARPER, Senator MURKOWSKI, and Senator COLLINS for their help in advancing this legislation. I would also like to acknowledge Chairman FRANK LUCAS and Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for their work to get this bill passed out of the House of Representatives.

Now it is time to finish the job. Let's finish the job and send this bipartisan legislation to the President and help firefighters everywhere keep our communities safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator PETERS, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and so many others for their great work on this.

Today, the Senate does a great thing for our firefighters in New York and across America by passing the bipartisan Fire Grants and Safety Act. The Fire Grants and Safety Act reauthorizes several expiring funding programs that help firefighters with the basics, from staffing to equipment, to training, and more. I was very proud to help create these programs a long time ago

with Senator Chris Dodd, but they would have expired in a few months had we not acted today. Today's bill keeps our firefighters whole.

This helps two kinds of firefighters. It helps our paid firefighters in larger cities by giving the ability of those communities to hire more firefighters, but it also particularly helps our volunteer firefighters. These are people who volunteer, who rush to danger in suburban and rural communities. They are particularly strong on Long Island, which I represent. Yet they can't afford and their communities can't afford the equipment that is so desperately needed. They are rushing to danger, risking their lives. They ought to have the best equipment, and these grants allow that to happen. It is so important to our volunteer firefighters in New York, particularly on Long Island, and for our paid departments in New York City, Albany, Buffalo, and across New York State. The ability to get more firefighters to help them so they are not overstretched and help communities pay for them is so important.

I am also glad that today's bill includes the ADVANCE Act, which secures America's leadership in the next generation of clean, safe, and affordable nuclear energy. Chairman CARPER, Ranking Member CAPITO, and SHELTON WHITEHOUSE, who sponsored the legislation, have done a great job. It is going to support job growth, clean energy, and American leadership, while preserving the NRC's fundamental mission of safety.

This is a great bill. I am sorry it took so long. The House dithered after we passed it. But now our firefighters, both paid and volunteer, can breathe a sigh of relief. This is going to happen very, very soon, and it will go to the White House and be signed into law.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. the following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Leg.]

#### YEAS—88

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Brown	Johnson	Schmitt
Budd	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lankford	Stabenow
Casey	Lee	Tester
Cassidy	Lujan	Thune
Collins	Lummis	Tillis
Coons	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cornyn	McConnell	Vance
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cotton	Moran	Warnock
Crapo	Mullin	Warren
Cruz	Murkowski	Welch
Daines	Murphy	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murray	Wicker
Ernst	Ossoff	Wyden
Fischer	Padilla	Young
Gillibrand	Paul	
Graham	Peters	

#### NAYS—2

Markey Sanders

#### NOT VOTING—10

Braun	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Durbin	Menendez	
Fetterman	Sinema	

The motion was agreed to.

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

The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session and resume consideration of the Maldonado nomination.

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

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### BUMP STOCKS

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, we don't have to fight over everything here. It is OK if, occasionally, we find consensus around commonsense things that we could do together to keep our country safe.

I kind of thought we had consensus on at least the idea that civilians shouldn't be able to get their hands on machineguns.

I understand there are differences between Republicans and Democrats on AR-15s, that maybe not all of my Republican colleagues think that everybody should go through a background

check before they buy a gun. But I thought—I thought—we were all in agreement that fully automatic weapons were too dangerous to be in the hands of civilians; that these are unquestionably weapons of war. They are designed—designed—for mass slaughter, and you just do not need a weapon that allows you to fire hundreds of rounds per minute in order to hunt, in order to protect your home, in order to shoot for sport.

But, apparently, we do not have consensus on the question of whether Americans should have access to machinegun technology because, earlier today, Senator HEINRICH—a gun owner, somebody who knows a lot about weapons—came to the floor to ask for consent that we make sure that civilians can't get their hands on a device called a bump stock that allows you to convert a semiautomatic weapon into a machinegun. That is, effectively, what a bump stock does. It allows you to change a semiautomatic weapon, which you have to pull the trigger in order to fire each round, into an automatic weapon in which one physical pull of the finger allows you to fire multiple rounds. It effectively gives you access to an automatic weapon.

I thought we all agreed that automatic weapons, machineguns, should be in the hands of the military. I especially thought we all agreed on that after what happened in Las Vegas.

On October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a concert from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel. There were 500 yards between that gunman on the 32nd floor and those innocent concertgoers. That gunman fired about 1,100 rounds, killing 58 people—58 people—and wounding 500.

When we think about the Las Vegas tragedy, we focus on that number, 58 people. That is a stunning number of people to die in an instant. We don't talk about the 500 people who were injured, many of them with injuries that changed their lives forever—everyone, whether they were injured or not, dealing with trauma that impacted their lives forever.

There were 1,100 rounds fired from the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Hotel. Do you know how long it took him to get off 1,100 rounds? Eleven minutes. Eleven minutes. That gunman was able to fire around 90 shots every 10 seconds. Why? Because he had taken a bump stock and converted a semiautomatic weapon, turning it, effectively, into an automatic weapon.

Even Donald Trump, the biggest backer of the NRA and the gun lobby that has ever been in the White House, knew that something had to change. He put forward a regulation to ban bump stocks, and most of my Republican colleagues celebrated that change. I don't remember many of them opposing it.

But this month, the Supreme Court, packed with pro-gun lobby Justices, most of whom were selected by Donald Trump, ruled that that regulation was

unconstitutional. I think they got it wrong. I think they absolutely got it wrong. I think if you look at the plain reading of the statute, bump stocks are illegal, and the regulation proffered by the Trump administration should have been ruled as unconstitutional. But Trump's appointees thought otherwise. They bought the argument of the gun lobby, and they ruled that bump stocks could, once again, be sold commercially in this country.

So we thought that it would be an easy case to make to our colleagues that having seen the regulation proffered by the Trump administration to be ruled unconstitutional, having been offered by the Supreme Court the chance to fix that statutorily, that we could get to that business this week, but we are not because Republicans objected to our efforts to try to pass into law a ban on bump stocks, to try and take away from psychopaths and madmen the technology that allows them to turn an automatic weapon on crowds of concertgoers and get off 1,000-plus rounds in a 10-minute period of time.

What Republicans in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives are doing on a regular basis is facilitating the mass slaughter of Americans, handing to individuals whose brains are breaking the tools of mass slaughter, refusing to do the easy, popular, commonsense things to just make it a little bit harder for 58 people to be gunned down, 500 people to be injured in a 10-minute period of time.

No law that we pass will end gun homicides in this country. No law that we pass will completely eliminate mass shootings. But there simply are technologies like the bump stock that turn a mass shooting in which 5 or 10 people might have died into a 58-person slaughter.

It is just true that when you have a weapon like an AR-15 or you have a converted semiautomatic weapon with a bump stock, the slaughter is worse, that more people die. Why on Earth would we choose to hand to these killers weapons that are designed for one purpose and one purpose only, mass slaughter?

You do not need a bump stock in order to protect your home. You do not need a machinegun in order to hunt for sport. The only reason you need a bump stock is to engage in mass murder.

I take this personally because I have lived through an experience of mass slaughter, as has the Presiding Officer. I did not lose a loved one, but I have come to know those families from Sandy Hook like they are family. And I know there is never ever getting over losing a loved one, frankly, whether it be to a gun death by suicide or by mass slaughter. But it makes it harder to deal with the loss of a loved one in a mass killing when you know the people that you elect to positions of high office have the power to prevent the slaughter or at least prevent it from being as bad as it was, and they chose to do nothing.

Republicans complain that this was a political stunt. What about everything that Joe Biden has said and done, what about the efforts that Senate Democrats have undertaken would suggest that we aren't sincere in our desire to prevent unnecessary gun deaths?

We have, over and over again, acted in good faith to try to find bipartisan compromise around changing the gun laws of this Nation. Joe Biden has shown absolute sincerity in his desire to try to keep more people alive. This is not a "gotcha" unanimous consent request; this is a real attempt to effectuate what we thought was a consensus that people shouldn't have access to machinegun technology in this country.

Senate Republicans could have agreed to work with us. They could make an offer today to expedite consideration of this bill next week. So the only political decision that is being made here is by Republicans who are opposing a bill that is undoubtedly supported by the mass majority of Americans.

So if this wasn't the way the Republicans wanted to do this, then I am open to other offers because we have passed bipartisan legislation to save lives. There are Republicans who have joined us, most recently, on the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

What we know is that when we do come together and pass laws that make it harder for dangerous people to get their hands on dangerous weapons, we save lives.

Urban gun deaths are down by 20 percent in this country. From 2022 to 2023, we saw the sharpest decline in gun murders in the history of this country. In 2024, mass shootings are down over—well, around 30 percent compared to the same time period in 2023.

We are seeing a precipitous decline in gun violence in this country, whether it be urban homicides or mass shootings, and I am not suggesting that the entire reason for that is the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, but you had better believe that is a big part of the reason. You had better believe that when we pass laws that make it harder for dangerous people to get their hands on dangerous weapons, we save lives. And what matters in this country more than protecting the physical safety of your loved ones? What matters more? Nothing. Think about it. You would give anything—anything—to protect your son or daughter from physical harm. You would trade away your career, your savings. You might even give up your own life.

We have an easy opportunity—we had an easy opportunity—Republicans had an easy opportunity earlier today to just make it a little bit harder for the small subset of individuals in this country whose brains have collapsed and believe that the only way to deal with their demons is to turn a gun on others—we had a chance to make it less likely that that subset of individuals would be able to kill 58 people like

what happened in Las Vegas, and we couldn't even come to that consensus.

We are open for business. If this wasn't the way today, show us the way. Tell us how we can answer Republican concerns so that we can get these weapons of war, these facilitators of mass murder, these bump stocks, off the streets.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 671 through 699 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

##### IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Luke A. Frost

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Dennis E. Collins

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Gregory K. Emery

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral*

Rear Adm. (1h) Bradley D. Dunham

Rear Adm. (1h) Scott W. Ruston

Rear Adm. (1h) Douglas W. Sasse, III

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Troy S. Pugh

The following named officers for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Michael L. Freidberg

Capt. Ryan K. Mahelona

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Shawn G. Denihan

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. Benjamin E. Baran

The following named officer for appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

Capt. David N. Barnes

Capt. Reginald H. Hendrix

Capt. Marcus J. Lockard, Jr.

Capt. Jason M. Naidyhorski

Capt. Katie F. Sheldon

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Brig. Gen. Michael E. Conley

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. David H. Tabor

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Thomas K. Hensley

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Tony D. Bauerfeind

##### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe

##### IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment as Judge Advocate General of the Navy and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601 and 8088:

##### *To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Christopher C. French

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Scott W. Pappano

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

##### *To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Jeffrey T. Anderson

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Navy Reserve and appointment in the Navy Reserve to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of impor-

tance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601 and 8083:

##### *To be vice admiral*

Rear Adm. Nancy S. Lacore

##### IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Jorge M. Fonseca

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Nicole M. Balliet

The following named officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Cindy M. Saladin-Muhammed

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Friloux

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Gordon R. Meyer

##### IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Carrie L. Perez

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

##### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Adam K. Ake

Col. Andrew D. Cecil

Col. John M. Dunn

The following named officer for appointment as Judge Advocate General, United States Army, and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601, 7037, and 7064:

##### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Joseph B. Berger, III

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Judge Advocate General, United States Army, and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 7037 and 7064:

##### *To be major general*

Brig. Gen. Robert A. Borcharding

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to