

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN HOSTAGES FREED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I speak on the tax bill, I come to the floor with really good news.

After years of brutal and wrongful detention in Russia at the hands of Putin's regime, Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, Alsu Kurmasheva, and Vladimir Kara-Murza are on their way home.

It is great news, and I was proud to work and stand with Leader MCCONNELL in a bipartisan show of unity. We spent many, many hours working hard, sending letters, making calls to get Evan's return. I commend President Biden for getting them all home.

For all other Americans held hostage or unjustly imprisoned around the world, today shines as a beacon of hope that America will never give up on you, and we will continue to do everything we can to bring you home. You are in our thoughts and minds, including those from New York who are still imprisoned unjustly by authoritarian regimes around the world.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

Now, Mr. President, on the tax bill, today, the Senate has a chance to move forward on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

Democrats are ready to advance bipartisan—bipartisan—tax relief today. The question is, will Senate Republicans join us to give Americans a tax break or will they stand in the way? Will Senate Republicans join us to give businesses a tax break; to give families with children a tax break; to give our housing market a tax break; or will they stand in the way?

This is bipartisan legislation if there ever was any. The bipartisan tax bill passed the House 357 to 70. It won majorities from both parties. It was written, along with Senator WYDEN who did a great job, by the conservative Republican chair of the Ways and Means Committee—hardly a liberal. So we know this is not only a good bill, it is a bipartisan bill. If the tax break was able to unite a group as divided as House Republicans, it should certainly not be blocked by Republicans in the Senate. It is good to talk about standing up for families and business but not if you turn around and then vote against them here in the Senate.

Today is a good opportunity for both sides to show we back up good talk with strong action. So, if you care about helping families, vote yes. If you care about taking a half a million kids out of poverty and giving relief to 16 million other families so that they have enough money to give their kids clothes and books and food, vote yes. If you care about promoting business and getting an R&D tax credit, something

that has always had bipartisan support, passed so that business can invest in new machinery and equipment and hire new workers, vote yes; and if you care about solving the housing crisis whether it is rural—where it has become a big problem—or urban or suburban, please vote yes.

I want to give many thanks to my colleagues: Chairman WYDEN for his leadership, the whole Finance Committee, and, particularly, Senators BROWN and CASEY and BENNET as well as CANTWELL and HASSAN, who worked so long and hard on this bill.

I yield the floor.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 349, H.R. 7024, a bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr..

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 motion to proceed to H.R. 7024, a bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hawley	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Mullin	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Graham	Ricketts
Braun	Grassley	Risch
Britt	Hagerty	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sanders
Cassidy	Kennedy	Schmitt
Collins	Lankford	Schumer
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—8

Blackburn	Menendez	Vance
Fetterman	Romney	Warner
Hoeven	Scott (SC)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having not voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, once again, let me just repeat quickly, I am just really saddened by the fact that our Republican colleagues have not voted for a bill that passed so overwhelmingly in the House, put together by a conservative Republican chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and that would do so much to help housing, help kids and families, and help businesses.

It is a shame that they put politics over helping the American people.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 705.

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 Adam B. Abelson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 705, Adam B. Abelson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland. Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 652.

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 Jeannette A. Vargas, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 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. 652, Jeannette A. Vargas, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon White-

house, Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Jeanne Shaheen.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, August 1, be waived.

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

JUDICIAL UNDERSTAFFING DELAYS GETTING EMERGENCIES SOLVED ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 430, S. 4199.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4199) to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024" or the "JUDGES Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Article III of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to establish judgeships in the district courts of the United States.

(2) Congress has not created a new district court judgeship since 2003 and has not enacted comprehensive judgeship legislation since 1990.

(3) This represents the longest period of time since district courts of the United States were established in 1789 that Congress has not authorized any new permanent district court judgeships.

(4) By the end of fiscal year 2022, filings in the district courts of the United States had increased by 30 percent since the last comprehensive judgeship legislation.

(5) As of March 31, 2023, there were 686,797 pending cases in the district courts of the United States, with an average of 491 weighted case filings per judgeship over a 12-month period.

(6) To deal with increased filings in the district courts of the United States, the Judicial Conference of the United States requested the creation of 66 new district court judgeships in its 2023 report.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) 2025.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Indiana;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Iowa;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(x) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas; and

(xi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:

Northern 15

Eastern 7

Central 28

Southern 13”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware 5”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:

Northern 4

Middle 16

Southern 17”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Indiana and inserting the following:

“Indiana:

Northern 5

Southern 6”;

(v) by striking the items relating to Iowa and inserting the following:

“Iowa:

Northern 3

Southern 3”;

(vi) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 18”;

(vii) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:

Northern 5

Southern 29

Eastern 15

Western 4”;

(viii) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:

Northern 12

Southern 20

Eastern 8

Western 13”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(2) 2027.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Idaho;