

to turn down event contracts based on gaming that are contrary to the public interest. But if one district judge has said that doesn't carry the day, there is another judge out there somewhere who will do the business of helping out some corporation trying to open the doors to that casino.

So let's here come together—Democrats and Republicans, left and right—and say: We care about the integrity of our election, and we will not let this happen. But, first, we need a stay from the court to prevent it from happening this Thursday.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4771

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I have been called many names—some nice and some not so nice—Governor, Senator, husband, Dad; but my favorite is Grandpa.

When I first became Governor back in 2010, Ann and I had no grandchildren. Fast-forward to today, and we are blessed with seven beautiful grandkids.

As I speak today, my daughter is using in vitro fertilization, or IVF, to grow her family. As a grandpa, of course, I am thrilled.

And thanks to the people of Florida, I have also had the opportunity as a U.S. Senator to do what I can to make this amazing science that helps bring beautiful babies into the world more accessible and affordable for millions of Americans.

The truth about IVF is that it is one of the few unifying policies that almost all Democrats and Republicans agree with. Earlier this year, a ruling of the Alabama Supreme Court concerned many of us, myself included. Thankfully, the Republican-controlled Alabama Legislature swiftly updated their laws to ensure IVF is protected for citizens of their State.

Right after the ruling, I introduced a resolution with my colleague in the House, KAT CAMMACK, which outlined the overwhelming support in Congress for IVF and the millions of families using it to grow their families. We built on that resolution by then introducing the IVF with HSAs Act to expand access to IVF by doubling the contribution limits of health savings accounts, or HSAs, and expanding eligibility to utilize them by decoupling them from traditional high-deductible health plans. The real-world impact of my bill is that millions of Americans will be able to save more money in tax-free accounts to pay for medical expenses like IVF.

We should all be able to agree that it is a good thing for more families to have an opportunity to grow. So many

of us here are parents and grandparents. We should all be able to agree that more babies is wonderful. That is why I am here to ask for unanimous consent to pass my bill. If the Senate is serious about ensuring opportunities for families, we can start today by allowing this good bill to get sent over to the House, where I am confident it will pass, and we can send it to the President's desk for signature.

Madam President, I am going to wait for Senator WYDEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 4771 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, let me go to the policy issue. I know this is very important to my colleague from Florida. And when families are wrestling with this issue, they have the sympathies of all of us.

Here is what concerns me: Families struggling to afford IVF will get virtually no benefit from the Scott proposal that more than doubles the annual contribution limit. That is the bottom line. Families struggling get virtually nothing from this.

I have just felt—and I am sorry that we started a little bit early because I wanted to hear Senator SCOTT's remarks. I just think, if you look overall, Republicans have just had no interest in protecting in vitro fertilization or reproductive rights.

The fact is, Donald Trump, some time ago, claimed that he was going to require insurers to cover IVF. As far as I can tell, not Senator SCOTT, but Republicans generally basically never thought he was serious about it, which is the case for all of these proposals, virtually, that he is making, sometimes more than one a week.

So my view is, the money that this bill would cost is better spent on extending the expansion of the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits because they actually lower the cost of health insurance for typical families. That is what we want to do: lower the cost of health insurance for typical families. By the way, that is set to expire at the end of next year unless Congress takes action.

So for those reasons, Madam President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I appreciate my colleague being here.

First off, here is the positive. I think we all support IVF. I support IVF. I have a daughter going through it right now. I am glad IVF is legal and available in all 50 States, and there is no actual risk of it going away. I think we all know this.

What I propose is the IVF with HSAs Act. It is going to expand access to IVF by doubling the contribution limits of Health Saving Accounts, and it is going to expand eligibility to include them by decoupling them from traditional high-deductible health plans. The impact of this will be millions of Americans will be able to save money and have better access to it in tax-free accounts to pay for medical expenses like IVF.

That is all positive. The opportunity we have here is not about whether IVF will be here tomorrow or next year or 5 years from now. Everyone knows IVF is here to stay. Today, our opportunity is to help more people use IVF to grow their families. But Democrats, unfortunately—my colleagues—decided to block this bill.

I know my Democratic colleagues are going to call up for a vote tomorrow a bill, but it seems like it is just scoring political points. They are going to bring up the same bill that didn't pass before. And what is frustrating to me is—I support IVF; I think all my colleagues support IVF—there wasn't an attempt between Democrats and Republicans to write a bipartisan bill that we could actually get a bill that we could pass.

The last 2 months have just been spent, basically, political posturing. I know it is an election year. I hope the Democrats are going to get serious about doing something that will help benefit hard-working people.

I am disappointed, but I thank my colleague for being here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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. 651.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

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 bill 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. 651, Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

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

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. 706.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Michelle Williams Court, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

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 bill 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. 706, Michelle Williams Court, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Laphonza R. Butler, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 16, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, on September 12, 2024, I missed rollcall vote No. 238 while recovering from a kidney infection. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on vote 238, confirming the nomination of Laura Margarete Provinzino to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

On September 12, 2024, I missed rollcall vote No. 239 while recovering from a kidney infection. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on vote 239, cloture on the nomination of Kevin Gafford Ritz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board of Directors and welcome its members to Washington, DC.

This group, composed of individuals from around the world, is visiting our Nation's Capital for its national board retreat and meeting. The Arkansas Alumni Association serves as the front door of the University of Arkansas and its more than 180,000 living alumni, fostering a spirit of community, pride, and lifelong connection.

The University of Arkansas, through its alumni, has made significant contributions to the State of Arkansas, the Nation, and beyond. It embodies the values of leadership, service, and excellence. As a fellow Razorback, I can attest that the time students spend at the University of Arkansas is an enriching, impactful experience they will carry with them the rest of their lives.

The Arkansas Alumni Association advances the mission of university alumni through its unwavering commitment to education, scholarship, research, and providing critical support to students, faculty, and staff, as well as the broader U of A community.

I am pleased to welcome the Arkansas Alumni Association National Board to Washington, DC, and it is an honor to recognize its service, dedication, and ongoing commitment to the University of Arkansas. I am confident members will make the most of their experience

with successful and productive meetings during their visit as ambassadors of Razorbacks past, present, and future.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

• Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NWMCAA) as they celebrate 50 years of community action that has touched the lives of so many.

In 1974, two community action agencies in northern Michigan merged to form the Northwest Michigan Human Services Agency, now known as the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NWMCAA).

Since then, the organization has developed a wide range of community action programs tailored to meet diverse individual needs across the lifespan.

Annually, the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency allocates \$20 million of program services to over 10,000 individuals across 10 counties. The organization strives to provide community members with the tools and skills necessary to promote housing stability, economic security, and educational opportunity through assistance with tax credits and refunds and homebuyer coaching education courses.

Between 2019 and 2022, the agency's Early Head Start and Head Start Programs helped 7,653 children within home-based and center-based environments. In addition to quality child development programs, the agency offers parents free prenatal education and resources for expectant families. This work is crucial to keep all students on track towards academic success and to build strong families and communities.

With over 300 dedicated employees located across their Petoskey, Traverse City, and Cadillac offices, the agency's impact across northern Michigan has extended far and wide. It is the talent and tenacity of such hard-working individuals which enables the agency's mission: "to drive positive change by offering opportunities that promote independence, enhance quality of life, and strengthen community connections."

In 2023 alone, the Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency successfully distributed 948,080 pounds of food to 23,702 participants through the USDA's Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP). In addition to their great work in the realm of nutrition, the organization addresses other pressing issues facing Michiganders, like home repair, weatherization, and financial management.

The scale and magnitude of these programs is felt each day by the seniors who rely on Meals on Wheels deliveries, children enrolled in Head Start, and working parents utilizing homebuyer coaching.