

to give his employees a raise. He also expanded his business—more jobs, more economic opportunities for people in his part of the State of Wyoming. This is what happens when Washington taxes less and taxpayers get to keep more of their hard-earned money. It is good for families, and it is good for businesses. It is good for our Nation. In Wyoming and across the country, millions and millions of workers are benefiting from the higher pay, the bigger bonuses, and the best opportunities that come from lower taxes. By making these tax cuts permanent, businesses and families will get the stability and the certainty they need in order to thrive.

Ninety percent of Americans saw their taxes go down because of tax reform. It would be disastrous if the tax-and-spend Senate Democrats—those who brought us the highest inflation in our lifetime—were to choke off the chance for Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money. American families would see their taxes go up if the Democrats get their way. Twenty million businesses would see their taxes go up if Democrats get their way. Six million jobs and \$540 billion in wages could be erased if Democrats get their way. In all, families, workers, and job creators are facing a \$4 trillion tax increase.

When Republicans passed this Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Speaker NANCY PELOSI—she was Speaker of the House of Representatives at the time, from California—famously dismissed the savings and the bonuses and the benefits. She said that these wins for workers—she described them as “crumbs.” Democrats continue to dismiss the burden of higher taxes.

Listen to what Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts said. She said that cutting taxes was nothing more than “tossing a few crumbs” at the American people.

Listen to what Senator CORY BOOKER of New Jersey said. He blamed workers who received bonuses from tax reform for “driving up the debt.” I don’t recall him saying that in his last 25 hours on the floor of the Senate. He didn’t repeat it again.

Democrats are out of touch with America’s families. That is what is happening here. It has been proven by the results of the November election, and their condescending liberal attitude is a threat to the American dream. They just think they know better than everybody else.

It is wrong for Democrats to force hard-working taxpayers to pay for wasteful Washington spending. Fortunately for the hard-working taxpayers of this country, President Trump is in the White House, Senate Republicans are in the majority, and common sense is coming to Washington. Senate Republicans are going to continue to put an end to this wasteful Washington spending because we stand with the American workers, with the job creators, and with the small businesses of

this country. Hard-working taxpayers are soon going to see where each and every Senator stands.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

#### NOMINATION OF MEHMET OZ

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on Dr. Mehmet Oz, who is nominated to serve as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

The CMS Administrator is responsible for overseeing healthcare programs that cover tens of millions of Americans, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

At his hearing, Dr. Oz spoke strongly about his desire to modernize the CMS and encourage a healthy lifestyle for all Americans. His vision for treating the underlying causes of chronic disease and equipping providers with innovative technologies to serve patients will also be a much needed sea change at CMS.

I am confident that his years spent as a leading physician and public health advocate make him duly qualified to accomplish these goals, and I look forward to working with him, if confirmed.

Dr. Oz clearly met the standard of the Finance Committee’s arduous nomination process, and I thank him for the diligence and accessibility he displayed during the extensive meetings he had with committee members and staff, in addition to responding to hundreds of questions for the record.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in advancing his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

#### VOTE ON H.J. RES. 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. CRAPO. 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 Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from

Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

#### YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

#### NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Duckworth	Lujan	Smith
Durbin	Markey	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murphy	Warner
Galleo	Osoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Rosen	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—5

Alsobrooks	Coons	Murray
Bennet	Merkley	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) was passed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

#### NOMINATIONS OF DEAN SAUER AND HARMEET DHILLON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nominations of Dean John Sauer and Harmeet Dhillon, President Trump’s nominees for Solicitor General and Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

The Solicitor General represents the United States in the highest Court of the land, the Supreme Court. Mr. Sauer’s failure to comply with court orders and his refusal to recuse himself from pending Trump matters render him unfit for this role.

The Civil Rights Division—often called the “crown jewel” of the Justice Department—enforces landmark laws that prohibit discrimination and protect the right to vote. Ms. Dhillon’s record makes it all too clear that she is not the right person to lead this division.

Mr. Sauer's nomination is a danger to the rule of law. At his confirmation hearing, I asked him a very simple question that any first-year law student should be able to answer, let alone a nominee seeking Senate confirmation.

When I asked him whether an elected official should be allowed to defy a Federal court order, Mr. Sauer said, "Generally, if there's a direct court order that binds a federal or state official, they should follow it."

I was appalled that someone seeking to become the "Tenth Justice," as the Solicitor General is commonly known, would take such a position.

As my colleague Senator KENNEDY warned Mr. Sauer and another Justice Department nominee who also refused to commit to following court orders "Don't ever, ever, take the position that you're not going to follow the order of a federal court. Ever."

But that is not my only concern with Mr. Sauer. Both he and Ms. Dhillon are part of the growing list of the President's personal lawyers who have been nominated for senior DOJ roles.

Ms. Dhillon and her law firm have represented the President as an individual and his campaigns on numerous occasions, pocketing more than \$8 million in legal fees.

And Mr. Sauer recently filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the President, urging the Court to stay the effective date of the law that bans TikTok.

During his hearing, Mr. Sauer repeatedly refused to commit to recusing himself from matters connected to his representation of President Trump, including a current case appealing the \$364 million judgment entered against the President in New York.

Instead, Mr. Sauer only offered to consult with "the appropriate Department of Justice ethics officials." This gives me little reassurance since the administration recently forced out the Justice Department's senior apolitical career ethics officials.

And Ms. Dhillon's loyalty to the President goes beyond a typical attorney-client relationship. She has repeatedly questioned the legitimacy of the 2020 Presidential election.

In November 2020, she tweeted, "STOP THE STEAL!" and encouraged her followers to donate to President Trump's so-called election defense fund.

During her hearing, Ms. Dhillon doubled down on her election denialism, repeating her dubious claims about supposed irregularities and so-called "voter integrity." And she refused to admit that President Biden won the 2020 election.

Ms. Dhillon also has a long history of seeking to restrict civil rights, which is deeply concerning. She has criticized key provisions of the Voting Rights Act and supported laws that make it harder to vote.

And she has an extensive history of hostility toward the LGBTQ+ commu-

nity, especially transgender Americans.

It is the duty of the head of the Civil Rights Division to protect the civil rights of every American. I cannot and will not support a nominee whose record suggests she is more likely to attack civil rights than defend them.

And it is the Solicitor General's duty to represent the U.S. Government before the Supreme Court. I do not believe Mr. Sauer will put the American people's interests above President Trump's.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing these nominees.

#### VOTE ON SAUER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sauer nomination?

Mr. PETERS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators is necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 163 Ex.]

##### YEAS—52

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	
Graham	Moreno	

##### NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Reed
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markley	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

##### NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Murray	Shaheen
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). 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.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Oz nomination.

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

#### 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 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. 53, Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John R. Curtis, Joni Ernst, Mike Crapo, Bill Hagerty, Tommy Tuberville, Roger Marshall, John Boozman, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott of Florida, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton, Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Ted Budd, Pete Ricketts.

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 nomination of Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 164 Ex.]

##### YEAS—50

Banks	Ernst	McConnell
Barrasso	Fischer	McCormick
Blackburn	Graham	Moody
Britt	Grassley	Moran
Budd	Hagerty	Moreno
Capito	Hawley	Mullin
Cassidy	Husted	Murkowski
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Cornyn	Johnson	Ricketts
Cotton	Justice	Risch
Cramer	Kennedy	Rounds
Crapo	Lankford	Schmitt
Cruz	Lee	Scott (FL)
Curtis	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Daines	Marshall	