

to be important to the country. But the majority leader, on his own, has decided that is not going to be the case.

Yesterday I was riding the elevator with a Senator who I came in with. I came in with nine Democrats and one Republican. I was the only Republican, excuse me. I did not come in with any other Republicans. I was it. We have had a lot of fun, and we get together once a year and talk about that. Candidly, relations between us, generally speaking, have been very good for the 7 years I have been here.

This one Senator, who I have actually worked with more than others of the group on so many issues, said to me that what happened on the Senate floor a few weeks ago, where the majority overruled their own Parliamentarian—their own Parliamentarian—overruled with a simple majority vote, which means there are no rules in the Senate anymore—this person said to me: Look, BOB, it was not personal.

What is amazing to me is that the way this Senate is run is not personal to my friends on the other side of the aisle, the fact that, like lemmings, in so many cases, they would just follow, follow the majority leader, and let him decide what this body is going to vote on, and let him decide what policies this Senate is going to put in place. I do not understand that.

We have all worked hard to be here, and we all work hard to represent our constituents. I think we all work hard not to disrespect ourselves, not to disrespect the office we hold, not to disrespect—I will not say we have all worked hard not to disrespect this institution because I believe what happened greatly disrespected this institution—and certainly, hopefully, we work hard not to disrespect the citizens with whom we serve.

But what I find myself in total dismay over is that my friends on the other side of the aisle do not deem it personal that on the one vehicle that we typically express ourselves most on foreign policy issues—and at a time when we have so many foreign policy issues that in a bipartisan way people have concerns about—that they would decide to just let the majority leader decide what we are going to vote on, when we are going to vote on it, and if it is even appropriate to have a vote at all.

So here we are. We have witnessed the many problems that have dismayed both sides of the aisle relative to the rollout of the health care bill. I think everybody in this body would recognize I have not been down here taking cheap shots at that. Look, I am concerned about the citizens of our State and what they are dealing with relative to this policy, and hearing the distress calls of people who have had their insurance canceled and maybe have had a quadruple bypass and are concerned about getting on, and I know all of us are involved in trying to help those citizens who are in dismay and are very concerned they be successful in actually being able to get on the exchanges.

But here right now, seriously, we are watching a major foreign policy issue be rolled out by this administration with many of the same problems. We do not have a start date. We do not have an end date. We have not even broached the toughest issues with Iran over what the end-state is going to be.

I think that is a tremendous disservice to our Nation. It is a tremendous disservice to the countries with which we work all around the world. It is a tremendous disservice for this body not to express its will.

I know that the chairman of the committee had acted as if he wanted to participate in this somehow, making sure that Congress was heard on this in a way that does not blow up the negotiations. I think everyone here wants to see a diplomatic solution—everyone here. I do not know of anybody in this body that does not want to see that happen.

But I also know, and I think the administration knows this as well, that the actions of this body, candidly, over the years are the main reasons that we are where we are. But, again, I will close; I know I am getting redundant. Our majority leader in his wisdom—and I know the majority leader decides who serves on committees. He decides who the chairman is of those committees. I realize that with that you have a great ability to keep people from expressing their will or rising and really wanting to do something in a bipartisan way.

I am coming to understand, especially in recent weeks, what bipartisan means to our majority leader is whatever he decides is “bipartisan.” Even though the majority of the people in this body would really like to weigh in on this policy, to do so in an appropriate way so that we do not, in fact, do something that does something to harm the negotiation, but does something to strengthen our hand in these negotiations.

That will not occur. To me, that is a disservice to this body. It is a disservice to this Nation. It is a disservice to every Member. No doubt, when each of us do not have the opportunity to express ourselves through amendments, what that really means is the folks we represent back home have no rights to have their concerns expressed or voted on.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the order of February 29, 1960, the hour of 12 noon having arrived, the Senate having been in continuous ses-

sion since yesterday, the Senate will now suspend for a prayer by the Senate Chaplain.

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, ultimate judge of the leadership of this Nation, thank You for loving us and calling us to be Your people. Make us worthy of the honors You have bestowed upon us. Today, give to our lawmakers Your grace and peace so that they may use their talents to empower people to live lives of purpose.

Lord, invade the thinking of our Senators with insights and inspiration that they could not produce on their own. May Your omniscient wisdom guide them as You strengthen them to do Your will.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Heather Anne Higginbottom, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources?

Mr. RUBIO. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “nay” and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted “yea.”

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 272 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Ayotte	Durbin	Landrieu
Baldwin	Feinstein	Leahy
Baucus	Fischer	Levin
Begich	Flake	Manchin
Bennet	Franken	Markey
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Booker	Grassley	McConnell
Brown	Hagan	Menendez
Burr	Harkin	Merkley
Cantwell	Heinrich	Mikulski
Cardin	Heitkamp	Moran
Carper	Heller	Murkowski
Casey	Hirono	Murphy
Chambliss	Hoeven	Murray
Coats	Isakson	Nelson
Cochran	Johanns	Paul
Collins	Johnson (SD)	Portman
Coons	Kaine	Pryor
Corker	King	Reed
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Reid

Rockefeller	Tester	Warren
Sanders	Toomey	Whitehouse
Schumer	Udall (CO)	Wicker
Shaheen	Udall (NM)	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	

NAYS—17

Barrasso	Johnson (WI)	Scott
Blunt	Lee	Sessions
Boozman	McCain	Shelby
Cornyn	Risch	Thune
Cruz	Roberts	Vitter
Enzi	Rubio	

NOT VOTING—9

Alexander	Crapo	Inhofe
Boxer	Graham	Kirk
Coburn	Hatch	Schatz

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Harry Reid, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Robert Menendez, Christopher A. Coons, Angus S. King, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Amy Klobuchar, Benjamin L. Cardin, Dianne Feinstein, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Bernard Sanders, Barbara Boxer, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Michael F. Bennet.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, under the previous order the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "nay" and

the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 36, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Hagan	Murphy
Baucus	Harkin	Murray
Begich	Heinrich	Nelson
Bennet	Heitkamp	Pryor
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Johnson (SD)	Reid
Brown	Kaine	Rockefeller
Cantwell	King	Sanders
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Landrieu	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Levin	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Markey	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Wyden

NAYS—36

Ayotte	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Flake	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Chambliss	Isakson	Scott
Coats	Johanns	Sessions
Cochran	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Corker	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	McCain	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Vitter
Enzi	Moran	Wicker

NOT VOTING—10

Alexander	Graham	McCaskill
Boxer	Hatch	Schatz
Coburn	Inhofe	
Crapo	Kirk	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 54, the nays are 36. The motion is agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ANNE W. PATTERSON TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne W. Patterson, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be an Assistant Secretary of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 15 of the 113th Congress, there will now be up to 8 hours of postcloture consideration of the nomination equally divided in the usual form.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it seems hard to believe that tomorrow will be the anniversary of the deaths of 20 little boys and girls in Newtown, CT. Not only those little boys and girls, but six educators, whose lives were taken by an unspeakable tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Their names are Allison, Avielle, Charlotte, Daniel, Olivia, Josephine, Ana, Dylan, Madeleine, Catherine, Chase, Jesse, James, Grace, Noah, Jack, Emilie, Caroline, Jessica, and Benjamin.

These little boys and girls were 6 and 7 years old. They were murdered. Although their years were few, their lives have touched and will continue to touch us all.

As it did a year ago, my heart goes out to the families of these little angels, and to all those affected by this tragedy. I honor the ultimate sacrifice of Victoria Soto, Dawn Hochsprung, Mary Sherlach, Lauren Rousseau, Rachel Davino, and Anne Marie Murphy—teachers and educators who died trying to safeguard the children in their care.

These six educators devoted their lives to teaching Newtown's children how to read and write, how to add and subtract, how to be good boys and girls, and how to grow into good men and women. They gave their lives to keep those children safe. They are a source of hope in a world that sometimes seems hopeless.

It is hard to comprehend the type of tragedy that occurred at Sandy Hook, let alone to recover from it. But I am inspired by the families in this community who have found purpose in the face of despair.

There is a Tibetan saying that says, "Tragedy should be utilized as a source of strength."

The Dalai Lama says that whatever trouble you have experienced, and however deep your heartbreak, "If we lose our hope, that's our real disaster."

The families of Newtown have channeled their pain into activism, raising awareness about gun violence and mental health issues in this country.

I have met with them on a number of occasions, and their bravery in the face of such pain is truly an inspiration not only to me but to all of us.

I am proud of how hard my caucus fought this year to pass safeguards that would keep guns out of the hands of felons and people with severe mental illness. That is why 85 percent of the American people agree with us. Why should someone who has a severe mental illness or someone who is a criminal be able to purchase a gun? They shouldn't. Those who are trying to stop that legislation from going forward should be embarrassed and ashamed of themselves.

I personally am happy with my vote to keep military-style weapons off the streets and to improve our mental safety. But at a time when more than 30,000 Americans are killed by guns each year, it is shameful that the Senate can't pass gun safety legislation that would protect our most vulnerable citizens—our kids, our children, our babies.

So I told the families of the 26 innocents killed a year ago in Newton, and the 173 children killed by guns since December 14, 2012, that Senate Democrats will not give up on them, and that is still the fact. We will not give up on the victims of 26 school shootings that occurred since the Newtown massacre, including one in Sparks, NV, where a young man came with a gun. Who stepped forward to save the children? A teacher. He was killed. Two