

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator BLUNT for his work on this. This is an incredibly important moment. We are completely overhauling the sexual harassment policies of the Congress. This was an antiquated policy that literally required 30 days of forced counseling, 30 days of forced mediation, and 30 days of a cooling-off period. It was time for a change, and that is what we came together to do.

I wish thank our colleagues who have worked on this with us: Senators GILLIBRAND, MURRAY, MCCASKILL, HARRIS; our working group on Rules, including Senators BLUNT, FEINSTEIN, CORTEZ MASTO, CAPITO, and FISCHER; and of course the two leaders, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER, who worked on this.

Senators ENZI and KENNEDY would always say: If you can agree on things 80 percent of the time, that is a good day. This is a good day for changing the rules so that the deck is not stacked against victims, who should be in a safe workplace.

Thank you, Senator BLUNT.

Mr. BLUNT. I certainly appreciate the opportunity we have had to work on this. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I work together on the Rules Committee, as well, where I am the chairman and she is the ranking member, and the daily activities of the Senate come to us often.

This was an action that created an opportunity where we looked at the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995. As Senator KLOBUCHAR has suggested, there are things that may have been well-intended at the time, but they really put too many obligations and too many restrictions, in our view, on victims. Those things are all eliminated.

Members of Congress, if they are personally involved in harassment, will be personally liable for the compensatory damages of that. I think it puts the responsibility where the American people think it should be.

Both of our leaders have been very supportive—both Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL. Many of our Members were involved in drafting this legislation, and there were many more who, after they had time to look at the final product, cosponsored the legislation. I think approximately one-third of the Senate by the time this bill came to the floor were cosponsors of the bill.

We look forward to this bill further defining what we see as our responsibilities. I am pleased to see the action of the Senate today with the unanimous clearance of every Senator on both sides, which enabled this bill to come to the floor and now has been approved.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much.

Mrs. MURRAY. I want to thank my colleagues from Minnesota and Mis-

souri for all of their hard work on this issue. I would like to ask my colleagues through the chair about section 111 of the bill amending section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act. A new subparagraph, which will become 415(d)(1)(D), describes certain violations for which reimbursement is required by a Member of the House of Representatives or a Senator. I am interested in my colleagues' understanding regarding how that language should be interpreted?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I Thank the Senator for her question. The description of harassment in section 111 of the bill is only relevant to the determination of whether a Member is required to reimburse the Treasury and is not intended to be used in other contexts.

Mr. BLUNT. Section 111 of the bill includes a new requirement for Members to reimburse the Treasury in specific circumstances. The description of harassment in this section is only intended to be used during adjudicatory processes to determine whether a Member is required to reimburse the Treasury.

Mrs. MURRAY. Thank you. That clarification is helpful for my understanding and for my colleagues' understanding as we take important steps to better address harassment in the U.S. Congress.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Evans nomination?

Mr. CASSIDY. 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. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 111 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Boozman	Cassidy
Barrasso	Burr	Collins
Blunt	Capito	Corker

Cornyn	Hoeven	Risch
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Crapo	Inhofe	Rounds
Daines	Isakson	Sasse
Donnelly	Johnson	Scott
Enzi	Kennedy	Shelby
Ernst	Lankford	Sullivan
Fischer	Lee	Tester
Gardner	McConnell	Thune
Graham	Murkowski	Tillis
Grassley	Paul	Toomey
Hatch	Perdue	Wicker
Heitkamp	Portman	Young

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Jones	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Udall
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	McCaskill	Warner
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Harris	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—9

Cruz	Hassan	Moran
Duckworth	Heller	Rubio
Flake	McCain	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume 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.

The Senator from Minnesota.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 REFORM BILL

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, Senator BLUNT and I were here on the floor earlier to talk about the bill that was just passed through the Senate unanimously. That is the bill dealing with sexual harassment and other harassment rules of the Congress. This was a joint effort, and I wish to take this opportunity, first of all, to thank everyone who was involved in this.

First and foremost is Senator BLUNT, who has been a true partner. We have worked on everything together, from adoption to tourism. Last month, when he took over from Senator SHELBY's able leadership of the Rules Committee, he and I worked together on changing the Senate rules, for the first time in the history of the Senate, to be more family friendly. We worked with Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH so that her baby will be allowed on the floor, as will other children of male and female Senators going forward.