

adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 22; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Nielsen nomination.

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, for the information of all Senators, we will vote on the confirmation of the Nielsen, Clark, Nichols, and Bell nominations, in the order listed, at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator BROWN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

#### NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this month I join Senator GRASSLEY of Iowa and a bipartisan group of my colleagues to recognize May as National Foster Care Month.

It is an opportunity to acknowledge the millions of foster parents and children in foster care around the country. More importantly, it is a call to action. We simply leave too many children behind.

Poverty should never be the reason children are separated from their parents. There is no dignity in removing children from their mothers or fathers because they don't have adequate housing or affordable childcare or jobs that allow them to take time off when their children get sick.

Right now, child welfare agencies are overwhelmed by the number of children who enter the system, and the addiction crisis just makes it worse. In Ohio, parents' substance abuse is listed as one of the causes for one-third of all children who enter the system. Children who are already in the system stay there longer, especially teenagers. We have to do better than that.

Last year, we passed and the President signed the bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, which is an important first step. It has the potential to change our child welfare system over time. Yet the changes the Family First Prevention Services Act requires ultimately have to be made at the State level. We have to make sure that States have the support they need and that they actually do what the law requires.

That is why, this month, I introduced the Family First Transition and Support Act—to help all States transition to the family first era. It would provide funding for States to recruit and retain quality foster parents who meet the needs of children. Our bill would expand funding for kinship support services, which would help family members who raise children pay for essential needs and services, like childcare, transportation, and other things.

This is especially important with the rise in having other family members raise the children because of the addiction crisis. In Ohio, Arizona, and all over this country, we have seen a big increase in there being grandparents who raise grandchildren, in large part, because the children's parents have had addiction issues or have actually died of overdoses.

The grandparents with the grandchildren face unique challenges and don't often qualify for the same support as foster parents. It means that they are going back to work. It may mean that a 68-year-old grandmother who lives on a pension and thought she was retired has to go back to work in order to raise this child to make enough money or has to take money out of her retirement savings.

Relatives' care is vital to keeping kids safe at home and in their communities. Our bill would provide real funding to get these grandparents and other family members more support. There is no formula here, but most of the time, it is better if grandparents can raise these children rather than send them to foster parents, who are strangers. The grandparents, obviously, know and love the children. It doesn't mean foster parents can't, of course, but so often the grandparents are financially challenged.

I get letters all the time from Ohioans who tell their stories and ask us to support these family members.

A man from Richland County, where I grew up, wrote to me saying:

I ask that family members be given the same financial aid as foster parents. Most of the family members are grandparents or great-grandparents on fixed income with little or no money.

Another woman from the county just south, Knox County, south of Mansfield wrote:

I am a grandmother raising my grandson. He is 15 years old, a great kid, and has been living with me almost all his life. I lost my beautiful daughter to an overdose.

She was raised in a good home, but was affected by this disease for the past 9 years. We loved her and miss her every day.

This letter goes on:

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful [conditions]—

Just think of that. She is raising a grandson when her daughter died of an overdose.

Grandparents that lovingly accept their grandchildren, under sometimes awful circumstances, often don't know what to do.

Thank you so much for getting this program and money to support it on board.

Grandparents do so much, without much help.

Last year we were able to break through the partisanship and get the Family First Act signed into law. This bill is the commonsense next step.

This Foster Care Month, I hope that my colleagues will live up to their talking points about supporting children and families. We hear every day here how much we support children and families. Well, do something about it. Work with us to pass this bill.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:41 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### THE JUDICIARY

GARY RICHARD BROWN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE SANDRA J. FEUERSTEIN, RETIRED.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE WILLIAM D. QUARLES, JR., RETIRED.

DIANE GUJARATI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE JOHN GLEESON, RESIGNED.

ERIC ROSS KOMITTEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE ERIC NICHOLAS VITALIANO, RETIRED.

RACHEL P. KOVNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE CAROL BAGLEY AMON, RETIRED.

LEWIS J. LIMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE PAUL A. CROTTY, RETIRED.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND, VICE MARY M. LISI, RETIRED.

MARTHA MARIA PACOLD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOHN W. DARRAH, RETIRED.

MARY M. ROWLAND, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE AMY J. ST. EVE, ELEVATED.

STEVEN C. SEEGER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JAMES B. ZAGEL, RETIRED.

JOHN L. SINATRA, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE WILLIAM M. SKRETNY, RETIRED.

MARY KAY VYSKOCIL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE LORETTA A. PRESKA, RETIRED.

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

JAMES J. HIGGISTON, OF MARYLAND  
BOBBY G. RICHEY, JR., OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MELISSA MCINNIS, OF COLORADO  
BRITTANY BANTA, OF FLORIDA  
CAROLINE CHUNG, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN HETTEMAN, OF NEW YORK  
CARLA MENENDEZ MCANUS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

TAMARIND MURRIETTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW POOLE, OF ILLINOIS  
GEOFFREY PARISH, OF TEXAS  
GARY RAND II, OF MARYLAND  
KENNIA SOMERVILLE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KAREN BALLARD, OF NEVADA  
MARIXELL GARCIA, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: