

marriage to same-sex couples. He, thankfully, did not prevail in that view because the Court upheld the rights of same-sex couples to be married, and he continued his opposition to marriage equality by representing the owners of an Oregon bakery who refused to bake a cake for same-sex couples.

He testified in favor of legislation the Texas Observer described as a “license to discriminate” adoption bill that would permit adoption agencies to refuse to place children with same-sex couples.

Many in Congress, including myself, worked to pass the Equality Act, which would reflect the core of the Supreme Court’s ruling by adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the Federal code’s list of protected classes.

He has referred to this effort as a weaponization of Obergefell that seeks the public affirmation of the “erotic desires of liberated adults.”

Even as I recite these quotes, I can hardly believe that at this moment in our history, at this time of awareness among informed and tolerant people who believe in inclusiveness and equal justice under the law, that someone nominated to this position of paramount responsibility would have these views and articulate them in this way.

If the Equality Act were to become law and face a challenge in Judge Kacsmaryk’s court, could litigants feel comfortable or confident that they would receive a fair hearing? Is there any gay, lesbian, transgender, or non-binary person who would feel their case would receive a nonbiased treatment in his court?

I have such deep doubts, as should my colleagues, that I cannot vote for him. I will oppose his nomination, and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting no on Matthew Kacsmaryk.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. For the information of all Senators, at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the following nominations in the order listed, and if confirmed, the motions to reconsider shall be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action: Executive Calendar Nos. 22, 28, 50, and 118. Under the previous order, the closure motion on the motion to proceed to S. 1790 will ripen following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 118.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to be in 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.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR DAVE STONE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, all of God’s children are blessed with certain gifts, and we are each called to put them to work to glorify Him. Today, it is my sincere privilege to pay tribute to my friend who has answered this call and used his considerable gifts with compassion and grace. At the end of May, Dave Stone stepped down as the senior pastor of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY. I would like to take a moment to honor his years of pastoral leadership and to sincerely thank him for his care and dedication to our church family.

Elaine and I have been attending Southeast for nearly two decades, drawn by the moving preaching and the warm community. Dave has been an integral part of that spiritual life for 30 years, and there are so many of us in Louisville who have been made better by his friendship and leadership. Throughout his 13 years as senior pastor, Dave was our shepherd and used his many talents to point tens of thousands to the Lord.

When Dave first joined Southeast, his devotion to Christ and His church instantly became clear. Dave came not only with an inspirational vision, but also with a deep sense of humility. To anyone who walked into this church, he made a point to welcome them like a lifelong friend. In both the easy and the difficult times, Dave shared his sense of joy in everything he did for the church. His warmth and humor made a positive and tangible impact on me and many other members.

Dave assumed the responsibility of senior pastor after the retirement of Bob Russell, who had served the church community in leadership roles for 40 years. The next year, Southeast announced the establishment of a second location, a remarkable sign of growth and a testament to Dave’s leadership. Southeast has continued adding more campuses to the church, and now it reaches believers on TV, on the radio, and at seven locations. Through this development, Southeast has become the largest church in Kentucky and the seventh largest in the entire country.

Southeast’s impressive growth also brought more responsibilities for Dave, his team, and his family. Whatever challenge presented itself over the years, Dave’s skilled ministry helped the community thrive. Thousands of people have watched Dave preach, relied on his mentorship, and enjoyed his friendship.

Dave admitted that he hates the word “retirement,” but he also knew it was time to pass the baton. When he announced his departure, Dave expressed his deep gratitude to the church leadership, staff, and all the faithful. He once again showed himself the humble pastor who fulfilled his mission from God.

Now that he has officially stepped down as Southeast’s senior pastor, Dave is looking for his next calling. I am confident he will continue using his many gifts to draw the faithful to the Lord. He will also get to spend more time with his wife Beth, his children, and his grandchildren. Although Elaine and I will certainly miss his Christian spirit and good humor, we wish Dave and his family all the best on their next adventure.

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Matthew Kacsmaryk to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas.

June is the month that we recognize as Pride Month to celebrate the lesbian and gay community and to acknowledge that individuals should not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation; yet, today we are voting on a nominee, Mr. Kacsmaryk, whose career has been defined by opposition to the rights of LGBT Americans. He has argued against marriage equality and defended a company that refused to provide service to a same-sex couple, simply based on their sexual orientation.

It is disappointing that the Senate is moving forward on his nomination, and even more disappointing that the majority has scheduled this vote during Pride Month.

Mr. Kacsmaryk’s long record of opposing civil rights protections for LGBT Americans should disqualify him from service on the bench. They demonstrate that he puts his personal opinion above Supreme Court precedent.

Specifically, I want to highlight some key positions in his record.

In 2015, Mr. Kashmir made comments deeply critical of United States v. Windsor, the case that struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA. Mr. Kacsmaryk claimed that the Obama administration, which refused to defend DOMA, had “effectively collaborated with the adversary.” Mr. Kacsmaryk’s comments make clear that he believes those fighting for the right of LGBT American, including the right to marry, are adversaries. Someone making a statement like this should quite simply not be a Federal judge.

He likewise claimed in a radio interview that efforts to achieve marriage equality were marked by “lawlessness,” adding that the Justice Department’s refusal to defend DOMA was an “abuse of rule of law principles.”

Also in 2015, Mr. Kacsmatyk submitted a brief in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark Supreme Court case that guaranteed marriage equality.

Mr. Kacsmatyk urged the Court to deny that the 14th Amendment extended to the right of same-sex couples to marry. He argued that finding a nationwide right to marriage equality would violate the free speech rights of those who oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds, and he claimed that allowing gay couples to marry would “silence religious dissenters who continue to hold to their millennia-old definition of marriage.” The Supreme Court disagreed.

In 2016, Mr. Kacsmatyk continued his efforts opposing the civil rights of LGBT individuals by defending a company that refused to sell a wedding cake to a same-sex couple, simply because they were gay.

Mr. Kacsmatyk denied that the business had refused to sell the cake because of the customers’ sexual orientation. Instead, he claimed that the law prohibiting discrimination against LGBT individuals “forc[ed] business owners to publicly facilitate ceremonies, rituals, and other expressive events with which they have fundamental” disagreements.

Businesses should not be permitted to discriminate against customers because of their sexual orientation, but in Matthew Kacsmatyk’s opinion, it is completely acceptable to do just that.

Throughout his career, Mr. Kacsmatyk has taken particularly offensive positions on the rights of transgender Americans, including transgender youth.

He has argued that being transgender is a “delusion.”

He also signed onto a letter claiming that transgender people are suffering from a “psychological condition in need of care,” and are “not a category of persons in need of special legal protection.”

Taken together, these positions show that Mr. Kacsmatyk has strong personal beliefs and is opposed to defending civil rights of gay and lesbian individuals.

Further, when asked during his hearing whether he would recuse himself from cases involving LGBT individuals, Mr. Kacsmatyk refused. When asked in written questions how his record did not create an appearance of impropriety when it comes to deciding cases on gay rights, Mr. Kacsmatyk simply cited the Federal recusal statute, refusing to answer the question directly.

In addition, Mr. Kacsmatyk has also worked to undermine women’s access to reproductive healthcare.

For example, he argued that the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive coverage requirement was unconstitutional, and then later claimed that the Obama administration’s religious accommodation to that requirement was likewise unconstitutional.

Without any evidence, Mr. Kacsmatyk accused the Obama admin-

istration of treating religious protections “as a secondary consideration.” With respect to the accommodation, which required nonprofit organizations to submit a one-page form to their insurer noting their objections, Mr. Kacsmatyk claimed the government was “forc[ing] religious objectors to provide material aid to those who would commit the ultimately wrongful act” of providing contraceptives.

He also argued that a Washington State statute requiring all pharmacies to stock emergency contraceptives violated the rights of religious pharmacists. The statute permitted individual pharmacists to decline to fill prescriptions that ran contrary to their religious beliefs.

But this was not enough for Mr. Kacsmatyk, who argued that the pharmacies themselves should be exempt from the statute. He also claimed that in seeking to provide contraception to women, Washington had “radically depart[ed] from the nationwide consensus protecting conscience rights” for health care professionals.

The Supreme Court declined to hear the case.

Given the positions he has taken in litigation and the inflammatory comments he has made in his personal capacity, I am concerned Mr. Kacsmatyk will not bring the temperament needed to demonstrate respect for all litigants that we expect from all Federal judges.

I am voting against Mr. Kacsmatyk because I believe his record shows he is far outside the legal mainstream, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, this month, many of us are celebrating Pride Month and reaffirming the rights and freedoms of the LGBTQ community. We also celebrated the fight for equal rights for women with the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

But instead of celebrating these rights and freedoms, here is what Senate Republicans have in store for us. This week, they will confirm a Federal judge to a lifetime appointment who has devoted his career to advocating against the rights of LGBTQ people and women under the guise of religious liberty.

Through his actions as a lawyer and private citizen, Matthew Kacsmatyk, the nominee for the Northern District of Texas, has made his hostility towards LGBTQ individuals, marriage equality, and reproductive rights clear.

As deputy general counsel for the First Liberty Institute, Kacsmatyk urged the Supreme Court in *Obergefell v. Hodges* to rule that there is no nationwide right to same-sex marriage. After the Supreme Court disagreed with him, Kacsmatyk wrote an article criticizing not only *Obergefell*, but also the Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade*. He argued that the fight for marriage equality and reproductive rights were “radical” . . . demands” of the “Sexual Revolution.” In his view, this Sex-

ual Revolution “sought public affirmation of the lie that the human person is an autonomous blob of Silly Putty unconstrained by nature or biology, and that marriage, sexuality, gender identity, and even the unborn child must yield to the erotic desires of liberated adults.”

As a lawyer, Kacsmatyk advocated for employers who objected to providing contraceptive coverage as part of the healthcare required under the Affordable Care Act on religious grounds. Outside of the courtroom, he continued his advocacy against reproductive rights. In a 2016 interview, he complained about “imposition of a secular judgment on an essentially sacred question” in the contraceptive mandate cases. He pointed to the First Amendment concerns of religious actors while failing to mention that the use of contraception is constitutionally protected.

Kacsmatyk also urged the Supreme Court to allow a Virginia school board to require students to use the restroom corresponding to their “biological gender” and a State labor and industry board in Oregon to let a bakery refuse to make same-sex wedding cakes. It is no wonder that more than 200 groups oppose his nomination, including Lambda Legal and 74 other LGBT and allied groups, the National Women’s Law Center, and AFL-CIO.

Earlier this year, I entered a letter into the record from about 300 parents of transgender children who opposed Kacsmatyk’s nomination “because of his demeaning attacks on transgender children and adults.” In their letter, these parents pointed to Mr. Kacsmatyk’s efforts to “repeatedly promote [] fringe, junk science about transgender people, claiming that gender identity doesn’t exist and that being transgender is a ‘delusion.’” They explain why his actions are so concerning and why his nomination makes them fear for their children. They wrote: “Kacsmatyk’s words are deeply offensive and harmful. . . . Our children are not a delusion, and neither is our love and support for them. We believe our children are miracles, like every child.”

Despite Kacsmatyk’s offensive statements and extensive record against the LGBT community, he is being rushed to confirmation during Pride Month because Majority Leader MCCONNELL and Donald Trump are intent on packing the courts with deeply partisan judges with extreme ideological agendas.

While our friends in the House have been busy passing bill after bill to protect women from violence, reduce senseless gun violence, and ensure that all Americans have access to affordable healthcare, Senate Republicans have ignored these bipartisan bills and maintained their single-minded focus on confirming extreme judges. That is because Senate Republicans are trying to accomplish extreme, conservative outcomes through the courts that they

been unable to achieve through legislation. As Majority Leader McCONNELL previously explained, legislation can be repealed, but “[w]hat can’t be undone is a lifetime appointment.”

In the past, this lifetime appointment was viewed as an important protection to ensure courts remained independent and fair minded. Now, it is being weaponized as a tool to enforce extreme, conservative policies through the confirmation of deeply partisan and ideologically driven judicial nominees.

In the past 2-and-a-half years, we have seen why it is so critical to have fair and independent courts. As Senate Republicans race to pack the courts with more and more partisan judges with extreme ideologies, the integrity and independence of the Federal judiciary is at stake.

Americans must be able to trust that courts act fairly and impartially to protect the rights of all Americans. That is why I will vote against Matthew Kacsmayk’s nomination today.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. Following the end of World War I, the generation who fought the war to end all wars created an organization dedicated to the protection and defense of all veterans who answered the call of duty.

The American Legion has been our Nation’s leading advocate for proper healthcare and earned benefits for America’s veterans, establishing hospitals and other services for the returning servicemembers of World War I. The Legion champions compensation and pensions for the disabled and for widows and orphans and was instrumental in creating the Veterans Administration in 1930. It also played an important role in the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights, first for World War II veterans, and then for veterans of following eras, establishing education, vocational training, and home loan benefits.

Known as the father of the American Legion, Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., son of President Roosevelt, organized the first caucus of the American Legion in Paris in March 1919. The meeting continued in St. Louis in May 1919 where the official name was adopted. A preamble and constitution were adopted during the first National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis in November 1919. The preamble became one of the fundamental tenets of the American Legion’s orientation and objectives, beginning with: “For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 Percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and

incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

Through the work of American Legionnaires, those same words remain compelling today. With members represented in all facets of our culture, including Presidents, Governors, Academy award winning actors, professional sports players, and Members of Congress, the American Legion played a role in many of America’s triumphs. Today’s Legionnaires, known for their legacy of patriotism, service, sacrifice, and community, continue the march. They dedicate their time and service to ensure these doctrines remain the heart of the American Legion.

The American Legion has deep roots in Wyoming’s history. Wyoming was represented in both Paris and St. Louis and at the first National Convention in Minneapolis. True to their pioneering nature, Wyoming’s Ferdinand Bransetter Post No. 1 organized to situate themselves at the forefront of the Legion organization. However, due to the bureaucracy encountered by the first posts, Van Tassel was actually among the first 10 posts to be chartered.

In October 1919, Wyoming held its First American Legion Convention, hosted by Samuel Mares Post No. 8 in Douglas. The first department officers included Commander Charles S. Hill and Adjutant Harry Fisher. Department headquarters was originally in Casper, later moving to Cheyenne as membership gradually grew to a high of 10,805 in 1949.

Today’s Wyoming American Legions continues to care for their comrades. As leaders in their communities, they demonstrate honor and respect for veterans and their loved ones. They actively support numerous youth programs including Boys and Girls State, the Child Welfare Fund, Boy Scouts, baseball, and scholarship programs. Their accomplishments continue to grow as they serve our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Today’s Wyoming American Legion is comprised of 57 posts. Their leadership includes Commander Richard F. Dansereau, Jr., Vice Commander Mike Cooke, 2nd Vice Commander Jerry Clark, Immediate Past Commander Kenneth V. Persson, Sr., Finance Officer Deanna Hurless, National Executive Committeeman Terry Miller, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Doug Uhrig, Adjutant Lee Buchschacher, Department Service Officer Dwight Null, Service Officer Michelle Jones, Historian Penny Merryfield, Chaplain Jim Vandivort, Judge Advocate Gary Hartman, and Office Manager Gina Mayhan.

Current posts and their commanders are:

Commander	Post	Town
Dale Miller	Ferdinand Bransetter Post #1	Van Tassel
Rich Larimore	George W. Vroman Post #2	Casper
Donald Dafeo	George Monroe Post #3	Newcastle
David Shaner	Wieten-Dupes Post #4	Lusk
Michael Sinner	Travis Snow Post #5	Torrington
Jerry Bowen	Francis E. Self Post #6	Cheyenne
James Schlenker	John Donald Garbutt Post #7	Sheridan
Doug Johnson	Samuel Mares Post #8	Douglas
Marvin Wohletz	Jesse Martin Post #9	Glenrock
Darrel Curry	Ora Call Post #10	Wheatland
Rich Fink	Robert Boyd Stewart Post #11	Lovell
Don Sullivan	Powder River Post #13	Buffalo
Jonathan Storey	Husted-Pendleton Post #14	Laramie
Adam Blackburn	John Prince Post #15	Glendo
Nate Messenger	Walter Haynes Post #18	Thermopolis
Warren Hess	Riverton Post #19	Riverton
John West	Fred Coe Post #20	Cody
Michael Pavlica	Robert Hogan Post #21	Cheyenne
Michael Hobbs	Archie Hay Post #24	Rock Springs
Tim Wattenberg	Moorcroft Post #25	Moorcroft
Jerry Clark	Hughes-Pittinger Post #26	Powell
Thomas Niemiec	Tom Whitmore Post #28	Green River
John Bubla	Marian Tanner Post #29	Basin
Douglas Cubbison	Philip Burlington Post #31	Dubois
Paul Linse	Greybull Post #32	Greybull
Mark Keiser	Don Stough Post #33	Lander
Brian Sartor	Fort Bridger Post #36	Ft. Bridger
Norm Freeman	Lavoy-Thorncock Post #40	Cokeville
Michael Erickson, Jr.	Medicine Butte Post #41	Evanston
Jerry Walters	Campbell County Post #42	Gillette
John Sherwood	Jackson Hole Post #43	Jackson
Joshua Craft	Floyd Minch Post #44	Worland
Jimmy Bowman	Crook County Post #45	Sundance
Daniel Corun	American Legion Post #46	Alpine
Brandon Shriver	Phillips Edwards Post #47	Pinedale
Charles Sutter	Star Valley Post #49	Afton
Steve Wilcoxson	Angus England Post #54	Saratoga
Robert Bowen	Kemmerer Post #55	Kemmerer-Diamondville Veteran
Ricardo Nelson	Marilyn B. Anderson Post #56	
John Wise	Donald W. Eisenhauer Post #60	Pine Bluffs
Albert Oakley	Washakie Post #61	Pavillion
David Kendall	Reed-Gobble Post #63	Lingle
Marion McCartney	William Home Post #64	Medicine Bow
Donald Kessler	John McGill Post #70	LaGrange
Robert Kissel	Mcdonald And Voight Post #75	Chugwater
Ronnie Olson	Boyce Marlatt Post #77	Albin
Spencer Nichols	Dee Fox Post #78	Big Piney-Marbleton
Keith Davidson	Roy Montgomery Post #80	Hulett
Wyman Weed, Sr.	Richard Pogue Post #81	Ft. Washakie
James Yockey	James Oliver Hogg Post #85	Meeteetse
Ray Fritz	Labarge Post #88	LaBarge
Robert Perry, Jr.	Hole In The Wall Post #90	Kaycee
Kelly Colvin	Heart Mountain Post #91	Cody
Jack Flores	Garcia-Castaneda Post #93	Cheyenne
Nick Schwab	J.J. Webb Post #95	Guernsey
Martin Blackburn	Arapaho Warriors-CPL Bill Farris Post #96	Arapaho
Mike Sherr	Hittner Engstrom-Duncan Post #122	Rawlins

The American Legion is more than the names of men who fell on the battlefield in the name of freedom, liberty and democracy. They are more than buildings or posts. They are the lifeblood of our country, endowed with the never-ending spirit of patriotism and liberty. They will never quit, they will never falter and will always complete their mission. America and the State of Wyoming are better for it.

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY P. LAWRUK, SR.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, on the 75th anniversary of D-Day, I wish to honor a member of our Greatest Generation, Stanley P. “Lucky” Lawruk, Sr., of Wilmington, DE. Stanley P. Lawruk, a lifelong Delawarean, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the Battle of Normandy and throughout World War II.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, 20-year-old Technical Sergeant Stanley Lawruk was on his fourth combat mission as