

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Peters	

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Roberts	Sinema
Harris	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 41. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

NOMINATION OF JAMES BYRNE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, we have a second to certify our growth in the VA by nominating James Byrne and approving his appointment. We have all worked hard to see that the VA is responsive. We get good news in the papers, not bad news. We are helping our veterans get back to work. The VA is working. We have some problems, but we have a lot fewer than we used to have. A lot of that is because of James Byrne. He has been working already, and we need to make him permanent. Please help us to confirm James Byrne.

I yield to the Senator from Montana, Mr. TESTER.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for his good work.

Jim Byrne is the right man for the job. We passed the VA MISSION Act that needs to be implemented. I know Mr. Byrne has ruffled feathers among some here. In the end, I think he will do the right thing and that we can hold him accountable. It is critically important we get these folks confirmed so we can hold them accountable and get them in front of our committee. I would urge a "yea" vote on Jim Byrne.

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield the floor.

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 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

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 James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Feinstein	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Bennet	Gardner	Peters
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rosen
Braun	Heinrich	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Casey	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Shelby
Coons	Kennedy	Smith
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Tester
Cotton	Leahy	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Udall
Daines	McSally	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young

NAYS—13

Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Markley	Stabenow
Cantwell	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Roberts	Sinema
Harris	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 13.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

S. 1689

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise to speak today on S. 1689, which passed last night.

Yesterday, this body unanimously voted to pass my legislation that could give States greater flexibility in how they use Federal funding for water projects. This bill is a tool to help communities in New Jersey and other States remove lead from their drinking water.

We have a national crisis. It is a crisis we are seeing all over the country.

I first wrote this legislation after a study was released last year that found lead leaching into the drinking water of my home city, Newark, NJ. Since then, I have been trying to get our State the Federal resources it needs to upgrade our aging water infrastructure.

After it wasn't included in last year's end-of-the-year spending bill, I introduced it as a stand-alone bill and pushed its passage through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, with bipartisan support, earlier this summer.

While the bill has been waiting to pass here in the Senate, the residents of my city, my neighbors, my family, and others have had to deal with additional concerns of exposure to lead in our drinking water.

Local, State, and Federal officials have been working almost literally around the clock to bring residents answers they deserve, answers they demand. I have repeatedly pushed the Federal Government, and the EPA in particular, to provide more resources to Newark in every way I can. I have been making calls and writing letters, hosting meetings. When I spoke with Administrator Wheeler and then personally met with EPA in Newark, I reminded them of our shared responsibility in bringing safe, clean drinking water to residents. This is not just a national emergency; this is an urgency.

We are waiting for more sampling results right now to better understand how to address the situation in Newark as quickly as possible. This legislation will allow Newark, NJ, and all of New Jersey to have access to upward of \$100 million in Federal funds for pressing drinking water projects.

For the last month, thousands of residents haven't been able to drink the city's water. As I was handing out bottled water to my neighbors, I heard how significantly this was affecting the daily routines of my neighbors and friends and undermining the well-being of my community, of my city.

Again, I say this is a national urgency, a national emergency, because the residents of my city are not alone. This crisis is affecting communities all over the country. In fact, as Reuters