

cut funding, they increase redtape, they rail against bureaucrats and bureaucracy, but they make it harder with more redtape. They come up with rule after unnecessary rule to dissuade young women from coming to these clinics.

These rules aren't really about patient health; they are about closing health clinics. Again, who made these laws? It is always the same. It is men who don't listen, men who don't understand how women's bodies' work. It is men who don't understand how preventive care, like birth control, works. It is time for old White men in Washington and in courtrooms to stop trying to take away women's healthcare.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

#### 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 legislative 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 John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Mike Crapo, John Thune, Tim Scott, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Kevin Cramer, John Boozman, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Roy Blunt, Thom Tillis, Martha McSally.

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 John Rakolta, Jr., of Michigan, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Arab Emirates, 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), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from

California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBACHER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), 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 55, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 282 Ex.]

#### YEAS—55

|           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Graham    | Perdue     |
| Blackburn | Grassley  | Peters     |
| Blunt     | Hassan    | Portman    |
| Boozman   | Hawley    | Rounds     |
| Braun     | Hoeven    | Rubio      |
| Burr      | Inhofe    | Sasse      |
| Capito    | Isakson   | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy   | Johnson   | Scott (SC) |
| Collins   | Jones     | Shaheen    |
| Coons     | King      | Shelby     |
| Cornyn    | Lankford  | Sinema     |
| Cotton    | Lee       | Stabenow   |
| Cramer    | Manchin   | Sullivan   |
| Crapo     | McConnell | Tester     |
| Daines    | McSally   | Thune      |
| Enzi      | Moran     | Tillis     |
| Ernst     | Murkowski | Young      |
| Fischer   | Murphy    |            |
| Gardner   | Paul      |            |

#### NAYS—27

|              |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Durbin    | Reed       |
| Blumenthal   | Feinstein | Rosen      |
| Brown        | Heinrich  | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | Hirono    | Smith      |
| Cardin       | Kaine     | Udall      |
| Carper       | Leahy     | Van Hollen |
| Casey        | Markey    | Warner     |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez  | Whitehouse |
| Duckworth    | Merkley   | Wyden      |

#### NOT VOTING—18

|            |            |         |
|------------|------------|---------|
| Alexander  | Hyde-Smith | Romney  |
| Bennet     | Kennedy    | Sanders |
| Booker     | Klobuchar  | Schatz  |
| Cruz       | Murray     | Toomey  |
| Gillibrand | Risch      | Warren  |
| Harris     | Roberts    | Wicker  |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 27.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader is recognized.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Rakolta nomination expire at noon on Tuesday, September 17; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Howery nomination, the postcloture time expire at 3:30 p.m., and if either of the nominations are confirmed the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, following disposition of the Howery nomination, the Senate vote on the cloture motions for the Destro, McIntosh, and Callanan nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate 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 JAMES MIDDLETON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Dr. James Middleton has spent nearly every day of his adult life caring for others. As a family physician in Hart County, KY, he has dedicated himself to promoting the health and well-being of his community. When he inherited the family farm and its 150-year-old history, James also made a pledge to conserve that land for all those who might enjoy it.

Recently, my friend was recognized for the exceptional care he has provided to his community with the Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award. I would like to take a moment to congratulate him on this prestigious recognition and to thank him for his years of conservation to protect our environment and benefit Kentucky communities.

Our Commonwealth is blessed with a rich ecosystem and picturesque landscapes. James' home, including the years-old tobacco farm, is near two of our most remarkable natural treasures: the Mammoth Cave system and the Green River. In an effort to help protect these magnificent features, James chose to participate in the Tobacco Buyout, which was created by legislation I introduced to free Kentucky farmers from a Depression-era tobacco quota system. He set out on a new agricultural path and focused on crops that would protect his region and one of the most bio-diverse rivers in the world.

James designed a new style of land management specifically to benefit the natural environment of his community and our country. He began growing hay, raising pasture-fed cattle, and harvesting hardwoods. By his estimation, he has planted more than a million trees, and the majority of his farm is now forestland. As a result, his 600 acres of vegetation have formed a natural barrier to protect the Green River from runoff and other threats.

I would like to congratulate my friend for his remarkable leadership in Hart County and his important conservation work that has benefited Kentucky and our environment. He is certainly deserving of this distinguished award, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. James Middleton for his passionate protection of our heritage.

#### TRIBUTE TO PATSY SMULLIN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and honor a quintessential Oregonian and legendary figure in our State's media circles, Patsy Smullin.