

American people need to understand what just happened here.

As a result of this objection, I get to tell my Omaha firefighters that their safety and the health and safety of our healthcare providers in Nebraska and across this country are at risk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. In response, I certainly am not arguing that there is not a need for respirators, but let me be very clear that this provides immunity for respirator manufacturers from this point onward.

Again, I need to reiterate. This has nothing to do with recognizing the need for respirators. What I am arguing is there should be a timeframe for this because this protection is supposed to be during a public health crisis, and I am saying that the way the House is approaching this is, they would like to provide this protection for respirator manufacturers for a period of 4 years. We can certainly evaluate it at that point.

So, clearly, my objection does not mean the death knell for this amendment. It means that we should work it out so we can provide an appropriate timeframe.

So I, once again, reiterate my objection to the current form of this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill that is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Reserving the right to object, the legislation that is offered by my colleague is too narrow in scope. It does not cover all respirators currently recommended by the CDC for healthcare professionals who are treating patients with COVID-19. My colleagues know that. This is inadequate.

The legislation that the senior Senator from Arizona and I have offered covers all CDC-recommended respirators. Moreover, our bill is not limited to this specific public health emergency but rather responsibly addresses future public health respirator needs. We are looking at what is going to happen in the future, and right here, right now, the Senate does have this opportunity to address these current emergencies and, yes, future emergencies by making sure that we can provide life-saving equipment to the American people. So, accordingly, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, so, once again, I repeat that this has nothing to do with stopping these respirators for this particular crisis to be included as necessary equipment under the current statute. I do think we ought to be able to come together to come up with a reasonable approach that can be supported in a bipartisan way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020—Motion to Proceed

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Marco Rubio, Pat Roberts, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Deb Fischer, John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Tim Scott, Mitt Romney, Roy Blunt, Bill Cassidy, James E. Risch, Ben Sasse.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

REMEMBERING CHARLES FREEMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, On April 29, 1983, Justice Charles Freeman made history as the first African-American jurist to swear in Chicago's first, elected African-American mayor, Harold Washington. Justice Freeman went on to become the first, and so far the only, African-American justice to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court. During his more than four decades, Justice Freeman helped shape Illinois's history through his achievements, his jurisprudence, and his mentoring of a generation of new lawyers he guided to the bench. On March 2, he passed away, and I rise today to honor his memory.

Charles Freeman was born in Richmond, VA, in 1933. He was descended from slaves freed by Quakers before the Civil War. As a child, he brought newspapers to legendary civil rights attorney Oliver W. Hill's office. His father was a hard-working man who loved to read and always stressed that he wanted Charles and his brother to become lawyers. The Freemans lived walking distance from Virginia Union University in Richmond, and that is where Charles and his brother went to college. Charles Freeman graduated from college in 1954 and served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958, stationed in South Korea. After his service, he married Marylee Voelker and moved to Chicago. While in Chicago, he attended John Marshall Law School at night, and he worked for the Cook County Department of Public Aid.

After law school, Justice Freeman started working as a precinct worker for former Representative Ralph H. Metcalfe, cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus. Justice Freeman befriended Harold Washington while helping Metcalfe, and they formed a law practice partnership. In 1965, Governor Otto Kerner appointed Freeman arbitrator for the Illinois Industrial Commission administering workers' compensation cases. In 1973, Governor Dan Walker appointed him a commissioner for the Illinois Commerce Commission.

In 1976, Justice Freeman was elected to serve as a judge on the Cook County Circuit Court. In 1986, he was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court, and 4 years later, he became the first African American elected to the Illinois Supreme Court. His peers chose him to serve as chief justice in 1997 until 2000. As chief justice, Freeman reorganized the rotation of appellate judges in the First Judicial District. Before, appellate judges sat on the same panels for