

(4) any other related matters the Attorney General or the Secretary of Transportation determines appropriate.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General shall submit a report on the findings of the study required under subsection (a) to—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(3) each of the delegates or resident commissioner to the House of Representatives from American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

(c) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The Comptroller General shall make the report required under subsection (b) available on a public Government website.

(d) **OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General may secure information necessary to conduct the study under subsection (a) directly from any Federal agency and from any territorial government receiving grant funding under the PROTECT Act. Upon request of the Comptroller General, the head of a Federal agency or territorial government shall furnish the requested information to the Comptroller General.

(2) **AGENCY RECORDS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), nothing in this subsection shall require a Federal agency or any territorial government to produce records subject to a common law evidentiary privilege. Records and information shared with the Comptroller General shall continue to be subject to withholding under sections 552 and 552a of title 5, United States Code. The Comptroller General is obligated to give the information the same level of confidentiality and protection required of the Federal agency or territorial government. The Comptroller General may be requested to sign a nondisclosure or other agreement as a condition of gaining access to sensitive or proprietary data to which the Comptroller General is entitled.

(3) **PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.**—The Comptroller General, and any Federal agency and any territorial government that provides information to the Comptroller General, shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure the protection of the personal information of a minor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Johnson nomination.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Johnson nomination be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

NOMINATION OF KRISTI HASKINS JOHNSON

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, observers of the U.S. Senate might take note that their Senators just passed a host

of bills and cleared a host of items from the calendar, representing bipartisan accomplishments on behalf of the leadership of the Senate—Republican leadership and Democratic leadership—a great deal of work by chairs and ranking members of committees and subcommittees, and I salute both sides of the aisle for these accomplishments.

In the same vein, we will vote in a few moments on a cloture motion for the judicial nomination of Kristi Haskins Johnson, and I would think that this would be another opportunity for a strong bipartisan vote. We passed two judges last week, as I recall, and both judges were confirmed with strong bipartisan support—strong support and welcome support on both sides of the aisle. And I would think that with regard to this particular nominee—our Mississippi candidate, Kristi Haskins Johnson—she would continue in that vein this afternoon and later on this week when I hope we will be voting to confirm her.

It is noteworthy that the Southern District of Mississippi has never had a woman Federal judge, and so Kristi Johnson will break new ground in that regard, and I am particularly delighted that this momentous accomplishment is right upon us.

She has had the distinct honor for the last several months of being Mississippi's first solicitor general. So this could turn out to be a groundbreaking year and a barrier-shattering year in more than one way for soon-to-be Judge Johnson.

In her current role as solicitor general, she serves as Mississippi's lead advocate for appellate litigation and works closely with the State attorney general in crafting legal strategy for significant legal cases in Mississippi and on a national scale. She has received the highest recommendation that a candidate for U.S. district judge can receive from the American Bar Association, and that is a "qualified" rating. As we know, candidates for appeals court judge can get a rating of "highly qualified." The best you can get for district judge is "qualified," so she received the highest rating she could possibly receive and rightly so.

She has a unique record of accomplishment as a public servant, a private attorney, a scholar, and a professor. She served over 5 years in the U.S. attorney's office in Jackson. There she prosecuted fraud and financial crimes as part of the Civil Division. Before that, she made her mark in private practice at the firm of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart in Jackson, MS, focusing there on labor law and employment issues.

Kristi Johnson is a native of Hurley, MS, population 985, in Jackson County, MS. She attended school there and then went on to receive her undergraduate degree at the University of Mississippi, graduating in 2003. And then she was admitted to law school at Mississippi College School of Law, where she graduated summa cum

laude, second in her class. As a law student, she served not only on the law review but as executive editor of the Mississippi College Law Review and received numerous American jurisprudence awards in areas such as criminal procedure, legal research and writing, and employment discrimination.

So excellence all the way through, including the time that she served as a clerk, both as a clerk at the district court level for Judge Sharion Aycock, Mississippi's first female district court judge in the Northern District of Mississippi, and then for appeals court judge, Leslie Southwick in the Fifth Circuit.

She takes time to share her skills as a teacher and an adjunct professor at her alma mater of Mississippi College School of Law. Ms. Johnson is a member of the American Inns of Court, the Federal Bar Association, and the Federalist Society. She resides in Brandon, MS.

In summary, I am just delighted by the fact that we are going to make some news and hurdle some previously existing barriers with this outstanding nominee. She has the academic, judicial, and personal qualifications necessary for a Federal jurist. I think she is going to make a great judge. People back home in Mississippi believe this also. It is my hope that we can invoke cloture in just a few moments in a strong bipartisan way, leading to the confirmation later on this week of Kristi Haskins Johnson.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

FREE SPEECH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I think everyone has been watching a lot of news lately, and I will tell you I have talked to some Tennesseans this weekend who feel like they can tell that the journalists working at our mainstream media outlets are getting frustrated by how much pressure we are putting on big tech companies like Facebook, Twitter, and Google. But, you know, we are putting pressure on them. It is important for them to be in their lanes. It is important that if they are going to be news sources, that they do something like hire a news director.

I think they have fallen into the same trap that a lot of people fall into when a story dominates the headlines for awhile, and then it doesn't resolve itself quickly. You know, they get pretty sick of hearing about it. They saw the initial reports of censorship, bias, and antitrust concerns. They didn't feel that personal sense of outrage about what was happening and either checked out of the conversation or let their frustration breed resentment against those who would very much like for their tweets to stay put.

But they knew something was going on out there that made them a little bit uneasy. They were hearing about censorship. They were hearing about blocking and throttling and shadow banning, and, you know, they were a