

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA ANN BASHANT TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 589.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk on this nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Cynthia Ann Bashant, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Pryor, Mark Begich, Robert Menendez, Tom Harkin, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Claire McCaskill, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jack Reed.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JON DAVID LEVY TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 590.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the motion.

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jon David Levy, of Maine, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maine.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Richard J. Durbin, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Brian Schatz, Heidi Heitkamp, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Mazie Hirono, Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this week we celebrate the 30th annual National

Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act. It is a time to recognize the losses faced by victims of crime and their families, and to acknowledge the efforts of those who work so hard to ensure the protection and well-being of crime victims in Vermont and across the nation. It is also a time to reflect on all that we have accomplished together over the past three decades, and to focus on what more we must do to support and protect victims of crime. I have long supported victims of crime through the Victims of Crime Act, and I was proud to cosponsor the Senate resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Crime Victims' Rights Week 2014.

One of our most effective tools to serve and support victims is the Crime Victims Fund. In 1984, the Senate voted to pass the Victims of Crime Act—VOCA—which created the Fund. The Fund is rightfully sustained by criminal fines and penalties, not by taxpayer dollars, and provides funding and support for victim services across the country. These services include funding for victim assistance, and compensation programs to help with medical, funeral, and burial costs, mental health counseling, and lost wages.

In 1996, after the Oklahoma City bombing, I supported the creation of an Antiterrorism Emergency Reserve Fund to support communities in the wake of acts of mass violence. These funds provide emergency relief and assistance in the wake of tragedies that might otherwise overwhelm the resources of the State's crime victim compensation and victim assistance services. That Emergency Reserve Fund has been used to support communities in the aftermath of shootings at Virginia Tech, Aurora, and Newtown, and most recently to cover longer term victim assistance for the marathon bombing victims in Boston. The Office of Victims of Crime also provides funding directly to other federal agencies to support assistance to victims of mass violence and terrorism, including the Department of the Army following the 2011 Fort Hood shooting.

The Crime Victims Fund has a long history of supporting victims of crime. I am grateful that in the Fiscal Year 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, we were able to raise the cap on the Fund by \$15 million. This is a historic and hard-won achievement that translates to more money for victims' assistance grants. Yet despite the increase, support for direct victim assistance remains 13 percent behind where funding levels were 15 years ago. As a result, 1.3 million fewer victims today are receiving help funded under VOCA. It is clear that more work remains to be done on behalf of victims of crime.

This year, I led a letter with Senator CRAPO requesting that the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee