but it is better than the status quo, and we intend to do our duty.

Mr. President, I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

VOTE ON MOTION TO COMMIT

The question is on agreeing to the Murray motion to commit.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 178 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Harris	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hassan	Peters
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Udall
Donnelly	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Murphy	Wyden

NAYS—52

Alexander	Flake	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rounds
Capito	Heller	Rubio
Cassidy	Hoeven	Sasse
Cochran	Inhofe	Scott
Collins	Isakson	Shelby
Corker	Johnson	Strange
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McCain	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

The motion was rejected.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 667

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 667.

Mr. ENZI. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Daines	Johnson
Barrasso	Enzi	Kennedy
Blunt	Ernst	Lankford
Boozman	Fischer	Lee
Burr	Flake	McConnell
Capito	Gardner	Moran
Cassidy	Graham	Paul
Cochran	Grassley	Perdue
Corker	Hatch	Portman
Cornyn	Heller	Risch
Cotton	Hoeven	Roberts
Crapo	Inhofe	Rounds
Cruz	Isakson	Rubio

Sasse	Sullivan	Wicker
Scott	Thune	Young
Shelby	Tillis	
Strange	Toomey	

NAYS—51

Baldwin	Harris	Nelson
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Heitkamp	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Collins	Manchin	Udall
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	McCain	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warren
Duckworth	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	Young
Franken	Murphy	
Gillibrand	Murray	

The amendment (No. 667) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that H.R. 1628 be returned to the calendar.

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

HEALTHCARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this is clearly a disappointing moment. From skyrocketing costs to plummeting choices and collapsing markets, our constituents have suffered through an awful lot under ObamaCare. We thought they deserved better. That is why I and many of my colleagues did as we promised and voted to repeal this failed law. We told our constituents we would vote that way, and when the moment came, most of us did. We kept our commitments. We worked hard, and everybody on this side can certainly attest to the fact that we worked really hard and tried to develop a consensus for a better way forward.

I want to thank everybody in this conference for the endless amount of time they spent trying to achieve a consensus to go forward. I also want to thank the President and the Vice President, who couldn't have been more involved and more helpful.

So, yes, this is a disappointment indeed. To our friends over in the House, we thank them, as well. I regret that our efforts were simply not enough this time.

I imagine many of our colleagues on the other side are celebrating. They are pretty happy about all of this, but the American people are hurting, and they need relief. Our friends on the other side decided early on they didn't want to engage with us in a serious way to help those suffering under ObamaCare. They did everything they could to prevent the Senate from providing a better way forward, including such things as reading amendments for endless amounts of time, such things as holding up nominations for key positions in the administration because they were unhappy that we were trying to find a way to something better than ObamaCare. So I expect that they are pretty satisfied tonight. I regret to say that they succeeded in that effort.

Now I think it is appropriate to ask, what are their ideas? It will be interesting to see what they suggest as the way forward. For myself, I can say—and I bet I am safe in saying this for most of the people on this side of the aisle—that bailing out insurance companies with no thought of any kind of reform is not something I want to be part of. And I suspect that not many folks over here are interested in that. It will be interesting to see what they have in mind, like quadrupling down on the failures of ObamaCare with a single-payer system. We had that vote a little earlier, thanks to the Senator from Montana. Almost everybody voted "present." Apparently, they didn't want to make a decision about whether they were for or against socialized medicine—a government takeover of everything; European healthcare. Only four of them weren't afraid to say they didn't think that was a good idea. So maybe that is what they want to offer. We will be happy to have that debate with the American people.

It is time for our friends on the other side to tell us what they have in mind. We will see how the American people feel about their ideas. So, I regret that we are here, but I want to say, again, I am proud of the vote I cast tonight. It is consistent with what we told the American people we would try to accomplish in four straight elections if they gave us a chance. I thank all of my colleagues on this side of the aisle for everything they did to try to keep that commitment.

What we tried to accomplish for the American people was the right thing for the country, and our only regret tonight—our only regret is that we didn't achieve what we had hoped to accomplish. I think the American people are going to regret that we couldn't find a better way forward, and, as I said, we look forward to our colleagues on the other side suggesting what they have in mind.

Now, Mr. President, it is time to move on.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2810

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. on Friday, July 28—that is tomorrow—the Senate proceed to consideration of Calendar No. 175, H.R. 2810, the House-passed national defense authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me say that it has been a long, long road for both sides. Each side had sincere convictions, and we are at this point.

I want to say three things. First, I suggest that we turn the page. It is time to turn the page.

I say to my dear friend the majority leader that we are not celebrating. We are relieved that millions and millions of people who would have been so drastically hurt by the three proposals put forward will, at least, retain their healthcare, be able to deal with pre-existing conditions, deal with nursing homes and opioids that Medicaid has paid for.

We are relieved, not for ourselves, but for the American people. But as I have said over and over again, ObamaCare was hardly perfect. It did a lot of good things, but it needs improvement. I hope one part of turning that page is that we go back to regular order, work in the committees together to improve ObamaCare.

We have good leaders—the Senator from Tennessee, the Senator from Washington, the Senator from Utah, the Senator from Oregon. They have worked well together in the past and can work well together in the future. There are suggestions we are interested in that come from Members on the other side of the aisle—the Senator from Maine and the Senator from Louisiana.

So let's turn the page and work together to improve our healthcare system, and let's turn the page in another way. All of us are so inspired by the speech and the life of the Senator from Arizona, and he asked us to go back to regular order, to bring back the Senate that some of us who have been here a while remember. Maybe this can be a moment where we start doing that.

Both sides will have to give. The blame hardly falls on one side or the other, but if we can take this moment—a solemn moment—and start working this body the way it had always worked until the last decade or so, with both sides to blame for the deterioration, we will do a better job for our country, a better job for this body, a better job for ourselves.

Finally, I am glad that the leader asked us to move to NDAA. We need to do it. I can say that on this side of the aisle, we will move expeditiously. I know that the Senator from Rhode Island has worked with the Senator from Arizona on a list of amendments that can be agreed to, and we can finish this bill up rather quickly. As I mentioned to the majority leader, there are some other things we can do rather quickly, including moving a whole lot of nominations.

We can work together. Our country demands it. Every place in every corner of the country where we go, the No. 1 thing we are asked—and I know this because I have talked to my colleagues from the other side of the aisle—is: Can't you guys work together? Let's give it a shot. Let's give it a shot.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I just want to announce to all my colleagues that the next vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, on cloture on Kevin Newsom to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. There will be no more votes tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 172, Kevin Newsom to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Christopher Newsom, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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 nomination of Kevin Christopher Newson, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Dan Sullivan, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, Orrin G. Hatch, Ron Johnson, Chuck Grassley, Tom Cotton, Richard Burr, James Lankford, Lamar Alexander, John Kennedy, Cory Gardner, James M. Inhofe, Michael B. Enzi, John Thune, Richard C. Shelby, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

SERVICEMEMBER STUDENT LOAN AFFORDABILITY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, student loan borrowers currently carry about $1.4 trillion in student loan debt. This breaks down to about 44 million borrowers holding student loan debt with an average balance of $30,000. This crushing debt has pushed many borrowers to delay important life decisions, including marriage, having children, or buying homes. Despite that, some still choose careers in public service to give back to their community and support our country.

However, the immense burden of student loan debt is not put on pause while individuals choose to forgo other work opportunities to serve our Nation in the military or public service. Recognizing this, the Federal Government established two ways to alleviate some of this burden for those who serve our country.

The Servicemember Civil Relief Act protects our servicemembers from interest rates above 6 percent on all loans while they are on Active Duty. This protection extends to both public and private student loans taken out preservice.

Public service loan forgiveness encourages people to become public servants by forgiving student loan debt after 10 years of public service, including military service. Under this program; borrowers must enroll in a qualifying repayment plan and make 10 years of payments while working in public service before the loan is forgiven. Additionally, borrowers with Perkins or Federal Family Education Loans must consolidate their loans into a Direct Consolidation Loan.

However, the act of consolidating these loans carries an unintended consequence for servicemembers. Currently, if a servicemember chooses to consolidate his or her preservice loans to qualify for public service loan forgiveness, those loans are no longer eligible for the 6 percent interest rate cap provided under the Servicemember Civil Relief Act. The act of consolidating old debt for the purpose of enrolling public service loan forgiveness is treated as creating a new loan under current law, effectively forcing servicemembers to choose between the 6 percent interest rate cap while they are on Active Duty and enrolling in a program that will forgive their loans after 10 years of service and steady payments.

Requiring servicemembers to give up the interest rate cap while on Active Duty for a chance to earn loan forgiveness in the future was never the intention of Congress. Rather, in enacting the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program and the Servicemember Civil