

Well, gee, this is just another one of those slam-dunk bills. It is not. We would not be here today if it wasn't for Chairman ISAKSON and the great work he has done on this bill.

I also thank the entire Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank the leadership of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank the 38 veterans service organizations that offered their support for this bill. I said many times during the hearings, we will take our cues from the veterans. This is exactly what the entire Senate, hopefully, will do in a minute or two with this bill, is take our cues from the people who serve this country in the military. This is a big win for them. They are also going to put a lot of pressure on the VA to deliver for them, but, nonetheless, this is one of those rare times when the Senate and House have done their job and done it in a bipartisan way, worked together, and worked for the benefit of the veterans of this country.

I also thank my staff, Tony McClain, Dahlia Melendrez, and Jon Coen for their great work.

In a brief review, what this bill does is scrap the Choice Program and all the community care programs and puts them into one program where the veteran and the doctor control where to seek care, whether it is within the VA or the private sector. It strengthens the VA and helps build capacity in the VA in two ways, with a loan repayment program for our employees, and it incentivizes medical residencies within the VA. It also improves rural healthcare in States where I come from in Montana by deploying mobile health teams and by expanding telehealth.

Finally, this bill expands the caregiver program to veterans of all eras—something Senator MURRAY has worked on for years and years. I was there when Senator MURRAY came up to the chairman of the committee on a previous bill and said to Chairman ISAKSON: We really need this caregiver bill in. Chairman ISAKSON said: We are not going to forget about you, Patty. We are going to make sure this is taken care of. He lived up to his promise to her, and he lived up to those veterans who have a family member who takes care of them at home, where people don't even know what is going on. They don't even know what is happening. Sometimes these folks have to quit their job to take care of a veteran at home who needs help. So the caregiver program is a very important part of this bill.

It happened because we worked together. When I go home to Montana people ask: How come you guys can't work together? We kind of broke the mold a little bit, and we worked together in a bipartisan way. We put aside politics, and we did what was right for our country and our veterans.

Hopefully, we will get a strong vote out of this bill when it is brought up for passage, and we can get it to the President for his signature.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Montgomery nomination?

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 105 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Alexander	Graham	Murphy
Baldwin	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hassan	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Perdue
Blunt	Heitkamp	Peters
Booker	Heller	Portman
Boozman	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Capito	Inhofe	Rounds
Cardin	Isakson	Rubio
Carper	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Jones	Schatz
Collins	Kaine	Scott
Coons	Kennedy	Shelby
Corker	King	Smith
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Crapo	Leahy	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Enzi	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	Menendez	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young
Gardner	Murkowski	

NAYS—23

Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Brown	Heinrich	Shaheen
Cantwell	Hirono	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Flake	McCain
-----------	-------	--------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT CORRECTION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and the clerk will report the House message to accompany S. 2372.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 2372, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 2246 (to the House amendment to the bill), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 2247 (to amendment No. 2246), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The Senator from Texas.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2246

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I move to table the motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 2372 with further amendment.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in the series be 10 minutes in length.

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

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 2372.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 5, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 106 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Blunt	Cantwell
Baldwin	Booker	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cardin
Bennet	Brown	Carper
Blumenthal	Burr	Casey

Cassidy	Hoeven	Portman
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Coons	Inhofe	Risch
Cornyn	Isakson	Roberts
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Rubio
Cotton	Jones	Sasse
Crapo	Kaine	Schumer
Cruz	Kennedy	Scott
Daines	King	Shaheen
Donnelly	Klobuchar	Shelby
Durbin	Lankford	Smith
Enzi	Leahy	Stabenow
Ernst	Lee	Sullivan
Feinstein	Manchin	Tester
Fischer	Markey	Thune
Gardner	McCaskill	Tillis
Gillibrand	McConnell	Toomey
Graham	Menendez	Udall
Grassley	Moran	Van Hollen
Harris	Murkowski	Warner
Hassan	Murphy	Warren
Hatch	Murray	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Nelson	Wicker
Heitkamp	Paul	Wyden
Heller	Perdue	Young
Hirono	Peters	

NAYS—5

Corker	Rounds	Schatz
Merkley	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Flake	McCain
-----------	-------	--------

The motion was agreed to.

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 Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years.

Mike Crapo, John Thune, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Michael B. Enzi, Lamar Alexander, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, James M. Inhofe, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, John Cornyn, Tim Scott, John Barrasso, Jerry Moran.

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 Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent; the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Barrasso	Grassley	Murphy
Bennet	Hassan	Nelson
Blunt	Hatch	Paul
Boozman	Heitkamp	Perdue
Burr	Heller	Peters
Capito	Hoeven	Portman
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Carper	Inhofe	Risch
Casey	Isakson	Roberts
Cassidy	Johnson	Rounds
Collins	Jones	Rubio
Coons	Kaine	Sasse
Corker	Kennedy	Scott
Cornyn	King	Shelby
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Tester
Cruz	Leahy	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Donnelly	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Ernst	McConnell	Warner
Fischer	Menendez	Wicker
Gardner	Moran	Young

NAYS—25

Baldwin	Harris	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Smith
Booker	Hirono	Stabenow
Brown	Markey	Udall
Cantwell	Merkley	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Sanders	Wyden
Feinstein	Schatz	
Gillibrand	Schumer	

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Flake	McCain
-----------	-------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 25.

The motion is agreed to.

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 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 Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

Mike Crapo, John Thune, Pat Roberts, David Perdue, Michael B. Enzi, Lamar Alexander, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Tim Scott, James M. Inhofe, John Hoeven, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Jerry Moran.

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 Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Ex.]

YEAS—73

Alexander	Grassley	Nelson
Barrasso	Hassan	Paul
Bennet	Hatch	Perdue
Blunt	Heitkamp	Peters
Boozman	Heller	Portman
Burr	Hoeven	Reed
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cardin	Inhofe	Roberts
Carper	Isakson	Rounds
Casey	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Jones	Sasse
Collins	Kaine	Scott
Coons	Kennedy	Shaheen
Corker	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Tester
Crapo	Leahy	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Enzi	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	Menendez	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young
Gardner	Murkowski	
Graham	Murphy	

NAYS—23

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schumer
Blumenthal	Harris	Smith
Booker	Heinrich	Stabenow
Brown	Hirono	Udall
Cantwell	Markey	Warren
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—4

Duckworth	McCain
Flake	Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 23.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report both nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of five years; and Jelena McWilliams, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a term of six years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JOSEPH MARTIN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to recognize MG Joseph M. Martin and his outstanding military career, which is made evident by a significant milestone promotion to lieutenant general. Major General Martin is the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, KS, and assumed this command in October of 2016 when he took command of the Big Red One—the Army's longest serving, permanent division since 1917.