

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. NEALON TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

NOMINATION OF ROBERT A. WOOD FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

NOMINATION OF PAUL NATHAN JAENICHEN, SR., TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nominations of James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras; Robert A. Wood, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament; and Paul Nathan Jaenichen, Sr., of Kentucky, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

VOTE ON NEALON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Nealon nomination.

The Senator from Minnesota. Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, we yield back time on all three nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Hearing no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of James D. Nealon, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON WOOD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Robert A. Wood, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON JAENICHEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and

consent to the nomination of Paul Nathan Jaenichen, Sr., of Kentucky, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration?

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH FROM CORPORATE INTERFERENCE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today in support of the Not My Boss's Business Act. I thank Senator MURRAY and Senator UDALL for introducing this legislation to help address the recent Supreme Court decision.

Women have gone to the tops of the mountains and to outer space. Women are serving as CEOs, as scientists, and starting our own companies. Here in the Senate we have gone from no women to 20, and that is a great accomplishment.

But for all of our progress—and there has been a lot—this stubborn fact remains: Women still struggle to attain the basic health care services that allow them to plan their families, protect their health, and contribute to our economy. This is fundamentally an issue of fairness and an issue of equality.

I have always said that the Affordable Care Act is a beginning and not an end. I would like to see changes to that bill. I have sponsored changes to that bill. But the law does take significant steps forward on health care for women. One that is of particular importance to women is requiring that all health insurance plans cover FDA-approved forms of contraception. This decision was based on the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine.

The Institute of Medicine had good reason to include contraception as an essential preventive service. We know that pregnancies that are planned are good for moms; they are good for babies. Better access to contraception prevents unintended pregnancies—something we can all agree we want. We do not want unintended pregnancies. We do not want to have abortions. So better access to contraception, as has been proven time and time again, brings down those numbers. And access to birth control is essential for women to meet their career and their education and their family goals.

Not every employer was required to provide contraceptive coverage. Certain nonprofit religious employers were

allowed an exemption. It protected the beliefs of religious nonprofits but could be implemented in a way that still ensured all women could receive the same preventive services in their health insurance.

What I do not believe is sensible, however, is allowing any for-profit business to ask for an exemption. That, in practice, is what the Hobby Lobby Supreme Court ruling could do and what the bill we are considering today would correct.

First, what this bill will not do: It will not force churches or religiously affiliated nonprofits to offer contraception coverage. This bill maintains their exemption. It will not force anyone to use contraception. That decision is and must remain with each person.

What this bill will do, however, is to add a provision to the Affordable Care Act's requirements that would prohibit an employer from denying coverage of a health care service that is required under Federal law. It clarifies that this requirement applies even under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act—the law that the Supreme Court ruled was violated by the contraception coverage requirement.

In other words, it says if you work for an American corporation, you can expect that your health insurance—which you work for and receive as part of your compensation—will cover the same basic preventive health benefits everyone else receives. It says that your boss—regardless of his or her religious beliefs—cannot pick and choose what benefits your health insurance covers.

This is common sense. A woman's decision about her birth control is between her and her doctor, not her employer. What she chooses to use her compensation for is really not her boss's business, whether we are talking about a salary or other compensation, including health insurance.

There is no doubt that women have come a long way. But when a woman's boss can step in, as a result of this narrowly decided Court decision—a 5-4 ruling—and prevent her from making the best health care decisions for her health, her career, and her future, it makes me wonder just how far we have actually come.

Mr. President, that is why I urge you to support this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This important legislation will help preserve the rights of employees while protecting religious employers. It will help women access the preventive services they need and it will prevent unintended pregnancies and improve the health of both women and their children. That is not just good for women; that is good for families, that is good for business, that is good for our economy, and that is good for our future.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks.