

have authorization to work in this country from going back and retroactively claiming unauthorized periods of work in which they used made-up or stolen Social Security numbers.

This is a necessary step that will help to preserve the integrity of our Social Security system. As with the provision on welfare benefits, this provision is part of the Leahy compromise amendment.

According to the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation, this provision will result in lower spending for Social Security and Medicare.

While I am pleased that we have been able to reach agreement on these important issues, there are other Finance Committee issues that have not been addressed. There is the issue of when those on the RPI or blue card pathways will be eligible for tax credits and health insurance premium subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. I filed an amendment that would have placed those subsidies in the same category as other Federal means-tested programs, which, of course, includes a 5-year waiting period once an immigrant attains the status of a lawful permanent resident.

There is also the issue of back taxes. I filed an amendment that would have required all RPI applicants to pay their back taxes as a condition of receiving a change in status.

Neither of these two issues is adequately addressed by the current version of the legislation. In my view, these are serious problems that will need to be fixed before the bill is suitable for the President's signature.

On top of that, there is still the issue of border security. While the compromise legislation we will be voting on this week significantly improves upon the original draft of this bill, I believe we can and should do more.

So as you see, Madam President, there is still a number of issues that need to be resolved. However, as I have said all along, this is a process. Reporting the bill out of the Judiciary Committee was one step in that process, and passing the bill on the Senate floor is another step—a first step.

I do not think anyone should be under any illusions that when the Senate completes its work on the legislation this week, the process is finished. The House of Representatives is working on its own bill with an entirely different approach. I have already begun reaching out to my House colleagues to help address these issues that I believe are important, particularly those that fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee.

I hope the House will work to address what I see as significant shortcomings in the Senate bill, and I will work hard to ensure that those issues are resolved should the bill go to conference.

With that in mind, I plan to vote in favor of S. 744 later this week. As I said before, I share the belief of most of my colleagues that the current immigra-

tion system is broken and that reform is absolutely necessary. As I see it, the only way we can reach that goal is to allow the process to move forward.

Once again, I would like to commend my colleagues for their work on this legislation thus far. I hope they will keep an open mind on future changes as well. While the final product is far from perfect, I believe we are on a path to reaching a reasonable solution to the problems that continue to plague our Nation's immigration system.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Capitol to move this process forward toward a successful conclusion.

Madam President, I yield the floor. In fact, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam 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 nomination of Penny Pritzker, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Commerce?

Mr. REID. Madam President, 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.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

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

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Donnelly	Levin
Ayotte	Durbin	Manchin
Baldwin	Enzi	McCain
Barrasso	Feinstein	McCaskill
Baucus	Fischer	McConnell
Begich	Flake	Menendez
Bennet	Franken	Merkley
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Mikulski
Blunt	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Murkowski
Boxer	Hagan	Murphy
Brown	Harkin	Murray
Burr	Hatch	Nelson
Cantwell	Heinrich	Paul
Cardin	Heitkamp	Portman
Carper	Heller	Pryor
Casey	Hirono	Reed
Chambliss	Hoeven	Reid
Chiesa	Inhofe	Risch
Coats	Isakson	Roberts
Coburn	Johanns	Rockefeller
Cochran	Johnson (SD)	Rubio
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Schatz
Cooms	Kaine	Schumer
Corker	King	Scott
Cornyn	Kirk	Sessions
Cowan	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Crapo	Landrieu	Shelby
Cruz	Leahy	Stabenow

Tester	Udall (NM)	Wicker
Thune	Vitter	Wyden
Toomey	Warner	
Udall (CO)	Warren	

NAYS—1

Sanders

NOT VOTING—2

Lee

Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). 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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Minnesota.

#### BORDER SECURITY, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, AND IMMIGRATION MODERNIZATION ACT—Continued

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. It was a clear, good vote for our new Commerce Secretary. We are very excited about that vote, 97 to 1. I am going to speak to that, but before I do, I yield to my colleague from the State of Louisiana, Senator LANDRIEU, for 2 minutes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I will speak as in morning business for up to 2 or 3 minutes. I just wish to take a point of personal privilege.

As we get to the end of this immigration debate and hopefully have a final vote on this bill sometime this week, it is a very important issue for our country, and there have been any number of Senators who have been involved in trying to negotiate a very complex and tough bill. The Gang of 8 has done a terrific job, in my view, of managing lots of very controversial aspects to this bill. But a group of us, not connected directly to the Gang of 8, have been working on a group of amendments that are not central to the bill or rather potentially—potentially, let me say—noncontroversial. We have been working with Republicans and Democrats parallel to the Gang of 8. I only ask the leadership on both sides, the Republican leadership, the Democratic leadership, to please look at the list that has been submitted for the record not once, not twice, not three times but five times—a list that has been well circulated—and if there are any objections to the specific ideas in the bill—not objections to the amendments but specific objections to the ideas of the amendments, the substance of the amendments—please talk with me and I will be happy to do everything I can to resolve any concerns.

As the Senator from Arizona knows so well—he has been in the middle of this debate for a long time now—there have been hundreds of amendments offered in the Judiciary Committee and voted on and there are over 250 amendments pending on the floor, some of