abuses. I thank Senator MARKEY for the great work he does on human rights and also the work he and I did on the House on online privacy.

The Protecting Human Rights During Pandemic Act would require the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development—or USAID—to take actions to prevent human rights abuses in the name of coronavirus response. The bill authorizes funding through 2025 for programs that support human rights defense during and in the aftermath of harmful responses to the pandemic. Congress would receive strategic plans from the State Department and USAID detailing how those funds are being put to use, as well as regular reports on human rights violations perpetrated in the name of pandemic response.

The spread of COVID–19 has forced businesses, families, and governments to take extraordinary measures to protect human life. Some have proven effective; unfortunately, others are missing the mark. We still have much to do in terms of pandemic response, and we continue to work on it every day. But I encourage my colleagues not to let the severity of our situation distract from our responsibility to set an example for the rest of the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

NOMINATION OF BRIAN D. MONTGOMERY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to confirm Brian Montgomery as the next Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Montgomery is among the most respected voices in the housing market, as well as one of the most experienced. His breadth of experience includes service as the head of the Federal Housing Administration—or FHA—during the Bush administration, the Obama administration, and the Trump administration.

Mr. Montgomery guided FHA through the 2008 financial crisis and has provided steadfast leadership at the FHA through the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, arguably the two most turbulent times for the housing market in a generation.

Prior to the COVID–19 outbreak, he oversaw the return of FHA's insurance fund to its strongest financial position since fiscal year 2007, while continuing to provide affordable homeownership opportunities to tens of thousands of first-time homebuyers each year. Since the outbreak, he has worked to make sure that FHA performs its traditional countercyclical role of maintaining liquidity and credit access in the mortgage market where traditional sources of home financing may have dried up.

For over a year now, Mr. Montgomery has also served in the capacity of Acting Deputy Secretary at HUD, where he has managed the day-to-day operations of the Department under Secretary Ben Carson. Mr. Montgomery knows the Department inside and out and has been intimately involved in carrying out HUD's mission to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable housing opportunities for millions of Americans.

He has been described by the National Multifamily Housing Council as ''a housing policy veteran with deep expertise and experience across a wide variety of policy areas.'' The National Association of Homebuilders has noted that ''throughout his government and private sector career, Brian has proven himself to be both an expert in affordable housing policy, as well as an outstanding Federal agency administrator and communicator.''

This confirmation vote comes at a critical time. In the wake of COVID–19, we have already seen a huge number of mortgage borrowers enter forbearance, while many landlords are struggling to make ends meet, and countless renters are unsure where their next rent payment will come from. Homeless shelters are at or near capacity and facing novel issues related to social distancing, and the homeless community, who may be particularly exposed to the risk of contracting COVID–19, is leaning on HUD for help.

HUD has a central role to play in addressing these challenges and more. The CARES Act acknowledges this important role, entrusting HUD with over $12 billion in additional funding to provide immediate relief and to address emerging issues. Bold leadership is especially needed during this critical time for HUD, and Mr. Montgomery is a trusted voice who fits the mold perfectly.

Fifteen years ago, this body confirmed Mr. Montgomery on a voice vote to serve as FHA Commissioner. Two years ago, we confirmed him as FHA Commissioner, again, on a strong bipartisan vote of 74–23.

I support Brian Montgomery, and I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting ''yes'' on his nomination.

Thank you.

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. 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

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 Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, James Lankford, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Steve Daines, David Perdue, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner, Marsha Blackburn, John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo.

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 Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted ''yea'' and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted ''yea.''

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Bennet	Gardner	Murphy
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Hawley	Portman
Braun	Hoeven	Risch
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Capito	Inhofe	Romney
Carper	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Coons	King	Shelby
Cornyn	Lankford	Sinema
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Loeffler	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Warner
Enzi	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NAYS—29

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Blumenthal	Harris	Schumer
Booker	Hassan	Shaheen
Brown	Heinrich	Smith
Cantwell	Hirono	Stabenow
Casey	Kaine	Udall
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Peters	Warren
Durbin	Reed	Wyden
Feinstein	Rosen	