Attorney General Becerra's 12 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives gave him a solid foundation in knowing how to set agendas and achieve results, which we saw deployed in his work as a key leader on the Committee on Ways and Means, ranking member of the Subcommittee on Social Security, and chair of the House Democratic Caucus.

He helped to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, modernize and strengthen Medicare, and helped pass the Affordable Care Act. His commitment to the letter and spirit of this law is something he carried into his role as California Attorney General, fighting to maintain his State's ability to bring millions of previously uninsured residents under the ACA's umbrella.

Last November, he led the defense of the Affordable Care Act in the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of 20 States and the District of Columbia. His tweet after the oral arguments concisely sums up the national importance of his effort: ''The ACA saves lives. It is the law of the land.'' He brings a strong commitment to using the law and regulatory tools to make access to health care and other vital services equitable—the very thing that makes our nation strong.

I look forward to working with him on ensuring that everyone has access to quality and affordable healthcare, and I know he will be a partner in the fight against the coronavirus and our goal of getting all eligible Americans vaccinated, even in hard-to-reach areas.

Last week, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act, which included major funding to address the Nation's worsening mental health and addiction crisis. This is a high priority of mine and an issue with which Attorney General Becerra has firsthand experience. He started his career as a legal aid attorney in Massachusetts, supporting clients contending with mental health issues. I am eager to work with him on this issue.

Addressing the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs is another area where Attorney General Becerra has shown key leadership. He and I share a belief that fairer competition means increased access to affordable prescription drugs and better public health. As California Attorney General, he investigated and brought enforcement actions against drug manufacturers' anticompetitive business practices to help reduce drug prices and ensure that people have access to the drugs they need. In March 2020, he led a bipartisan group of 46 State attorneys general who successfully advocated before the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the rights of States to regulate and address the rising cost of prescription drugs.

The United States must do more to ensure that new technologies have appropriate privacy and security protections for health data. At a September 2020 hearing on the need for Federal data privacy legislation, Attorney General Becerra told me and other members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation that ''every consumer should be able to own and control his or her data'' and that ''if we decide that we don't want anyone to use [our data], it's our choosing.'' His testimony was reassuring, and I look forward to working with him to ensure consumers can have peace of mind when it comes to the security of their personal health data.

Given the pandemic' s spotlight on the vulnerability of our Nation's seniors, I am eager to work with the Biden administration to improve the safety and well-being of older Americans. When my 92-year-old dad, living in a memory care facility, was diagnosed with COVID–19 last year, I was only able to visit him through a window. He recognized me, but he just didn't understand why we couldn't be in the same room together. Tens of thousands of families have been through these wrenching situations over the past year and want to see the Federal Government doing more. Attorney General Becerra recently moved to make the California Department of Justice Medicaid Fraud Control Unit a full-fledged division, underscoring his commitment to protecting seniors and people with disabilities. I know his leadership will place the needs of seniors front and center.

Attorney General Becerra has the expertise and experience and the enforcement and regulatory savvy to handle the job of protecting public health, strengthening our hospitals and health care system, making sure people have access to quality, affordable health care, and supporting our health care workers. And as the first Latino to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, he will bring a personal understanding of the immediate need for equitable access to care.

With that, I ask my colleagues to support the nomination: Xavier Becerra as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish my remarks before we vote.

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

NOMINATION OF ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to voice my strong support for Isabella Guzman's nomination to serve as Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Our Nation passed the 1-year mark of COVID–19's being declared a national emergency last Saturday, March 13, and, thankfully, the American people can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. Already, more than 20 percent of all Americans have received at least one COVID–19 vaccine dose, with an average of more than 2.39 million additional doses being administered each day. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel, but we are not there yet.

The COVID–19 pandemic has decimated American small businesses, and the worst effects have been felt by the most vulnerable small businesses, especially those in Black, Latino, Native, and rural communities, so the SBA must continue to be a lifeline in the coming months. That is why it is important that we confirm Ms. Guzman's nomination, so she can provide the permanent, steady leadership the SBA needs right now.

When we passed the CARES Act, Congress tasked the SBA with one of the most important aspects of our COVID–19 relief effort. We knew we had to support our small businesses because the public health restrictions on public gatherings, which have saved thousands of lives and kept our communities safe, have been especially challenging for small businesses. We had to help small businesses so that, when we get out of this pandemic, when our economy returns, our small businesses will emerge in a position to help our economy recover and continue to grow.

The CARES Act included $377 billion in funds for small businesses and created the Paycheck Protection Program, the EIDL advance program, and the small business debt relief program to help small businesses that had traditional SBA loans, like the 7(a) and 504. In April, we passed legislation to replenish the PPP, EIDL, and the EIDL advance grant program with $370 billion in additional funds. Then, in December, we passed the bipartisan Economic Aid Act to provide another $325 billion to support small businesses, allow for second round PPP loans, and create the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program. In total last year, Congress appropriated more than $1 trillion to the SBA for COVID–19 relief programs.

Since the passage of the CARES Act, the SBA has approved more than 7.5 million PPP loans worth more than $687 billion and more than 3.7 million EIDL loans worth more than $200 billion. These loans and grants have saved millions of jobs and prevented millions of small businesses from closing their doors.

I want to thank the SBA personnel who have worked long hours, including nights and weekends, to implement these critical programs.

SBA still has a lot of work left to do. As I mentioned, the December bill created the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, which we expect the SBA to open in the coming weeks.

SBA also has to open a new $28.6 billion grant program for restaurants and bars, which was created by the historic American Rescue Plan.

The plan appropriated an additional $50 billion in economic relief for small businesses, including $15 billion to targeted EIDL advance grants, an additional $7.25 billion to PPP, and $1.25 billion for shuttered venue grants.

The plan also required SBA to launch a Community Navigator Pilot Program, which is designed to help small businesses in underserved and underbanked communities access the COVID–19 relief resources available to them. These programs will be key to our economic recovery.

That brings me to Mrs. Guzman's nomination. Mrs. Guzman has decades of experience working with, supporting, and founding small businesses, which have prepared her to lead the SBA during this moment.

Most recently, Mrs. Guzman was the State of California's director of the Office of Small Business Advocate, where she oversaw implementation of the State's COVID–19 Relief Grant Program.

Mrs. Guzman also helped lead SBA during the Obama administration, serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor for 3 years, from 2014 through 2017.

During her nomination hearing last month, Mrs. Guzman demonstrated her commitment to ensuring that SBA's relief programs, as well as its traditional loan programs, are implemented equitably and that they help small businesses in Black, Latino, Native, rural, and other underserved communities overcome the historic barriers they face.

She is committed to ensuring the Agency has the right systems, technology, and operating procedures in place to advance the mission and reach all of our small businesses.

And she is committed to ''ensure funds get into the hands of small businesses who have been hurt the most by the pandemic and the economic crisis through no fault of their own.''

As we learned during the pandemic, SBA has a key role to play in our Nation's effort to fight systems of inequality that prevent many entrepreneurs in underserved and underbanked communities from starting and growing successful businesses.

Mrs. Guzman will be an advocate for small businesses in these communities within the administration, and she will be a strong partner to us in Congress as we build better capacity to support small businesses through the coming economic recovery.

Mrs. Guzman's commitment to equity and her deep knowledge of the needs of small businesses and the best policies to help them are why she received bipartisan praise during her nomination hearing and was advanced by the committee by a bipartisan vote.

Mrs. Guzman has earned broad support from the small business community. Her nomination has been endorsed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Hispanic Chamber, the U.S. Black Chamber, the National Small Business Association, the Small Business Majority, the National Federation of Independent Businesses, and many other small business advocacy groups.

SBA needs an Administrator who can hit the ground running, and I am confident Mrs. Guzman is exactly the right person for the job.

I urge my colleagues who have spoken with small business owners who still need support from the SBA—and I am sure everyone has—to join me and vote to confirm Mrs. Guzman as the SBA Administrator.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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 Executive Calendar No. 26, Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Amy Klobuchar, Sherrod Brown, Angus S. King, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ron Wyden.

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 Isabella Casillas Guzman, of California, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Durbin	Luján
Barrasso	Ernst	Manchin
Bennet	Feinstein	Markey
Blumenthal	Fischer	Marshall
Blunt	Gillibrand	McConnell
Booker	Graham	Menendez
Brown	Grassley	Merkley
Burr	Hassan	Moran
Cantwell	Heinrich	Murkowski
Capito	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Cardin	Hoeven	Murray
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Ossoff
Casey	Inhofe	Padilla
Cassidy	Johnson	Paul
Collins	Kaine	Peters
Coons	Kelly	Portman
Cornyn	King	Reed
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Romney
Cramer	Lankford	Rosen
Duckworth	Leahy	Rounds
Sanders	Sullivan	Warnock
Schatz	Tester	Warren
Schumer	Thune	Whitehouse
Shaheen	Tillis	Wicker
Sinema	Toomey	Wyden
Smith	Van Hollen	Young
Stabenow	Warner	

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Daines	Rubio
Boozman	Hagerty	Sasse
Braun	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Shelby
Cruz	Risch	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—2

Hirono	Lummis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 80, the nays are 18.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Guzman nomination be considered expired at 2:30 p.m. today.

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

Mr. COONS. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

NOMINATION OF ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I stand here today in support of Isabel Guzman's nomination to serve as SBA Administrator.

This pandemic has been challenging for our communities, and it has been especially devastating for our small businesses. We urgently need a leader who is experienced and prepared for the work ahead, someone who will hit the ground running to revive and restore our small businesses and bring back jobs, and Isabel Guzman is exactly the right person for this task.

Having previously served in the U.S. Small Business Administration, Mrs. Guzman knows the Agency well. She understands the struggles that small businesses and workers face, not just during this pandemic but also their day-to-day needs. She will use the Agency's tools to support small businesses, and she will fight fiercely on their behalf.

Ninety-nine percent of Nevada businesses are small businesses. This is a diverse community that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of our State, and over the last year they have faced obstacle after obstacle. Thousands of Nevada business owners have called my office for help.

These small business owners are—well, they are people. They are people who have poured their hard-earned money into starting businesses. They