Suffice it to say, Lieutenant General Gibson has a tall order, but I have every confidence that she will perform her duties at the same exemplary standards she set over the course of her three-decade military career.

As Senior Intelligence Officer in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Lieutenant General Gibson supported U.S. national security objectives in Iraq, Afghanistan, East Africa, Korea, the Pacific, and across the Middle East. Since January 6, she has been working with retired Army LTG Russel Honoré on a comprehensive review of the Capitol's security.

So given her background and given what she has done recently, I know she is ready to hit the ground running. Lieutenant General Gibson is ready to go, and her responsibility to ensure a safe working environment for Senators, visitors, Capitol employees, staff, and reporters she will take with the utmost of gravity and competence.

Joining her in the Office of Sergeant at Arms will be Kelly Fado, as Deputy Sergeant, and Jennifer Hemingway, as chief of staff, two trusted members of the Senate family.

This is a historic day in a second way. This will be the first time in the history of the Senate that the leadership of the Sergeant at Arms will be comprised entirely of women—another crack in the glass ceiling. And I cannot think of a better team than the one we have put together.

Congratulations to all three of them on officially starting their new roles today. And I know, Madam President, you are proud of that as well.

It is really a good day.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, next, another aspect of why this is a good day.

Tonight, the Senate will confirm Mayor Marty Walsh of Boston to serve as Secretary of Labor. The son of Irish immigrants, Mayor Walsh followed his father's footsteps in construction and joined the Laborers' Union Local 223 at age 21, eventually serving as its president before being elected mayor of Boston.

During his testimony here in the Senate, Mayor Walsh said it was by joining a union that his parents were able to climb up into the middle class and give their son a shot at a better life.

We have something in common. My grandfather came to the United States and became very involved with the labor movement. One day when he was 14, it was raining. He was looking for shelter. It was pouring. He had almost nowhere to live. He walked into the labor temple, where he heard Eugene V. Debs and Will and Ariel Durant give the annual address at that temple established by the A.F. of L. to teach the immigrants about the union movement. So we have that in common. Our grandfathers are immigrants—one from Ireland, one from Eastern Europe, but both joined the labor movement, and it helped their family move up.

The Department of Labor is in desperate need of a leader with Mayor Walsh's perspective. For the past 4 years under President Trump and Secretary Scalia, unfortunately, sadly, the Labor Department has too often sided with corporate America, not the working people of America, which it was formed to help. Once the Senate confirms Mayor Walsh, American workers will finally have one of their own leading the Department of Labor, someone from working America who will fight for working America.

I am proud to say that once Mayor Walsh is confirmed tonight, the Senate will have confirmed all 15 of President Biden's Cabinet Secretaries.

Under extraordinary circumstances, unusual responsibilities, a later than usual runoff election, an evenly divided Chamber, an insurrection, an impeachment trial, and the passage of historic Federal relief, the Senate has still stayed on track and confirmed President Biden's Cabinet faster than both of the last two administrations. Let me say that again. With everything else going on, the Senate has confirmed President Biden's Cabinet faster than during both of the prior two administrations, one a Democrat and one a Republican. Every single member of President Biden's Cabinet has received a bipartisan vote in favor of confirmation. I anticipate that the vote in favor of Mayor Walsh will stay true to form, completing an unblemished record of bipartisan confirmations to the Cabinet.

It is a tribute to President Biden and his team that they have chosen such a fine Cabinet and a tribute to the Senators here that we have moved in such a quick fashion despite so many other responsibilities being placed on our shoulders in these early days of this Congress.

Few Cabinets in history have begun their tenures with such daunting tasks: a once-in-a-century pandemic, an economy in the doldrums, global challenges like climate change and democratic decline. Thankfully, this Senate has made sure President Biden's Cabinet is in place and on the job as quickly as possible. We will continue the personnel business this week by installing the Deputy Director at OMB, the Surgeon General, the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Deputy Secretaries at Energy and Treasury.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, PPP. In addition to these nominees, the Senate has another important matter of legislative business on the agenda this week: an extension of the bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program, which is set to expire at the end of the month.

Since its inception, the Paycheck Protection Program has generated more than 7.8 million loans to keep America's businesses afloat during what has been the worst economic crisis in three-quarters of a century, since the Great Depression. With the help of the American Rescue Plan, our economy is finally turning the corner, but businesses are not out of the woods yet and are likely to need assistance for another few months as the country continues to recover.

Most borrowers are currently awaiting loan approvals at the Small Business Administration, and many more are still looking to apply. Working with the Biden administration, we made important changes to the PPP program to expand eligibility and access to nonprofits, to hard-hit independent venues, and to make it easier for the smallest, most underserved businesses to get relief, particularly microbusinesses, sole proprietors, and woman-owned and minority-owned businesses.

There is no reason—no reason—to let this program expire while there are still scores of applicants in line and billions of dollars left in the program. The House already passed the extension of the program by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, 415 to 3. A bipartisan group of Senators, including Senators CARDIN and COLLINS, SHAHEEN, MARSHALL, SULLIVAN, and MURKOWSKI, support identical legislation here in the Senate.

So we are not going to end this week without passing an extension. Again, the Senate must pass another extension of the Paycheck Protection Program before the end of the week and make sure the Nation's small businesses can have access to this very vital lifeline.

I yield the floor.

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. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.