

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court? On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will now call the roll.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, if I may have the attention of my colleagues, it has been the practice in the Senate that votes on Supreme Court nominations are made from the Senator's desk. I ask that Senators cast their votes from their desks during this vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All Senators will stand back from their desks as their names are called and cast their vote.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. PELL. I announce that the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] is necessarily absent.

I further announce that the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. PELL] is absent on official business.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] would vote "yea."

Mr. SIMPSON. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. DURENBERGER] and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. WALLOP] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. WALLOP] would vote "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 9, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 242 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Akaka	Faircloth	Mathews
Baucus	Feingold	McCain
Bennett	Feinstein	McConnell
Biden	Ford	Metzenbaum
Bingaman	Olenn	Mikulski
Bond	Gorton	Mitchell
Boren	Gramm	Moseley-Braun
Boxer	Orassey	Moynihan
Bradley	Oregg	Murray
Breaux	Harkin	Nunn
Brown	Hatch	Packwood
Bryan	Hatfield	Pressler
Bumpers	Heflin	Fryor
Byrd	Hollings	Reid
Campbell	Hutchison	Riegle
Chafee	Inouye	Robb
Cochran	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Cohen	Johnston	Roth
Conrad	Kassebaum	Sarbanes
Craig	Kempthorne	Sasser
D'Amato	Kennedy	Shelby
Danforth	Kerrey	Simon
Daschle	Kerry	Simpson
DeConcini	Kohl	Specter
Dodd	Lautenberg	Stevens
Dole	Leahy	Thurmond
Domenici	Levin	Warner
Dorgan	Lieberman	Wellstone
Exon	Mack	Wofford

NAYS—9

Burns	Helms	Murkowski
Coats	Lott	Nickles
Coverdell	Lugar	Smith

NOT VOTING—4

Durenberger	Pell
Graham	Wallop

So the nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order of July 28, the motion to reconsider is tabled.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate now returns to legislative session.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for their cooperation in this matter, the distinguished chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the Senator from Massachusetts, who was instrumental in moving this nomination forward, and the Republican leader and our Republican colleagues, who graciously agreed to the procedure for debating and voting on this nomination today.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent there be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to address the Senate for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FACES OF THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS

Mr. RIEGLE. Mr. President, I rise to continue my effort to put a face on the health care crisis confronting America. I continue to hear from countless citizens in Michigan who have fallen through the cracks of our health care system, and today I want to talk about Allen Johnson of Inkster, MI.

Allen Johnson is a 41-year-old divorced father of three children. By 1988, Allen had worked as a customer service representative for Zantop International Airlines for 15 years, earned \$10 an hour, and had Blue Cross Blue Shield health coverage. Under his policy he was only responsible for paying for prescription medication. And although Allen is diabetic, this was affordable because at that time the monthly cost for daily insulin injections was \$25.

But in October of that year, he injured his back at work while helping unload a shipment of 90-pound cartons. This injury was so severe that Allen was disabled by it, and has been unable to work ever since. He received workman's compensation for his injuries for a period of time, and now lives on Social Security Disability income of \$781 a month.

Allen's back injuries prevent him from performing what were once usual activities, like walking or standing for a long period of time, or maintaining one position while he is sitting.

Unfortunately, in addition to Allen's chronic back disability and diabetes, he now has hypertension. This condition was diagnosed 4 years ago, just about the same time he had to leave his job. And if that were not enough, his diabetes has impaired his vision to the point that Allen was declared legally blind last November.

Allen first lost his medical insurance because of his injury: Since he took a medical leave of absence instead of being fired or quitting, he was not eligible to continue his workplace insurance by paying the premium himself. Allen's medical problems make it impossible for him to find affordable private health insurance. He is now uninsured.

Allen is in the awful position of not having health care coverage when he desperately needs services. For his diabetes he needs needles, insulin, and a special diet. He takes two different prescription medications for his hypertension and pain killers for his back condition. These medications cost over \$200 a month, more than one-quarter of his Social Security Disability income. Over the last 2 months Allen has had two separate eye surgeries in an attempt to regain some of his vision. The surgeries failed, and his sight is now worse than before—he can make out shadows, nothing more. He requires regular visits with his physicians to monitor his eyes and diabetes. He has stopped receiving treatment to improve his back condition because he cannot afford the cost of the visits.

If Allen had never worked, his disability would have qualified him for SSI income, food stamps, and Medicaid coverage for his health care. His work history made him eligible for SSDI income. But SSDI, although less than \$800 a month, makes him ineligible for all of these other benefits. Allen may use Medicaid coverage for health costs only if he buys into the program, which is how he paid for his eye operations. But to get Medicaid coverage he must "spend down" \$406 a month first. This is over half of his monthly income, which would leave him just \$375 for all other expenses. Clearly, this is not a real option for him to cover his ongoing medical needs. Because of his disability, in 2 years he will be eligible for Medicare coverage, but until then he must make do on his own.

The rent on Allen's apartment is \$430 a month and utilities are usually another \$200 to \$300. His medical costs are so high that he simply cannot pay all his bills each month. He tries to survive with the help of good friends who will drive him to the doctors and to buy groceries. But the bills are piling up. Allen admits that he has lost track of exactly how many thousands of dollars he owes in medical bills because the amount increases every month.

Allen has delayed doctor visits and is using less medication than prescribed in order to make it last longer. So as he gets deeper and deeper into debt, his physical health suffers as well.

Unfortunately, Allen Johnson's case is not uncommon. Our health system leaves individuals who become disabled without any health care coverage at all. Allen was once a productive, responsible worker and father, but now