

# BUSINESS MEETING

*Wednesday, September 18, 2019*

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 1:41 p.m., in Room S-116, U.S.  
2 Capitol, Hon. James Risch, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           Present: Senators Risch [presiding], Rubio, Johnson, Gardner, Romney,  
4 Graham, Isakson, Barrasso, Portman, Paul, Young, Menendez, Cardin, Shaheen,  
5 Coons, Murphy, Kaine, and Merkley.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES RISCH,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM IDAHO**

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** This meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
7 will come to order.

8           Today, we will consider seven nominees for a variety of posts across the  
9 State Department but actually it is going to be five.

10          The Chairman is exercising his discretion and Mr. Manchester and Mr.  
11 Zuckerman are going to be pulled off of this calendar.

12          The other ones we are going to consider are Andrew Bremberg, John  
13 Carwile, Anthony Godfrey, Erin McKee, and Ms. Herro [Mustafa].

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1           These are important nominations. I appreciate everyone's attendance. We  
2 will move as quickly as we can because I know all of you have other  
3 commitments that you need to attend to. So with that, we will get to it.

4           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Mr. Chairman, thank you.

5           You are pulling off Manchester and Bremberg, is that correct?

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** I am.

7           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Okay.

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Zuckerman.

9           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Oh, I am sorry. Zuckerman, okay. So I will save  
10 my comments about both of them for the future when you -- when and if you  
11 decide to hold the meeting on them.

12          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you.

13          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Let me speak to Mr. Bremberg then. Regarding Mr.  
14 Bremberg, it would be an understatement to say that I do not think he is the best  
15 person to represent the United States in Geneva.

16          Mr. Bremberg's views on women's rights and access to reproductive  
17 health care are not only out of sync with much of the world but outside the  
18 mainstream of even the Republican Party and in opposition with the

1 longstanding position of the United States Government and more than three-  
2 quarters of the American public.

3           Specifically, by way of example of what I am talking about at the hearing,  
4 he asserted that women and girls who are raped in war should not have access to  
5 abortion even where it is legal, even where it is legal.

6           Each Administration gets to send a message to the individual they select  
7 to represent the United States at international fora. In nominating Mr. Bremberg,  
8 I think the White House is essentially saying that it does not value women.

9           This Administration may wish to have Mr. Bremberg serve somewhere  
10 but the very last place he should be is in a position in which he can do further  
11 damage to erode global access to women's health care.

12           For that reason, I will oppose his nomination and I will support the rest of  
13 the nominations that follow.

14           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you.

15           We are first going to consider the five Foreign Service Office lists on the  
16 agenda [and] Mr. Carwile, Mr. Godfrey, Ms. McKee, and Ms. Mustafa.

17           Is there a motion to accept these?

18           **VOICE.** So moved.

1           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

2           **VOICE.** Second.

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** There is a motion, duly seconded.

4           Is there debate?

5           [No response.]

6           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Being none, all those in favor, signify by saying aye.

7           [Chorus of ayes.]

8           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The ayes have it.

9           The votes will be recorded.

10          Next, we will take up a motion on the nomination of Mr. Bremberg.

11          The Ranking Member has stated his views on that and certainly appreciate

12          that. We had Mr. Bremberg before the committee. He was very clear that

13          notwithstanding the personal views he might have, that he will follow the law,

14          U.S. law regarding the abortion issues.

15          In any event, is there a motion to adopt?

16          **VOICE.** So moved.

17          **VOICE.** Second.

18          **THE CHAIRMAN.** It has been moved. It has been seconded.

1           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Recorded vote.

2           **THE CHAIRMAN.** The recorded vote has been requested.

3           The Clerk will call the roll.

4           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Rubio?

5           **SENATOR RUBIO.** Aye.

6           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Johnson?

7           **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Aye.

8           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Gardner?

9           **SENATOR GARDNER.** Aye.

10          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Romney?

11          **SENATOR ROMNEY.** Aye.

12          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Graham?

13          **SENATOR GRAHAM.** Aye.

14          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Isakson?

15          **SENATOR ISAKSON.** Aye.

16          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Barrasso?

17          **SENATOR BARRASSO.** Aye.

18          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Portman?

1           **SENATOR PORTMAN.** Aye.

2           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Paul?

3           **SENATOR PAUL.** Aye.

4           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Young?

5           **SENATOR YOUNG.** Aye.

6           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cruz?

7           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye by proxy.

8           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Menendez?

9           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No.

10          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Cardin?

11          **SENATOR CARDIN.** No.

12          **THE CLERK.** Mrs. Shaheen?

13          **SENATOR SHAHEEN.** No.

14          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Coons?

15          **SENATOR COONS.** No.

16          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Udall?

17          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No by proxy.

18          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Murphy?

1           **SENATOR MURPHY.** No.

2           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Kaine?

3           **SENATOR Kaine.** No.

4           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Markey?

5           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No by proxy.

6           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Merkley?

7           **SENATOR MERKLEY.** No.

8           **THE CLERK.** Mr. Booker?

9           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** No by proxy.

10          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman?

11          **THE CHAIRMAN.** Aye.

12          **THE CLERK.** Mr. Chairman, the ayes are 12, the nos are 10.

13          **THE CHAIRMAN.** The motion has carried. He will be favorably reported to  
14 the Floor.

15            I think that is it. I ask unanimous consent for staff to make technical and  
16 conforming changes. Without objection, and if there is nothing else for the good  
17 of the order, the committee is adjourned.

**[Whereupon, at 1:46 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.]**