

Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.)
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
Executive Business Meeting
February 27, 2014

We have nine judicial nominees and one executive nominee on today's agenda. The six Arizona district court nominees to fill judicial emergency vacancies are ready to be reported out. One of these Arizona nominees will become the first Native American woman ever to serve on the Federal bench and another is a Latina who was nominated more than two years ago. I am glad we will make progress on them today and look forward to their confirmation votes. I thank Senators McCain and Flake for their work.

I understand that the Republicans want to hold over the other nominees today. I expect we will report them out next week. Also on our agenda today is Senator Whitehouse's sentencing bill. I understand he has come to an agreement with Senator Cornyn but some members expressed a need for more time to review that complex proposal so I hope we will consider that bipartisan amendment next week. I hope we can report out the identity theft measure on our agenda. It will help protect consumers across the country who are at risk of having tax returns filed fraudulently using their identities. Senator Klobuchar has worked hard on this effort and has gained the sponsorship of Senator Sessions so I hope we can report out this bipartisan effort this morning.

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