

**Statement of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.),  
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,  
May 23, 2013**

I thank the Members of this Committee for their diligence during the last several weeks and their work on our comprehensive immigration reform legislation. We were able to complete Committee consideration of the bill Tuesday evening. Given the days spent in that markup this week, I had hoped to be able to accomplish by agreement what we would be able to do today with respect to these five important nominations. Instead, someone on the Republican side has insisted that we assemble in person, if only to hold over the nominees.

At least one of the distinguished nominees to the Sentencing Commission has been stalled since last year by Republican objection. I know of no concern with the qualifications of that nominee but like so many nominees, Judge Breyer was held over from last year. I know that Senator Sessions is a long-time friend of another, more recent Sentencing Commission nominee. I hope that all members will agree to proceed with the slate of three Sentencing Commission nominees without further delay.

I understand that the minority will also ask to hold over the Court of Federal Claims nominees, although no one has any objection to either of them.

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