

Senate Nod For Patenaude To Lead HUD

Closing in on one year into the Trump presidency and a half-year since Pamela Patenaude was nominated to be HUD deputy secretary in charge of the department's day-to-day operations, HUD's lumbering bureaucracy now has administrative direction.

Senate Democrats ended their stalling tactic on Patenaude's nomination and cleared the way to an 80-17 vote with three senators abstaining. Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) led the chamber's liberal bloc against the confirmation after agreeing to drop 30-hours of post-cloture debate before a final vote.

HUD-veteran Patenaude takes over at a time when HUD's morale has plunged under a workforce divided by department veterans, Obama administration hires still working under that administration's guidelines, and the new guard of executives.

Patenaude's immediate duties in the wake of hurricanes Harvey and Irma is to assume the lead role in the department's Disaster Management Group and play a primary leadership role in coordinating the long-term recovery efforts at HUD.

Patenaude served as HUD assistant secretary for Community Planning & Development in the George W. Bush administration before becoming director of housing policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center. She most recently was president of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Foundation for Housing America's Families.

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