

excuse blocking Pompeo by pointing to Republican opposition to the Iran deal, which confuses the objection to a terribly flawed end product with tackling the negotiator who has begun the very delicate process before a second round begins.

It is unbelievable to me that responsible people would further risk scuttling what are already tricky negotiations. But Trump Derangement Syndrome runs deep, and the anger on the left at being denied the executive branch by those inscrutable Trump voters leads to their senators being pummeled with demands for irrational actions.

Votes such as this are precisely when the serious lawmakers show up, or alternatively, would-be bridge senators fracture their credibility. Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) may not have saved their seats by [announcing their support for Pompeo](#), but at least they have saved their reputations as serious senators. The choice remains in front of Indiana's Joe Donnelly (D), Missouri's Claire McCaskill (D) and many others. The vote on Pompeo to become the secretary of state is one that will define a senator, not Pompeo.

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