

Just closing the loop on [this earlier post](#), which discussed the uncertainty over whether the late Sen. Kennedy's seat would be filled in time to get Dems back to 60 seats for the crucial fall legislative season. Today, MA Governor Deval Patrick appointed a longtime aide to Kennedy as his temporary replacement, pending a special election on January 19 (NY Times story [here](#)). The fate of climate and energy legislation in the Senate this fall will certainly depend on more than this one vote, but it can't hurt.