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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God our king, You rule from Your throne, sustaining us with the unfolding of Your providence. Today, abide with our Senators and all those to whom You have committed the government of this Nation. Lord, give them Your special gifts of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and strength, providing them with the insights to choose what is best. Bless them with constancy of purpose and an unflinching devotion to their duties. Answer their prayers and give them Your peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U. S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 17, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CARL LEVIN, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LEVIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### KEEP STUDENT LOANS AFFORDABLE ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 124.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 124, S. 1238, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the current reduced interest rate for undergraduate Federal Direct Stafford Loans for 1 year, and to modify required distribution rules for pension plans, and for other purposes.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, we will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Fred Hochberg to be president of the very important Export-Import Bank. At 10 a.m. there will be a cloture vote on the Hochberg nomination.

Following that, if cloture is invoked, we will have, as a result of some rules changes made earlier this year, 8 hours of debate. I doubt seriously if the Democrats will take any of their time, so we should be able to finish that sometime soon and have a vote on his confirmation, if we invoke cloture.

We then have left on the calendar for this week the Secretary of Labor and the head of the EPA. So we should be able to finish that tomorrow.

### SENATE FRIENDSHIPS

Mr. President, I am so glad to see the Presiding Officer in the Chair. For

those who perhaps are not aware, Senator LEVIN is a long-time Member of the Senate, and he has decided not to run again, which is very sad for the State of Michigan, the Senate, and the country, but that is the decision he made.

I had the good fortune—and he has heard me say this before, but I will say it again because I will never forget this—of coming to the Congress in 1982, with Senator LEVIN's brother—his older brother—and so the first time I met Senator CARL LEVIN I was contemplating whether I should run for the Senate, after having served in the House. At the very beginning of our visit—a visit in Senator LEVIN's office—I said to him: I know your brother. He and I came to Congress together a few years ago. CARL looked at me so intently and so seriously and said: Yes, he is my brother, but he is also my best friend. Well, having three brothers of my own, that was something that always stuck with me.

Senator LEVIN is our Presiding Officer today, and it doesn't happen very often, so we appreciate that. Our more senior Members don't preside as often as the more junior Members.

I also want to say, with this man in the chair, that we just had one of those rare occasions where the senior Senator from Michigan and I disagreed. The disagreement we had had nothing to do with us and everything to do with positions we had taken. We need not get into what the difference was—it was something dealing with the Senate and had nothing to do with our personalities—but I will say, as a result of the efforts of Senator LEVIN, I am sure he is as pleased as I am with what happened here in the Senate in the last couple of days.

For a number of reasons, not the least of which is the input of the Senator from Michigan, we have now started a new era—I hope a new normal era—here in the Senate where Senators, instead of talking past each

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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