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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, may Your Name be honored. Today, lead our Senators along the road of humility so that You can exalt them in due time. May they have the wisdom to reap the bountiful harvest that comes from planting the seeds of lowliness and reverential awe.

Lord, make them wise and strong as they face national challenges that threaten our freedom. Guide them, strong Deliverer, for they are pilgrims in time who are headed for eternity. Continue in everything to work for the good of those who love You, who are the called according to Your purposes. Keep us, O God, so dedicated to You and Your purposes that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

TRAGEDY IN DALLAS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today the city of Dallas will hold a me-

morial service in honor of the five police officers slain in the senseless shooting during last week's peaceful protest. The victims are individuals who, like law enforcement officials in each of our communities, willingly put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe. Their loss is a tragic reminder of the courage and selflessness they possessed, just as it is a reminder of the burdens their family bear on our behalf. Today we remember each of them.

I know I speak for the entire Senate in saying our hearts are with the families and friends of each of these victims, the others wounded, the entire law enforcement community, and the city of Dallas.

Our Nation experienced a great deal of suffering and heartbreak last week. We must come together now to overcome these tragedies and allow healing to prevail.

CARA AND MILCON-VA AND ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING LEGISLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, let me speak on an entirely different matter.

Angie was "a beautiful girl with a heart of gold and a smile that would light up a room" before her life was changed by heroin. Angie described her addiction to her mother, saying: "Mom, I need this drug like I need air to breathe." It would take Angie experiencing an overdose and her mom begging her to quit before she agreed to seek treatment. Unfortunately, though, like so many addicts, Angie left the treatment facility and started using again. She told her mother: "I'm in a black hole and I can't get out." Angie would end up dying from an overdose, her body dumped callously at the bottom of a muddy creek by her drug dealer.

Tragically, Angie's story is just one glimpse into the widespread prescription opioid and heroin epidemic sweep-

ing our country. In fact, drug overdoses now claim 129 lives a day in America. The families of these victims know more must be done to prevent others from enduring the pain of drug addiction and overdose.

Antidrug groups and law enforcement officials also know more must be done to prevent the widespread loss communities have experienced at the hands of this crisis. That is why nearly 250 antidrug and law enforcement groups across the country have voiced their support for the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act conference report.

Just last week, these groups collectively sent a letter urging passage of this legislation, which they called a "truly comprehensive response to the opioid epidemic" that represents "the critical response we need." These groups represent States from coast to coast, from Lifehouse Recovery Connection in California to Justice and Recovery Advocates in Maryland, to Friends of Recovery in New York, among dozens and dozens of others. They have seen the crisis firsthand, and they know the positive impact this bipartisan comprehensive response can have.

Here is what I mean. The National Association of Counties and the National League of Cities have asked Congress to "act quickly" and pass the CARA conference report. They call it "a pivotal step towards stemming the tide of this epidemic."

The Addiction Policy Forum has warned Congress "not [to] play politics" by blocking passage of this CARA conference report. They call it "a monumental step forward—a tipping point to better addressing the paralyzing opioid epidemic."

The Faces and Voices of Recovery has urged support too. They call it "the most expansive Federal, bipartisan legislation to date for addiction support services," and they say it can "help save the lives of countless people."

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



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