



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 1

## Senate

The third day of January being the day prescribed by the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of the Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol for the commencement of the 1st session of the 115th Congress and at 12:02 p.m. was called to order by the Vice President (Mr. BIDEN).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of Light, in whom there is no darkness, thank You for the illumination of Your presence. As we begin a new year and a new Congress, please be the guide that will lead us to fulfill Your purposes.

During this 115th Congress, awaken our lawmakers to Your inescapable presence. Keep them from thinking that You are absent from our world or disinterested in it. Lord, enable them to feel You in their midst as they grapple with the problems and challenges of our time. May they seek first to embrace a humility that strives to understand instead of striving first to be understood. In a special way, bless our new Senators and all of their loved ones with Your grace, mercy, and peace.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The VICE PRESIDENT 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.

### CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificates of election of 34 Senators elected for 6-

year terms beginning on January 3, 2017. All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all essential requirements of the form suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### STATE OF COLORADO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the eighth day of November, 2016, Michael Bennet was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Colorado a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor John Hickenlooper, and our seal hereto affixed at Denver, Colorado this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

JOHN HICKENLOOPER,  
*Governor.*  
WAYNE W. WILLIAMS,  
*Secretary of State.*

[State Seal Affixed]

#### STATE OF CONNECTICUT

*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to Certify that on the eighth day of November, two thousand and sixteen Richard Blumenthal was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Connecticut as Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January two thousand and seventeen.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor; Dannel P. Malloy and our seal hereto affixed at Hartford, this seventh day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

DANNEL P. MALLOY,  
*Governor.*  
DENISE MERRILL,  
*Secretary of the State.*

[State Seal Affixed]

#### STATE OF MISSOURI

#### GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Roy Blunt was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Missouri a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon, and our seal hereto affixed at the City of Jefferson this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the Governor:

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON,  
*Governor.*  
JASON KANDER,  
*Secretary of State.*

[State Seal Affixed]

#### STATE OF ARKANSAS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, the Honorable John Boozman was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arkansas a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3d day of January, 2017.

Witness: His Excellency, our governor, the Honorable Asa Hutchinson, and our seal hereto affixed at the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas, this 29th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2016.

By the governor:

ASA HUTCHINSON,  
*Governor.*  
MARK MARTIN,  
*Secretary of State.*

[State Seal Affixed]

#### STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM  
*To the President of the Senate of the United States:*

This is to certify that on the 8th day of November, 2016, Richard Mauze Burr was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of North Carolina, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2017.

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



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