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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.

Eternal Lord, marvelous is Your Name. We celebrate the works of Your hands: the sky and sea, the songs of birds, the hues of flowers, and the precision of the planets.

Bless the people of our beloved Republic. Amid all differences, may they be one in spirit, purpose, and faith.

Lord, continue to sustain our Senators. Keep them living, laboring, and loving for the good of all. Make them instruments of Your will for the healing of our Nation and world. Keep them conscious of Your presence and direct their thinking, speaking, and doing.

We pray in Your sacred 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

### NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Foreign Relations Committee finished consideration of Mike Pompeo's nomination to serve as our Nation's 70th Secretary of State. They reported his nomination to the full Senate with a favorable recommendation. Later this week, we will take

their advice, and we will vote to confirm him.

We will be lucky to have this capable public servant on the job. We know Mike Pompeo is up to the task. After all, we confirmed him with a comfortable and bipartisan majority to lead the CIA. In one of the most sensitive positions in our government, the quality of his leadership was directly linked to the security of the American people.

West Point valedictorian, Harvard Law, U.S. Army officer, a successful businessman, and three-term Congressman serving on the House Intelligence Committee—this is the resume that Mike Pompeo brought to the top job at the CIA with the support of a bipartisan supermajority of the Senate, and, by all accounts, his tenure there has been a big success. The caliber of Mike's leadership and the quality of his counsel have won him the respect of our National Clandestine Service and the confidence of the President.

Just recently, Director Pompeo undertook sensitive conversations with representatives of North Korea to lay the groundwork for efforts aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

As he steps into this new mission as Secretary of State, he clearly enjoys the confidence of the President, and throughout his testimony before the Foreign Relations Committee, he demonstrated expertise and professionalism.

Fortunately, even as so many of President Trump's well-qualified nominees are obstructed and delayed without reason, a bipartisan majority of Senators have already signaled their intention to vote to confirm Mike Pompeo. We have the nominee, we have the votes, and we will confirm our next Secretary of State this week.

Then, I hope we can build on this bipartisan momentum and process more of the President's qualified nominees.

### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, our Nation's opioid epidemic continues to plague communities and families in my home State of Kentucky and across the Nation. Here in Congress, we are doing our best to support the healthcare and law enforcement professionals who are battling it every single day.

Last week, I introduced the Protecting Moms and Infants Act, a bipartisan effort to confront the heartbreaking cases of prenatal and infant opioid addiction. It builds on my 2015 bill, the Protecting Our Infants Act, and Congress's other recent progress on this issue.

In recent years, Congress has bolstered prevention, treatment, and enforcement efforts through the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act and the 21st Century Cures Act, and the recent government funding bill dedicated a record level of resources to saving lives from heroin and prescription drug abuse.

But much more work remains. So today I am proud to announce legislation to address this crisis' devastating effects on the American worker and the American workforce.

Stable employment is not just a path to financial security for workers and families. Earning a paycheck from a job is also linked to personal happiness and even physical health. We see firsthand in Kentucky the need for the structure and support that come with a job to help keep former addicts from falling back into the cycle of addiction. According to the CEO of a treatment facility in Louisville, "stable housing and employment are vitally tied to an individual's recovery." But, unfortunately, in the very communities where employment could do so much, the opioid crisis itself is making it harder to attain.

I frequently hear Kentucky employers cite substance abuse as a major hurdle to finding and hiring suitable

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



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