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No. 10

Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Eternal Father, answer our prayers, for Your unfailing love sustains us.

Give our lawmakers a great faith to live for as You deliver them from doubt, disillusionment, bitterness, cynicism, and frustration. Lord, teach them so to live and toil that they may face with clear consciences the gaze of their peers and the judgment of posterity.

Be near to the unpaid Federal workers and their families who are feeling the economic strains of this partial government shutdown. Lord, don't permit these trials to overwhelm them.

And, Lord, touch with Your mercy the loved ones of the U.S. citizens killed in Northern Syria.

We pray in Your compassionate 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. BRAUN). The majority leader is recognized.

S. 109

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, tomorrow Washington will play host to one of our Nation's proudest examples of peaceful activism: the 49th annual March for Life.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans—from different States, different faiths, different ethnic backgrounds—will speak with one voice on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. I would like to welcome the marchers, especially my fellow Kentuckians, including Margie Montgomery, executive director of Kentucky Right to Life. I welcome all the marchers with gratitude. I am grateful they are helping shed light on this great shame of our society and bearing witness to the fact that human dignity and human rights are for everyone.

As they march tomorrow, our friends can take pride in knowing our beliefs are not just consistent with morality and supported by science; they are also squarely within the mainstream of our society. According to one recent survey, a sizable majority of American adults hold views on the subject that are far, far from the absolutist position of the far left.

Seventy-five percent of all Americans, including more than 60 percent of those who call themselves pro-choice, support more protection for the lives of unborn children.

The far left is wedded to the most extreme positions on this subject. For example, the radical left wants America to remain one of only seven—seven—countries in the entire world, including China and North Korea, that allow elective abortions to occur after 20 weeks and even after the child is capable of feeling pain. The American people, however, know better. That survey also found that a majority of Americans oppose taxpayer-funded abortions. So I am proud today to stand with that majority of Americans and urge every Member of this body to join me in supporting the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act this afternoon.

Thanks to the dedication of Senators WICKER, ROBERTS, ERNST, LANKFORD, DAINES, BLUNT, and many others, the bill before us would supplement existing law and bolster the important,

longstanding protections of the Hyde amendment.

By implementing a governmentwide, statutory prohibition on taxpayer subsidies for abortion and abortion coverage, S. 109 would close off Federal support for abortion that flows outside of the Hyde-protected regular appropriations process.

In addition, it would explicitly ensure that Federal healthcare facilities are not party to abortions and increase transparency requirements for federally subsidized healthcare plans.

I am proud to support this important step forward in protecting Americans' rights of conscience, and I urge every one of our colleagues to vote to advance it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

S. 109

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the fact that the United States is debating and voting on this bill attacking women's healthcare right now is an absolute disgrace.

We are 27 days into President Trump's completely unnecessary government shutdown. Workers are not being paid. Families are huddled around their tables, wondering which bills to pay and which expenses to cut. Our national security is being impacted. Our parks are filling up with trash. Our economy is losing billions of dollars. The list goes on. It needs to end.

I urge my colleagues, vote no against this bill today that would erode women's healthcare and take away our constitutionally protected rights. Demand that Republican leaders let us vote to open the government, and then let's get back to work getting our country back on track.

I yield the floor.

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



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