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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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S287

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. First, I want to echo the words of my colleague, our great ranking member of Health and Human Services, Senator MURRAY.

Now, look, folks. As the Trump shutdown drags into its 27th day, the pain inflicted on our country, our citizens, and our economy grows. The Council of Economic Advisers said the shutdown would hurt our economy twice as much as originally projected. Experts are predicting it could wipe out the entire first quarter of economic growth.

At airports, an understaffed TSA means longer and longer lines. Yesterday, the executive vice president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association said that flying “is less safe today than a month ago, absolutely.”

Hundreds of thousands of public servants are suffering. I can give a list of a long number. President Trump, this shutdown—your shutdown—has gone on too long. Why is President Trump punishing folks like so many of my constituents who have nothing to do with disagreements about borders?

If you sense exasperation in my tone, you are right. We Democrats are exasperated. All we want to do is reopen the government. We are happy to debate border security with the President and our Republican colleagues—happy to. But let’s reopen the government.

My Republican friends here, both the President and Leader MCCONNELL, are ignoring the overwhelming will of the American people. We urge our colleagues to think about this. We know that President Trump is not interested in ending the shutdown. Leader MCCONNELL knows he has the power to end the shutdown. The only reason we are in this prolonged stalemate is that my friend the Republican leader refuses to take up any legislation to reopen government. We should do it now.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION AND ABORTION INSURANCE FULL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 109, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 109, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield back our time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 11, S. 109, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, James M. Inhofe, John Barasso, David Perdue, John Kennedy, John Thune, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, John Boozman, James Lankford, Michael B. Enzi, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 109, a bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted “yea.” The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) would have voted “yea.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 7 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Barrasso	Daines	Kennedy
Blackburn	Enzi	Lankford
Blunt	Ernst	Lee
Boozman	Fischer	Manchin
Braun	Gardner	McConnell
Capito	Grassley	McSally
Casey	Hawley	Moran
Cassidy	Hoeven	Perdue
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Portman
Cotton	Inhofe	Risch
Cramer	Isakson	Roberts
Cruz	Johnson	Romney

Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)

Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune

Tillis
Toomey
Wicker
Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Harris	Reed	

NOT VOTING—5

Alexander	Crapo	Paul
Burr	Graham	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, and the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.J. RES. 30

Mr. SCHUMER. We spent the past few days debating the resolution of disapproval of the Treasury Department’s plan to relax sanctions on Russia. We have made clear that Treasury’s plan is insufficient and lets Putin and his cronies off the hook. We have made clear that Putin’s malign activities around the globe have not abated. We have made clear that there is no reason to relieve sanctions on one of our chief adversaries when there has been no reconciliation and in exchange for nothing.

Earlier this week, 10 brave Republicans joined us on the motion to proceed and again on cloture, but it was not enough for passage. So many other Republicans who have campaigned that Democrats are not tough enough on Putin, when they had a chance to be tough on Putin, ran for the exits. I just want to let my colleagues know that the House was different and in this case far more courageous.

The House passed the same resolution of disapproval 362 to 53. Republicans by more than a 2-to-1 ratio—more than 2 to 1—voted to not allow the loosening of sanctions on Deripaska’s Rusal, as 136 of them joined with the unanimous—unanimous—support of House Democrats to pass the resolution.

So two votes—two small votes—stand in the way of passage here in the Senate. Let the overwhelming bipartisan House vote be a message to my Republican friends in the Senate. We should pass this resolution. We should not let Putin get his way simply because Donald Trump has always wanted him to—too often.

So I am going to shortly reconsider the resolution before it expires tonight at midnight. I strongly urge my friend the leader not to block the request and give Republican Senators a chance to change their minds on this incredibly important motion.