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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICK SCOTT, a Senator from the State of Florida.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of endless mercy, You alone hold power over the nations. We humbly ask that You may soften our hearts so that we might see the path away from discord and toward unity. As hundreds of thousands of Federal workers brace for another painful payday, remind our lawmakers that they can ease the pain. Lord, in this hour of need, we cry out to You and ask You to send Your wisdom into this Chamber so that our Senators might comprehend and act in accordance with Your will.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 22, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK SCOTT, a Senator

from the State of Florida, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 268

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, here is what happened this weekend with respect to the continuing disagreement over funding the government. Two things happened over the weekend.

On Saturday, the Senate was in session, and Members of both parties came to the floor to speak about the urgent need for a bipartisan compromise to reopen the Federal Government for the sake of Federal workers who need certainty, and for the sake of the American people who need their Nation's government fully online.

Also on Saturday, President Trump rolled out a bold, comprehensive offer to do just that. It would break through this stalemate and would reopen government swiftly and deliver on a number of other policy priorities that are seen as important on both sides of the aisle.

That is where we are on day 32 of this partial government shutdown. That is where we are as this new week begins. We have heard Members of Congress on all sides demanding a resolution to the impasse and a plan to quickly restore full funding to the Federal Government. We now have a plan from the President that would do exactly that, and quickly, while incorporating both the bipartisan work of the Appropriations Committee and bipartisan proposals on current immigration issues.

The opportunity to end all of this is staring us right in the face. That is why we will vote on this legislation on the Senate floor this week. All that needs to happen is for our Democratic friends to agree that it is time to put the country ahead of politics, take "yes" for an answer, and vote to put this standoff behind us.

To be clear, the proposal outlined by President Trump that we will consider in the Senate is the only proposal before us that can be signed by the President and immediately reopen the government.

First and foremost, it is the only proposal that would reopen the government fully and immediately. But it is not merely a continuing resolution. It wouldn't kick the can down the road. Instead, it would fulfill Congress's responsibilities—without footnotes, without caveats, without hitting the snooze button. This measure would wrap up last year's historic progress on appropriations. It would pass all seven remaining regular-order funding bills and deliver supplemental funding for disaster recovery.

Importantly, it is also the only proposal that would deliver a comprehensive investment in our Nation's border

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



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