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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 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:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, we praise Your holy Name. Continue to be our strength and protection. Lord, inspire our Senators to strive to fulfill Your purposes, seeking always to please You. Prosper the works of their hands until the kingdoms of this world become the springboard for Your eternal reign.

Help our lawmakers to express their gratitude to You with deeds of faith and love as You use them to bring hope from despair and joy from sadness.

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 (Mr. HAWLEY). The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 311

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 311) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper de-

gree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar on the next legislative day.

### S. 1

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the past week now, the Senate has been considering a package of legislation to strengthen our Nation's diplomatic presence in the Middle East. The Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act would renew our commitment to Israel's security, expand cooperation with Jordan, and impose new consequences on the perpetrators of Assad's brutality in Syria.

When America's national security and vital interests are at stake, some circumstances require not only the use of important diplomatic tools but also direct involvement from the United States. That is why I introduced an amendment to S. 1, so the Senate can speak clearly and directly about the importance of our Nation's ongoing missions in Afghanistan and Syria.

I know a broad consensus about American leadership in the world exists in this body. It is time to reaffirm our commitment to this vision and to the men and women fighting on the ground to uphold it. I was glad to see a big bipartisan majority of this body vote to advance my amendment on Thursday. I hope a similar majority joins me in voting to approve this mainstream amendment today, and I look forward to passing this thoroughly bipartisan legislation later this week.

### NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, once we complete our work on S. 1, the Senate will turn to the Natural Resources Management Act, under the leadership of Chairman MURKOWSKI and the Natural Resources Committee.

This legislation combines more than 100 individual lands bills. It will allow communities across America to responsibly develop their land and natural resources while maintaining a balance with locally supported conservation.

On a national scale, this legislation will achieve things such as permanently reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund and codifying sportsmen's recreational access to Bureau of Land Management and National Forest areas nationwide. On a local scale, communities across America are looking forward to specific provisions.

I am particularly proud that the legislation will include two bills I introduced to safeguard historic Kentucky landmarks and designate Camp Nelson and Mill Springs Battlefield as national monuments. I know virtually every one of our colleagues is enthusiastic about local achievements it will deliver in their States as well.

This bipartisan legislation is a major priority dating back to the last Congress, when nearly 90 Senators cosponsored its components, and I am glad we will be able to turn to it soon.

### S. 130

Mr. MCCONNELL. First, Mr. President, later today, the junior Senator from Nebraska will give the Senate an opportunity to address an issue of profound moral importance. I understand that he plans to ask consent to pass legislation that ought to be the very definition of something that receives unanimous consent in this body. It would help ensure that all baby girls and boys who are born alive—all of

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



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