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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Majestic God, we ask for the fruits of Your unrivaled wisdom in these challenging times. Give our leaders the strength and courage to triumph over stagnation and conflict, and grant us forgiveness for our shortcomings.

We praise You, O Lord, for we belong to Your Kingdom, and we are Your children. Bestow upon our great Nation Your everlasting light, and let Your perpetual goodness shine upon us.

Lord, our greatest debt of gratitude is owed to You, for without You, we can do nothing. Give us, this day, light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

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Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate had an opportunity yesterday to affirm our commitment to the dignity of human life. We had a chance to state plainly that newborn babies who happen to have survived abortions

are entitled to the same legal protections and professional care as other newborns.

In all honesty, the fact that this legislation even needed to be written is a sad reminder of the degree to which our society is at risk of losing some crucial moral bearings, and the fact that the U.S. Senate could not even vote to advance this bill is beyond dismaying.

The legislation was silent on the abortion issue. All it would have done is to have affirmed the rights of these newborn babies, but apparently even that was a bridge too far, not just for the far-left fringe—not anymore—but for the vast majority of our Democratic colleagues right here in the Senate.

We are no longer dealing with a normal, traditional Democratic Party; we are looking at a party that has been dragged so far to the left, it would have been unrecognizable to folks just a few years ago. In 1996, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan condemned partial-birth abortion by comparing it to infanticide. He was a distinguished, mainstream Democratic Senator from New York about 20 years ago. And today? Ninety-four percent of Senate Democrats could not even vote to protect babies after they are born. The only explanations they could offer were bizarre euphemisms and vague references to issues that have no bearing once a child has already been born alive.

It was a sorry display, but I can say this: This fight isn't over. The Republicans will not let this stunning extremism from our Democratic colleagues be the last word on this subject.

NOMINATION OF ERIC D. MILLER

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, fortunately, the Senate did make progress in another area. Yesterday, we advanced what will be the 31st circuit court nomination to

be confirmed so far during the Trump administration.

As I discussed yesterday, Eric Miller has a distinguished record in both public service and private practice. He holds degrees from Harvard and the University of Chicago, and his legal experience includes holding prestigious clerkships on our Nation's highest courts. Yet, rather than take my word for it, I urge my colleagues to consider the endorsements of those with whom the nominee has studied and worked.

For example, 54 members of the University of Chicago Law School's class of 1999, with their wide-ranging views on politics and judicial philosophy, have offered a ringing endorsement for Eric Miller. In a letter to our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, they cite Mr. Miller's "diligent work ethic, his keen legal mind, and his deep consideration for every legal issue he confronts." All in all, his classmates—many of whom have also been his colleagues over the years—say that Mr. Miller is "extraordinarily well qualified to serve as a Federal judge."

I urge each of my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm this fine nominee soon.

VOTER FRAUD

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on a final matter, anyone who has been attentive to the news these past few days has learned about the complete debacle that unfolded in last November's election for North Carolina's Ninth Congressional District. Soon after election day, allegations of illegal ballot harvesting and vote tampering clouded a close result. The wrongdoing seemed to have benefited the Republican candidate over the Democratic. Just last week, we saw the State Board of Elections unanimously call for a new election.

For years and years, every Republican who dared to call for common-sense safeguards for Americans' ballots

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



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