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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

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.

Eternal God, accept our thanks and praise for Your goodness. Thank You for challenging work and for the satisfaction of a job well done.

Lord, we are grateful also for disappointments and failures that teach us to depend on You.

Continue to bless our Senators. Give them Your spirit that they may make You known in thoughts, words, and actions. Remind them to strive to glorify You in deeds both large and small. Keep them from stumbling or slipping so one day they will stand before You with great joy.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Iowa.

CONSTITUENT OUTREACH

Mr. GRASSLEY. If you are going to have representative government, you

have to have dialogue between constituents and those of us elected.

Last week, I continued my annual 99 county meetings with Q&A's in 12 of our 99 counties.

No matter the setting, Iowans set the agenda at my meetings. Holding face-to-face meetings is the best way to hear what is on Iowans' minds, but it is not the only way.

I encourage Iowans to write in or call my office to voice their opinions on any Federal issue. Iowans can also read my speeches and press releases on grassley.senate.gov; follow me on Facebook or on Twitter @chuckgrassley or @senatorchuckgrassley on Instagram.

I enjoyed my conversations with Iowans last week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

FOURTH OF JULY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I hope all of our colleagues had a pro-

ductive State work period and an enjoyable Fourth of July.

On Thursday, hundreds of millions of proud Americans joined together all across our country in town squares, parks, and backyards to cohost our Nation's 243rd birthday party. As always, the parades and fireworks and picnics commemorated something serious: our proud national legacy of liberty. It began in Philadelphia in 1776, and we continue working to make it manifest to this day.

Celebrating our freedoms also means remembering the great sacrifices that so many have given in order to protect and preserve them. It is fitting that here in our Nation's Capital, the fireworks display lights up our war memorials and the tombs of fallen warriors across the river. And, of course, we remember also all the men and women currently serving today.

We Americans have so much to be proud of. Just yesterday, we were given yet another reason. Instead of taking the weekend off, the U.S. women's national soccer team finished their time in France by winning the World Cup. Earlier last week, the U.S. women commemorated Independence Day early by beating England, and then yesterday, they defeated the Netherlands—two to nothing—to take first place. Through grit, teamwork, and dazzling talent, the American women have now raised the World Cup trophy four times.

A billion viewers around the world tuned in to watch the tournament. All told, they saw the United States outscore our opponents collectively by 26 to 3 and follow our victory in the

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



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last tournament in 2015 with a back-to-back win this time as well.

I know my colleagues join me in offering the Senate's congratulations to the U.S. women's national soccer team for bringing this honor home.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, the Senate will continue to make headway and confirm the President's highly qualified nominees for important Federal offices.

We will begin by considering Daniel Bress, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Bress is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Virginia School of Law. Clerkships after law school included time at the Supreme Court clerking for the late Justice Scalia. Since then, he has built an impressive reputation in private practice.

I look forward to continuing the work of our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, who favorably recommended Mr. Bress to the floor, when we vote to advance his nomination later today and vote on his confirmation later this week.

After him, the Senate will weigh three nominees for district court vacancies in Florida, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. After them, we will continue to staff up the executive branch with nominees for important posts in the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, and the EPA.

As I have said continually, I am sorry that it is necessary to file cloture on uncontroversial district court and Assistant Secretary nominees, but notwithstanding that hurdle, I am pleased that the Senate's modest rules change from several months back is proving successful and will enable us to get through this whole list of impressive professionals this very week. I look forward to getting these amply-qualified nominees on the job so they can go to work for the country and the American people can be governed by the government they elected.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. WOMEN'S WORLD CUP VICTORY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, let me congratulate the U.S. Women's National Team on winning the World Cup yesterday. It is the second title in a row and fourth overall, the most for any nation. Boy, did they make us proud.

The team's sustained level of excellence is something for all of us to exult

in, to be proud of, as are the heart, skill, and sheer joy the U.S. women bring to the pitch. As they make their way home, I send them my congratulations, my thanks, and a formal invitation for the team to come to the Upper Chamber for a celebration as they visit our Nation's Capital. It would be my honor to host America's winning team.

I want to send a special congratulations to the New Yorkers on the team, Allie Long and Crystal Dunn, the latter of whom made a crucial tackle in the final, leading to our second and decisive goal in the final period. New York is proud of them both, as well as the entire roster.

While today we celebrate their victory, we also recognize that these women athletes have challenges and they make us really think about the future of women's sports. They make us grapple with the deep unfairness in how female athletes are treated and paid compared to their male counterparts. Similarly, it is an unfortunate reality that women in the workforce see their male colleagues paid significantly more for the same work.

We have come a long way in terms of the prominence of and support for women's sports over the past decade, but we have not come nearly far enough. Every young girl who has had to play on weeknights instead of weekends because that is when the boys play, who has had to accept older equipment because the boys got the new stuff, who has had to play on the other field or rink or court because the boys were using the main one—every girl who has gone through that knows this to be true. As a parent of two girls who played soccer, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse, I know this to be true.

I think when it comes to U.S. women, it is absolutely right to be talking about their pay right now. They have shone a light on the fact that, in our society, women are simply not treated fairly because of their gender. Something needs to change here. What the U.S. women did was extraordinary, and they deserve to be compensated fairly. All women need to be compensated fairly, period. We ought to pay attention to this not just once every 4 years during the World Cup, but year in and year out.

How about the equal payment amendment that the House has passed? Why don't we put it on the floor of the Senate in honor of the women who won the World Cup? Why don't we do that, Leader McCONNELL?

I am sure there will be lots of encomia from the other side about these women. Let's act so we can help all women achieve equality—equal work, equal pay.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on healthcare, tomorrow the Fifth Circuit will hear oral arguments in the case of *Texas v. United States*. The fate

of our entire healthcare system hangs in the balance. This challenge to the Affordable Care Act, brought by Republican State attorneys general and regrettably supported by President Trump and his administration, represents the latest efforts by Republicans to dismantle healthcare as we know it in America.

After failing to repeal our healthcare through Federal legislation, Republicans have now turned to the courts. If Republicans get their way in this case, the impact on Americans would be catastrophic; that is not an exaggeration—catastrophic. It would result in the elimination of protections for people with preexisting conditions, possibly increasing costs for 133 million Americans under 65.

If you have a son or daughter with cancer and the insurance company cuts you off, that is catastrophic, nothing less. How many people will go through that if our Republican friends have their way? It would result in skyrocketing prescription drug costs for seniors or Medicare. Let's say there is a lifesaving drug, but it is too expensive, and you can't afford it, that is catastrophic to most Americans.

Millions of people would be kicked off Medicaid, leaving the most vulnerable out to fend for themselves. Again, you desperately need care, but no one will give it to you. That is catastrophic.

Bring it all together, and what our Republican friends want to do is make Americans pay higher prices for inferior care. That is cruelty on a massive scale.

Of course, we have been here before. For nearly 2 years, the administration pushed Congress to repeal the ACA—a crusade that failed on the Senate floor multiple times. President Trump's budget calls for trillions in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. He has opened up the floodgates for junk plans that don't cover the things that really count, like cancer treatment, maternity care, addiction services, and he has deliberately worked to make it harder for people to sign up for healthcare.

On that court case, 47 Democrats wished that we would join the lawsuit. We asked Republicans to join us in that. I think it was only one who was. Where are our Republican friends? They talk about wanting to preserve preexisting conditions, but they are mum when the administration they support tries to repeal them. It is hypocrisy—hypocrisy. If you believe in supporting people's protections for preexisting conditions, you oppose the lawsuit and join us in saying that lawsuit should not be filed. Our Republican friends know where the people are, but they are afraid. They are quivering that Donald Trump will be angry with them if they oppose his lawsuit. Shame on them.

Our Republican friends can never argue that they are the party of healthcare. When President Trump argues that Republicans are the party of