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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, November 8, 2019, at 1 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019

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.

Eternal God, thank You for not leaving us alone in a challenging world. You remain our refuge in every storm. We call You when troubles come, and You rescue us even from self-inflicted wounds. You clean up our debris, restoring us to Your sweet fellowship.

As our lawmakers commit this day to You, help them navigate through its turbulence. May Your Spirit impinge on their minds, guiding them by the light of Your truth. Lord, be the resource they need to be faithful stewards of Your unfolding providence.

We pray in Your gracious 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 (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Oh boy, I have had to scratch my head upon hearing some criticism of the Finance Committee's Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act from supposedly fiscally conservative, pro-taxpayer organizations, to mention a couple, like FreedomWorks and Americans for Tax Reform.

The Grassley-Wyden bipartisan bill ought to have a lot of support. It would save taxpayers more than \$100 billion. You would think fiscally conservative organizations would want to back that. Of course, some of these fiscally conservative organizations receive substantial funding from Big Pharma.

I can't think of a better opportunity to enact bipartisan entitlement reform that would significantly lower the debt and help rein in entitlement spending bill. This bill happens to be judged by the Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan group working for the Congress as a whole, saying that it would save a little over \$100 billion.

Reining in entitlement spending is a goal that I campaigned on, and nearly every one of my Republican colleagues have campaigned on that same platform. Now is the chance to carry out those campaign promises, in other words, to stand on the platform you ran on.

In an era of gridlock and partisanship, do supporters of less government spending and balanced budgets really think their goal could be achieved without bipartisanship? Nothing gets done in the U.S. Senate that isn't somewhat bipartisan. The good news is that my legislation is bipartisan, and

support for the bill is growing every day.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate confirmed David Tapp of Kentucky to serve on the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Today, we will turn to more of President Trump's impressive nominees for the Federal Judiciary.

Last week, Senate Republicans had hoped to proceed to the urgent priority of funding our national defense, but for the second time in 2 months, Senate Democrats filibustered defense funding. They blocked the Senate from funding our Armed Forces.

Over the summer, the Speaker of the House and my colleague the Democratic leader both signed onto a bipartisan, bicameral budget deal that Democrats hammered out with President Trump's team in order to avoid

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



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