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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.

Mighty God, judge the nations with Your righteousness and justice, and keep our lawmakers on the path of truth. May they strive to maintain a clear conscience in whatever they do for You and humanity. Lord, give them the wisdom to refuse to deviate from integrity, coveting Heaven's approval in their labors for Your Kingdom. May they also remember that they are representing Your divine purposes for our Nation and world.

Lord, thank You that Your mercy is from everlasting to everlasting upon those who come to You with reverence. May Your glory endure forever.

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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1790, which will be stated by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1790) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, having met, have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment and the House agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REDUCTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I recently heard from an 81-year-old Iowan who is battling cancer. She told me that one test cost more than \$12,700. That is almost an entire year's income for that lady. On top of that, her medication is more than \$4,700 a month. She is on Humana and Medicare, but that is not enough for her to still afford her medical bills.

Too many Americans share this Iowan's story. That is why we must pass the Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act, to finally help Americans afford the critical medications they need.

The bill I just named is a bipartisan bill sponsored by this Senator and Democratic Senator WYDEN. It got

voted out of committee 19 to 9 back in July.

We have the good fortune that the House of Representatives understands that the pricing of prescription drugs is a major problem. They passed a bill last week. I applaud them for taking up this issue. It so happens that the bill they passed probably can't get anywhere near 60 votes in the U.S. Senate, so I hope we will have an opportunity to sit down with Speaker PELOSI and other House Members to see what we can work out to do something about the high cost of prescription drugs for the citizens of this country. Every Member of this body hears from their constituents that they don't like the fantastic increase in prices of drugs that occurs on a regular basis.

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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG CONNOLLY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to our longtime Democratic Policy Communications Committee staff member, Doug Connolly, who will be retiring at the end of the month with an impressive 33 years of working for the committee and working for the Senate. I am pleased to have Doug with me today on the floor.

For a moment, think back to 1986. A couple of top songs that year were "Stuck With You" by Huey Lewis and the News and "Manic Monday" by the Bangles. The top movie that year was "Top Gun," and the average price of a movie ticket was \$3.71. I don't know if we remember those, but it has been a while.

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



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