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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

The Senate met at 2 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.

Almighty God, open our eyes to Your movements in our midst. Remind our lawmakers that You have brought us through times more challenging than what we now face. Keep them from being intimidated by this global pandemic, as they cling to Your promises and trust the unfolding of Your triumphant providence.

Lord, continue to protect them and to order their steps. Clothe them with the honor of integrity. Shield them with Your truth and guide them with Your power.

We pray in Your strong 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. BRAUN). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I bet all of our fellow Senators have been hearing from businesses, hospitals, nursing homes, and local civic business and political leaders about the issues they are facing right now due to the coronavirus health crisis.

Likewise, I have been talking to family and friends back home in Iowa. I find that they are banding together to support one another. In times of strife, Iowans can count on each other.

We have to give special attention to the hard work of our medical professionals and first responders. They are under immense pressure and going above and beyond to serve their communities. I believe they are doing God's work, keeping the American people safe and healthy. So I thank our medical professionals and first responders for their dedication to their communities and send my encouragement to keep up their essential work in the days and weeks ahead, as we see ourselves through this virus pandemic we are in.

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.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, Senators have now spent days engaged in vigorous bipartisan discussions among ourselves and with the administration.

Earlier today, I hosted a productive meeting in my office with the Democratic leader, the Speaker of the House, the House Republican leader, and the Secretary of the Treasury. These intense conversations have built a piece of legislation that is as bold and as big as the American people deserve and as thoroughly bipartisan as our process demands.

Now what we need to do is to move forward. This national crisis is not going to wait around if Congress slips back into conventional politics or haggles endlessly over the finer points.

Every day, more Americans' jobs are disappearing or coming ever closer to the brink. Every day, more small businesses are faced with hard decisions that could change local communities, literally, forever. Every day, major American companies that employ countless people are seeing their commerce crushed by their own government for the sake of public health. Every day, doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals will keep reporting to work and treating patients, whether or not Congress has their back.

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



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