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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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.

Almighty God, guide our lawmakers today to think of themselves as Your faithful servants eager to do Your bidding. May they strive less for success and more for faithfulness, realizing that You expect dependability from them.

Lord, give them the wisdom to believe that though they may plant and water the seeds of our Nation's destiny, only You can bring the harvest. As they look to You, the Lord of the harvest, soothe their doubts and calm their fears. And Lord, we thank You for the many courageous staffers who enable the Senate to function.

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. (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask permission to address the Senate in morning business for 1 minute.

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

REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT REFORM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, an important part of my job—and I hope for every Senator—is hearing the views, in my case, of Iowans but in the case of my colleagues, the citizens of

their States. But it is not every day that we hear about the executive branch of government and its bureaucracy making an effort to listen to the American people. Fortunately, that is changing under this administration.

I have advised the people of Iowa, and I am advising them again—and, hopefully, my colleagues will have their constituents take advantage of it—that this administration in January, through the White House, put out a call to Americans who deal with Federal regulations to share their ideas on how to ensure that those who face regulatory enforcement have due process and get a fair shake. Those ideas will now be used to make regulatory enforcement fairer. Take advantage of this opportunity.

Americans who face a burden of complying with regulations should have a voice in making the process better, and I applaud this administration for listening to the American people.

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. Madam 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.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this pandemic is weighing heavily on the American people. Roughly, 1.4 million Americans have been infected, more than 80,000 have died, and unemployment has not been this high since World War II.

Just a few months ago, millions of hard-working men and women were thriving and optimistic. They were making big plans across kitchen tables. Now all of that is in chaos.

The Chairman of the Federal Reserve reports that nearly 4 in 10 American households that earn less than \$40,000 a year had somebody get laid off in the month of March alone. This emergency is very serious, so the Senate's response has been serious.

In March, Senate Republicans designed and the full Senate passed the CARES Act. It pushed trillions of dollars to working families, job creators, and medical professionals. We sent direct cash to almost 130 million Americans. We delivered hundreds of billions of dollars in paycheck protection loans to small businesses, saving tens of millions of American jobs. We helped State and local governments defray coronavirus costs. We funded healthcare providers and testing. Even now, its programs are still taking effect, still coming online, still helping. The Senate took a blank sheet of paper and turned it into the largest rescue package in history.

We have taken this crisis seriously, but the House Democrats have taken a totally different approach. While we finalized the CARES Act, the House parachuted in with miscellaneous liberal demands that were completely unrelated to COVID-19—solar energy tax credits, airline emissions. One senior House Democrat called the virus a “tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.” One Senate Democratic colleague asked: “How many times are we going to get a shot at a \$1 trillion-plus program?” They told us exactly what they were up to, so we ignored the leftwing wish list and stayed serious, and the CARES Act is still helping Americans bridge these temporary shutdowns.

So let's fast-forward to today. The Democratic House is still not back in Washington. Its constitutional duty

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



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