



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2020

No. 114

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.

Eternal Spirit, the source of our joy, we are grateful that You still speak to us. Continue to communicate with our lawmakers through the voice of conscience. Enable them to maintain a clear conscience before You and humanity.

Continue to speak to our Senators through the precepts in Your sacred Word, providing them with a lamp for their feet and a light for their path as they navigate through this challenging season. Lord, continue to speak to them through the unfolding of Your powerful providence, opening doors You desire them to walk through and closing doors that lead them away from glorifying You. And, Lord, when You speak to our lawmakers, give them the wisdom to listen and obey.

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. HAWLEY). 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.

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, President Trump recently signed an

Executive order requiring common-sense administrative steps to promote police accountability. Democrats immediately criticized it as weak and insufficient to combat racial injustice, citing the need for changing laws. Of course, this is an Executive order. In itself, it does not and cannot solve the whole problem.

This reminds me of when the President was criticized for not ordering a nationwide lockdown, despite having no such power, and then was accused of being a dictator for suggesting that he had a role in reopening the economy.

The President deserves credit for taking steps within his authority to improve police accountability, but he cannot change the law.

Congress must now work and do it in a bipartisan way to do what we can within the scope of our constitutional authority to make things better.

You cannot legislate away racial injustice overnight, but Federal, State, and local laws must reflect our national creed that all people are created equal.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

THE JUSTICE ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, while the House continues to be absent, the Senate continues to be open for business. While taking smart precautions, Senators have stood with all the other essential workers who are continuing to man essential posts. So as our Nation continues to work through medical, economic, and social challenges of historic proportions, the Senate has been able to lead on serious action to help our Nation heal.

The killings of Black Americans, such as Breonna Taylor and George

Floyd, have rightly accelerated the national conversation on policing and racial justice. Large majorities of Americans support new steps that would help the vast majority of good, decent, and brave law enforcement officers re-earn the trust of Black Americans for their vital institutions.

We need to be a country where communities of color feel confident that the police are there to safeguard their rights to equal justice and equal protection under law and not to infringe on those rights.

To that end, while the Constitution means many of the specifics of police reform are primarily State and local issues, there is an enormous appetite in the Senate to incentivize change and move toward greater progress using Federal policy.

The junior Senator from South Carolina has led the development of a strong new proposal. The JUSTICE Act is informed by data, by the facts, by stories from across America, and, sadly, by his own lived experience. It enjoys the support of 46 cosponsors already.

The legislation Senator SCOTT has put forward identifies productive ways that Congress can encourage and incentivize smart police reform efforts in communities all across our country.

Recognizing the urgent need for greater accountability, it supports expanded use of body cameras and expanded review and disciplinary measures to back them up.

Recognizing the need for more transparency, it steps up efforts to establish the records of police activities and requires full Federal reporting of all incidents involving the discharge of a service weapon.

The bill takes immediate action to help end departments' reliance on choke holds and to facilitate enhanced training for deescalation. It includes further steps to protect the physical safety of people in custody and to finally—finally make lynching a Federal

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3113