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Senate

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, give our lawmakers the wisdom to remember and be grateful for all the things You have already done.

Lord, You have sustained our Nation during seasons of war and peace. You have helped us to find creative ways to strive for a more perfect union. You have provided us with solutions to difficult problems just when we needed You most.

Let this day be a time when Senators find time to thank You for Your bountiful blessings and faithfulness. As our lawmakers strive to live one day at a time, may they keep their focus on Your power and love.

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.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 30 seconds in morning business.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as the Congress considers the defense authorization bill—called the NDAA—this week, I hope that my amendments

to improve the Pentagon's financial management systems and crack down on wasteful spending will be supported.

Thirty years after Congress passed the Chief Financial Officers Act, the Department of Defense remains the only executive agency in our Federal Government that cannot get a clean audit opinion.

Every dollar of defense spending should be used to ensure our Nation's security and support for our men and women in uniform, which is why the Department of Defense needs to be held accountable for waste, fraud, and abuse. A clean audit has something to do with proof that they can do that.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday I discussed how the Senate's serious, fact-based approach to the coronavirus crisis has cut a sharp contrast with House Democrats' political theater.

Back in March, as the economic fallout from this crisis was just beginning, it fell to the Senate to write, negotiate, and pass the CARES Act. With the House absent from Washington, Senate Republicans turned a blank sheet of paper into an outline for the largest rescue package in American history. We negotiated with our Democratic colleagues, and we made a law.

House Democrats tried to insert unrelated wish-list items at the eleventh hour—things like tax credits for solar panels—but the Republican Senate stood strong, and because we did, for 3 months now, the unanimous bipartisan CARES Act has been the cornerstone of the Federal Government's response to this crisis.

Doctors, nurses, and hospitals have received historic Federal funding to supplement their efforts. Households received direct checks. Tens of millions of Americans have kept getting paychecks and not pink slips because of our small-business-saving Paycheck Protection Program. These are the historic programs that the Senate has spent weeks overseeing and adjusting where necessary.

A few weeks ago, House Democrats jetted into town for a day or two—just long enough to make another unserious contribution, to again use this crisis for partisan wish-listing. You don't have to take my word for it. The media completely panned it. NPR called it "a long wish list for Democrats." Another journalist wrote, "Neither this bill nor anything resembling it will ever become law." And listen to this reporting: "Privately, several House Democrats concede their latest bill feels like little more than an effort to appease the most liberal members of the caucus." This is the proposal that our Senate Democratic colleagues keep thundering that we should take up and pass here—something so unserious that it had House Democrats themselves rolling their eyes.

Remember, among other things, this bill would give taxpayer-funded checks to illegal immigrants, and it would change tax law to provide massively expensive gifts to wealthy people in high-tax blue States. These are their coronavirus priorities? This political theater is the opposite of the serious Senate approach that built the CARES Act.

Any further recovery effort should focus intently on three things: kids, jobs, and healthcare—kids, jobs, and healthcare.

To step back toward normalcy, our country will need K-12 and college students to resume their schooling, we will need to reenergize hiring to get workers their jobs back, and we will need continued progress on the

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



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