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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 Spirit, to whom we must give and account for all our powers and privileges, guide the Members of this body so that they will be faithful stewards of Your will.

Lord, open their minds and hearts to know and do Your bidding, teaching them to rely on Your strength and to serve You with honor. Help them to discover in their daily work the joy of a partnership with You. Use them to bring good news to the marginalized, to comfort the brokenhearted, and to announce that captives will be released and the shackled will be freed.

May our Senators depend upon the power of Your prevailing providence, for You are the author and finisher of our faith.

We pray in Your great 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 1 minute in morning business.

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

ABSENTEE VOTING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, Iowa's secretary of state Paul Pate will mail an absentee ballot request form to every registered Iowa voter for the No-

vember election. This is a request form, not a ballot, being mailed out to everybody.

Iowa's current absentee ballot system allows anyone who wants to vote by mail the option to do so. Just send in the request form when you receive it, or you may download it online, but if Iowans prefer to vote in person, that remains their choice.

There has been a lot of misinformation claiming that some massive, Federal intervention is needed to allow citizens to vote by mail. This isn't true in Iowa or elsewhere. Every State has vote-by-mail, and 16 States ask for a reason, such as being over 65, for example, but most have waived or loosened this requirement.

Some groups are now using the pandemic to push for a Federal mandate on States to adopt a new, universal vote-by-mail system overnight. It took 5 years when Washington State implemented voting by mail. Requiring every State to replace its current voting system with a whole new, centralized, mail-only system this close to our November election is a recipe for disaster. In such a system, every registered voter, including those who have died or moved away, would automatically be mailed a ballot with no voting in person.

Every Iowan who wants to vote absentee in November can do so, and those who want to vote in person can also do so safely. It is a voter's choice and should remain so.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HEALS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, another day has come and gone in this once-in-a-century national battle for our country.

Yesterday, more of our neighbors had to say goodbye to loved ones whose lives were claimed by this virus. Yesterday, more doctors and more nurses worked long shifts on the frontlines, fighting to heal strangers and limit the national death toll that now exceeds 150,000. Yesterday, more workers brought home pink slips, and more Main Street businesses saw the end of their PPP lifelines fast approaching. Yesterday, more laid-off Americans filed new claims for unemployment insurance or lay awake wondering about next month's rent. Yesterday, more school officials wondered what to tell parents, students, and teachers about September.

What happened here in the Capitol yesterday? With the American people fighting all of these battles and more, what did the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader do with yet another day of deliberations? Yet again, it was the exact same refrain. It never seems to change: We are feeling optimistic. We spoke very politely to the administration, but we are still nowhere close on the substance.

It has now been more than a week since Senate Republicans released a serious proposal for another major rescue package—\$1 trillion for kids, jobs, and healthcare. The Democrats are blocking it all. It is like they expect applause for merely keeping a civil tone with the President's team—never mind they are still obstructing any action for our country.

Senate Republicans want to revive a Federal add-on to unemployment insurance, which the Democratic leader would not let us extend last week. We want to send another round of direct checks straight into families' pockets. We want to supply generous, new incentives for rehiring American workers and workplace safety. We want to send historic money to schools for reopening and invest even more in testing and vaccine research. We want legal protections so schools, churches, charities, and businesses can reopen.

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



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