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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 14, 2020, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, we wait in reverence before Your throne. Turn and answer us. Cleanse us from sins, creating in us clean hearts, while renewing a right spirit within us.

Lord, help our lawmakers to discern Your voice and do Your will. Give them the ability to accomplish Your purposes on Earth. Speak to them Your wisdom, guide them with Your spirit, and sustain them with Your might.

Lord, restore joy to our hearts, for we trust Your unfailing love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 13, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BOOZMAN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate was supposed to spend this week finalizing another bipartisan rescue package for the American people. Millions of laid-off workers needed more Federal assistance to weather the storm. Small businesses needed more support to make payroll. Schools and families need more funding, tools, and certainty with reopening dates fast approaching. Doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers need more backup as they hold the line against this disease. We all need more gas for the race toward more testing, better treatments, and the vaccine that will finish this fight. So last week I canceled the

first week of our August State work period in the hope that the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader would put aside their ideological demands with no relation to this pandemic and finally let Congress legislate.

Unfortunately, the Democrats have continued to let working families down. They are still rejecting any more relief for anyone unless they get a flood of demands with no relationship to COVID-19.

It has been more than 2 weeks since Senate Republicans put out a trillion-dollar plan to help America reopen, recover, and stay on offense against this virus. Republicans did the same thing that worked back in March. We set up the same process that built the unanimous CARES Act in a matter of days. We laid out a strong marker built by our chairmen and our committees, fitted to real, fact-based needs of our Nation and then invited the Democrats to negotiate.

We want another round of direct cash payments for American families. We want to send \$105 billion to help schools and universities safely reopen and billions more to help working parents with childcare. We want to create new incentives for retaining and rehiring America's workers and for businesses to improve workplace safety. We want to create the smart legal protections that small businesses and university presidents are pleading for, so they can reopen safely for students and workers without paying a ransom to the trial lawyers.

These are the strong policies we proposed because these are the policies our

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



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