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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Mendy Deitsch, the Director of Chabad of the East Valley from Chandler, AZ, will open the Senate in prayer.

The guest chaplain offered the following prayer:

God of Heaven, Master of the world, please grace this distinguished, exalted United States Senate. Give blessings upon these distinguished individuals, chosen by so many who have entrusted them with the responsibility of legislating for the well-being of their constituents and families.

While each of us may come from different backgrounds, we stand here united with a shared vision and purpose, with conviction and determination, with love and strength, to ensure that each day is better than the day before.

As my revered teacher, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, said: Though humanity's origin began in a perfect world, human shortcomings led to its failings. Yet it is through human goodness and kindness that we can reveal G-d in this beautiful world, his dwelling place on Earth with the redemptive time of the coming of Moshiach.

Almighty God, may those gathered here remain mindful of Your presence as they work to enact just laws, the process of which itself is one of the seven Noahide Laws given to You and all mankind, and align it with Your will to foster a peaceful and harmonious world.

Please let us see more peaceful days soon, with the safe return of those being held hostage as well as the dedicated men and women of our Armed Forces battling evil at this time. Bestow upon them wisdom, justice, grace, and empathy.

Bless our leaders with good health, compassion and joy, enabling them to bring honor to the United States and to Your Name the blessings to mankind as they fulfill Your divine will. 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 (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 25, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Constitution of the United States, the consensus of our Nation's Founders, and the weight of exhaustive historical precedent give the President the clear authority to use military force when American lives and interests are under attack. The Commander in Chief does not lack authority; rather, he is failing to sufficiently exercise the authority that he has.

Right now, every day, enemies of the United States are engaged in a campaign of brazen aggression that threatens American servicemembers, our interests, and our allies in the Middle East. This campaign is hardly new. Year after year, the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism trains, equips, finances, and coordinates efforts to drive America—the "Great Satan"—from the Middle East and to wipe Israel—the "Little Satan"—off the map.

When President Biden took office, Senate Republicans warned him not to go soft on Iran. We urged him not to abandon maximum pressure, not to obsess over restoring a failed nuclear deal, and not to ignore Iran's relentless—relentless—campaign of terror.

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



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