



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003

No. 73

Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Gerald L. Durley, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and Almighty God, we have entered this hallowed Chamber to seek Your guidance, wisdom, and protection. We have come to lift up those who have been elected, appointed and anointed to complete the will of Your people. Their task is not easy. It is fraught with frustrating disappointments, stalled moments of doubt, hurts and pain. We therefore reverently request to approach Your sovereign throne to ask You to individually and collectively pour Your omniscience upon the Members of this distinguished body of legislators.

Dear God, I am reminded of a time when one of Your servants told his cousin that she was "called to represent her people and that her time is now." (Esther 4:14). We pray this morning, Father, that You will assist these Senators to act on behalf of a nation which not only believes in Your supreme desire to have justice reign but also in Your immutable ability to heal our country economically, educationally, sociologically, and politically. We trust that You will guide these emissaries with Your Divine knowledge.

On this beautiful spring day we would ask that You gently touch each Senator's physical body where ailments and sickness have taken their toll; give each of them the strength to endure the various debates of differences; speak to each of their families in such a way that they will understand and appreciate the unselfish sacrifices which these modern day patriots are experiencing.

Dear Father, give them the patience to persist; the tolerance to prevail; the ability to forgive; and the wisdom to place Your Spirit with love as the foun-

ation for their daily living. Assure each person, under the sound of my voice, that their individual solos are unique; however, their collective voices create a harmonious choir which will then be well pleasing unto You, and to the people of this great Nation. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2003.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

JOBS AND GROWTH TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2003

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1054, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1054) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2004.

Pending:

Grassley amendment No. 555, to increase the criminal monetary penalty limitation

for the underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

Dorgan/Baucus amendment No. 556, to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits and to offset the revenue loss.

Specter amendment No. 569, to urge the Senate Finance Committee and the Joint Economic Committee to hold hearings and consider legislation providing for a flat tax.

Baucus amendment No. 570, to ensure that the limit on refundability shall not apply to the additional \$400 child credit for 2003, to make the dividend exclusion effective for taxable years beginning in 2003, and to eliminate the increase in the dividend exclusion from 10 percent to 20 percent of dividends over \$500.

Kennedy amendment No. 544, to provide for additional weeks of temporary extended unemployment compensation and to provide for a program of temporary enhanced regular unemployment compensation.

Lincoln amendment No. 578, to expand the refundability of the child tax credit.

Cantwell amendment No. 577, to permanently extend and modify the research and experimentation tax credit and strike the partial exclusion of dividends provision.

Jeffords amendment No. 587, to accelerate the elimination of the marriage penalty in the earned income credit.

Bunning/McConnell amendment No. 589, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits.

Burns amendment No. 593, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the expensing of broadband Internet access expenditures.

Grassley amendment No. 594, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary access to quality health care services in rural areas under the Medicare Program.

Harkin amendment No. 595, to help rural health care providers and hospitals receive a fair reimbursement for services under Medicare by reducing tax cuts regarding dividends.

Collins amendment No. 596, to provide temporary State and local fiscal relief.

Murray amendment No. 564, to provide temporary State fiscal relief.

Stabenow amendment No. 614, to ensure the enactment of a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

Warner modified amendment No. 550, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to

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



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