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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN WARNER, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The visiting chaplain, Rev. Bill Jeschke, The Kings Chapel, Vienna, VA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our strength and our redeemer, please give these, Your servants, the wisdom to know right and the grace to do it. Apart from You, we can do nothing; but by Your empowerment, we can do all things.

Give them strength for this great adventure, the sober service of directing this Senate into Your paths and ways. Help them to be fountains of blessing to our dear people and Your beloved world.

We pray that they will be committed to their sacred duty, and trust that through them You will accomplish Your wise purposes for our country.

We pray this in Your wonderful Name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN WARNER 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 assistant journal clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN WARNER, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in for a period, briefly, for morning business. As I stated last night in closing, there will be no roll-call votes during today's session.

I also mentioned in closing last night some of the important issues that need to be addressed that will be considered next week. One of those bills is the Pregnancy and Trauma Care Access Protection Act of 2004. I have repeatedly stated my concern about the current liability system and the fact that physicians are having to leave regions and States and even leave the practice of medicine altogether. That has a direct impact on care for women who are about to deliver children, as well as trauma services and specialty physicians.

We absolutely must find a way to achieve appropriate tort reform and bring common sense back into our court system. Having said that, I hope the Senate can begin the debate on this issue.

PREGNANCY AND TRAINING CARE ACCESS PROTECTION ACT OF 2004

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 462, S. 2207, the Pregnancy and Trauma Care Access Protection Act of 2004.

Mr. REID. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, with that objection, I now move to proceed to the consideration of S. 2207, and I will send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 462, S. 2207, a bill to improve women's access to health care services, and the access of all individuals to emergency and trauma care services, by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of such service.

Bill Frist, Orrin Hatch, Judd Gregg, John Ensign, Lamar Alexander, Peter Fitzgerald, Larry Craig, John Cornyn, Robert Bennett, Mike Enzi, Mitch McConnell, Ted Stevens, Norm Coleman, James Inhofe, Kay Bailey Hutchison, George Voinovich, Charles Grassley.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President I now ask unanimous consent that the live quorum under rule XXII be waived, and

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



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