



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2009

No. 90

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, may our hearts be right with You so that our lives will honor You. Bless the Members of this body. Provide them with all the direction, defense, support, and consolation they need for life's journey. As they keep their minds on You, infuse them with Your wonderful peace. Lord, give them an abundant supply of Your spirit that they will submit to You in every trial, trusting You even when walking through the valley of shadows. Uphold them by Your might that they may move forward with faith and perseverance.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a

Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period for the transaction of morning business for an hour. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act. There will be 1 hour for debate prior to a cloture vote on that motion to proceed. Senators should expect the vote to begin as early as quarter to 12 today. The Senate will recess, as we do on every Tuesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus luncheons.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, every day, like every Senator, I get mail from

men and women across my State. People still write letters. It is not all over the Internet. People still send handwritten letters, lots of them. People offer advice, criticism, suggestions, and stories. They are making sure their representative democracy works the way they believe it should. Anyone who is watching at home and wondering whether the representatives you send to Washington actually read these letters, I can tell you that we do.

I can tell you that on no other issue have the letters my constituents have sent me underscored the urgent need to act more than the health care nightmares they have shared with me.

For example, Lisa lives in Gardnerville, NV, a beautiful place, right under the Sierra Nevada mountains. It is very scenic and beautiful. She lives in Gardnerville with her two daughters. One is 10 and one is 7. The youngest little girl suffers seizures, and her teachers think she has a learning disability. Because of her family history, Lisa, the mom, is at high risk for cervical cancer. Although she has been told by her doctors that she should get an exam every 3 months, she now goes once a year because she doesn't have the money to go every 3 months. When Lisa lost her job recently, she lost her health coverage. Now both Lisa and her daughters miss out on the tests and preventive medicine to keep them healthy. Her long letter ended with a simple plea: "We want to go to the doctor."

Braden lives in Sparks, NV. The 55-hour weeks he works to support his family just barely cover his bills. He doesn't have enough money to buy health insurance for his family, so he doesn't buy it. Braden owes a hospital \$12,000 for a trip to the emergency room—the only place he could go because he has no health care. Braden is brave, though. In his letter, he doesn't dread the debt he carries or grumble about how hard he works, but he does fear, "If I was seriously sick or injured, I would lose it all."

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S6611