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## Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, March 19, 2010)

The Senate met at 2:16 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, as we continue to labor for liberty, guide our Senators with Your wisdom and might. We don't ask for easy tasks but for a spirit that makes difficult tasks easy.

Provide inspiration and wisdom to the many workers who assist our lawmakers in accomplishing their important work. May these laborers, whose work is often unrecognized, know that You see their diligence and will reward their faithfulness.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH 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, March 23, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Sen-

ator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4872, S. 3152, AND S. 3153

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a bill at the desk. I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4872) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to Title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010 (S. Con. Res. 13).

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding the Republican leader wishes to be recognized at this time.

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.

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

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

The clerk will report the bills by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3152) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

A bill (S. 3153) to provide a fully offset temporary extension of certain programs so as not to increase the deficit, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I now ask for their second reading, and in order to place the bills on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request en bloc.

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

The three bills that have been read for the first time will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

### HEALTH CARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, a little earlier today, the President signed the Democratic health spending bill into law, and he used the occasion to point out a number of things he wants people to know about it. Now he will travel around the country, talking up the bill to a skeptical public. Clearly, Democrats in Washington still do not get it. Americans already know what is in this bill. That is precisely why they do not like it.

Most Americans out there are not celebrating today. They are dumbfounded by the fact that Congress just passed this 2,685-page monstrosity against their wishes, on the backs of their children and grandchildren who they know will have to pick up the tab.

With all due respect, you do not pass a bill the American people did not want and then try to sell them on it. You win their support first, then pass it on a bipartisan basis, just as we have done on every other piece of major social legislation we have passed over the past 45 years.

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



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