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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our conquering King, thank You for providing us with wings of faith to soar above life's challenges and vicissitudes. Empower our lawmakers to use faith's wings to live lives that are lofty and laudable. May they stand for right and be willing to accept the consequences as they strive to please You in all that they think, say, and do. Lord, give them the wisdom to follow Your unfailing guidance, seeking to be patient even with difficult people. Open their minds to discern Your will as You give them the courage to obey You.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Democratic leader is recognized.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION AND LYNCH NOMINATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, Confucius said, "Life is very simple, but we insist on making it complicated." That is true.

Right now, the Republican Senate leadership is insisting on making a good piece of legislation far more com-

plicated than it should be. This human trafficking and child pornography bill before the Senate has wide bipartisan support. Unfortunately, it also includes a previously unreported abortion provision that has brought us to a screeching halt in this legislation.

But there is a quick and very easy solution to this dilemma: Take the abortion language out of the bill. The Republican leadership doesn't seem to be interested in a solution.

The Senate Republican leadership is anxious to shut down debate without fixing the problem. We can stand here all week and question how the abortion language got in the legislation. Many believe it was by sleight of hand, but it doesn't matter. It is a fact that Republicans included abortion language in this bill that is completely unrelated to human trafficking, and by doing so Republicans turned a bipartisan bill into a political fight.

Republican Congressman ERIK PAULSEN of Minnesota drafted the House version of the same human trafficking bill. He wrote the bill. It passed the House. Even he believes that inclusion of the abortion provision in the Senate bill is not appropriate.

Here is what he said:

There is no reason it should be included in these bills. This issue is far too important to tie it up with an unrelated fight with politics as usual.

This is his bill, and he says we should take that language out. He is a Republican.

The path forward is clear: Take the abortion language out of the bill and we can pass it right now. That is it.

But if hijacking the human trafficking bill with an unrelated abortion provision wasn't already bad enough—listen to this—the majority leader is now holding Loretta Lynch's nomination hostage too. It is hard to comprehend, but that is what is happening.

Just last Tuesday, the Republican leader gave his word that he would bring up a vote this week on President

Obama's Attorney General nominee. President Obama's Attorney General is well qualified and no one questions her qualifications.

Now Senator MCCONNELL is saying the Senate will not confirm Loretta Lynch until we pass the trafficking bill—abortion language and all.

Loretta Lynch was nominated by the President 128 days ago. Since that time, Senate Republicans have found reason after reason after reason to delay her confirmation. First, it was just wait until the next Congress. In fact, the Republican leader said last year:

Ms. Lynch will receive fair consideration by the Senate. And her nomination should be considered in the new Congress through regular order.

But when this Congress got underway, her nomination had to wait until after the Keystone legislation. Everyone will remember it was a bill to construct a massive pipeline to import foreign oil, only to turn around and export it to other countries.

Then Ms. Lynch's nomination had to wait until after a new Defense Secretary was confirmed. Then Republicans on the Judiciary Committee needed more time and said just one more week. Then she had to wait until after the February recess. As I said, it has been delay after delay after delay, and now we are here in the middle of March and Loretta Lynch has yet to get a vote on the Senate floor.

Why can't we get this incredibly qualified woman confirmed? She has waited 128 days. That is the longest any Attorney General has ever waited in the last four decades.

As I have said, a vote on the Lynch nomination has nothing to do with the trafficking bill and it certainly has nothing to do with abortion.

The majority leader can choose to keep the Senate stuck on this abortion provision, but he does so at the detriment of so many other bills that require the Senate's attention. The majority leader gave his word that we

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



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