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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.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.

O God, who rules over humanity and nations, we ask You to support the Congress in its manifold tasks. Uphold our Senators, that their daily work may be performed with diligence and fidelity to our heritage under You.

Lord, raise up those who will unite in serving You with their whole heart and mind and strength. May our lawmakers fear only to be disloyal to the best they know, as You make them forgiving and forbearing. Teach them to value a conscience void of offense and the royalty of self-respect above all the pedestals, prizes, and preferments Earth can give.

We pray in Your Holy 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

OBAMACARE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the President put forth a mighty ObamaCare spin effort yesterday. We have to give him credit for trying to salvage a law that only one—one—out of every nine Americans thinks is actually working. But I don't think condescending to ObamaCare's victims was the best approach for him to take.

Consider this cringe-inducing assertion: Americans who already had health insurance "may not know that they've got a better deal now [under ObamaCare] . . . than they did, but they do."

In other words, he knows what is best for you, so quit complaining.

It is the very mindset that led this partisan law being forced through over the objections of the American people in the first place. It is the very mindset that said it was OK to cut a few corners and tell a few white lies to sell the country a law it didn't want.

So what, the Obama crowd seems to think, if Americans couldn't keep the plan they had and liked—so what. So what, ObamaCare's defenders must reason, if Americans see costs rise after being told they would fall.

To our friends on the left, it is just the cost of doing business. These days they have all but given up the ghost of empathy. They just talk past the middle class instead.

Consider some of the statements we have heard from top Democrats. "ObamaCare has been wonderful for America." "None of the predictions about how [ObamaCare] wouldn't work have come to pass." The implementation of this is "fabulous."

We have heard all of that from Democratic leaders.

These are the kinds of statements that raise our blood pressure all across America. But quotes such as these betray more than just a certain incongruence from reality. This is also a signal of a party that has lost confidence in the force of its own arguments—one that seems more intent on reassuring itself than convincing others.

Why else would they be saying things they know aren't true?

Now, I have spoken broadly over the past week about how ObamaCare has failed Americans in terms of higher costs especially, but allow me just to touch on the assertion that ObamaCare's implementation has been "fabulous" too.

Fabulous? That is certainly one way to describe how ObamaCare has been plagued by failure since day one. Consider the disastrous rollout. Many Americans won't forget the crashing Web sites, the hours on hold, the instructions to "fax in" their applications while at the same time seeing reports of ObamaCare contractors sitting idle, waiting for work to come through the door.

The White House tried to spin it all away as nothing more than a glitch—just a glitch—on the Web site. But the American people knew it pointed to broader systemic challenges in an unworkable law.

Consider the many pro-ObamaCare States that launched exchanges with great enthusiasm. These true-blue administrations did everything they could to make ObamaCare work, but they often ended up exposing ObamaCare's tragic realities instead.

Take deep blue Vermont. Many on the left looked to Vermont's extra-ambitious ObamaCare experiment as the crown jewel in their ideological crown, but it turned out to be little more than "an unending money pit," as one Vermonter put it.

In Oregon, officials spent over \$300 million taxpayer dollars to launch an ObamaCare exchange and marketing campaign. That is a big investment. But ObamaCare has been an even bigger flop. Millions of dollars down the tubes and Oregon has little to show for it beyond a couple of bizarre marketing videos and a criminal investigation.

Hawaii just announced it will be the latest State to shutter—close, shutter up—its faltering exchange.

In Kentucky, a Democratic administration poured one-quarter of a billion dollars into an exchange that placed nearly 80 percent of the enrollees into an already broken Medicaid system. Many of the remaining 20 percent or so now find themselves stuck with unaffordable ObamaCare coverage, such as a constituent from Ashland,

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



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