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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the fountain of all of our blessings, we rejoice because of the majesty of Your Name and power, for Your glory fills the Earth. We see Your handiwork in the beauty of spacious skies and in the splendor of amber waves of grain. Today, inspire our Senators so that the thoughts they think, the words they speak, and the deeds they do will please You.

Lord, as our lawmakers strive to live worthy of Your blessings, continue to surround them with the shield of Your favor and prompt them to strive to find common ground. As we all experience Your favor, help us to remember the needy and those crushed by the iron feet of injustice. May we strive to stay within the circle of Your providential will, remembering Your promise to supply all of our needs.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. ERNST thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT—VETO

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, is there a message at the desk in reference to S. 2040?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Senate regarding that matter.

The clerk will read the communication.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday, September 23, 2016, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate dated September 23, 2016, said to contain a veto message on the bill S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act." The Senate not being in session on the last day which the President had for the return of this bill under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, in order to protect the interests of the Senate so that it might have the opportunity to reconsider the bill, I accepted the message at 3:45 p.m.,

and I now present to you the President's veto message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, is the veto message with the papers attached at the desk?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. It is.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S. 2040 be considered as having been read; that it be printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The veto message ordered to be printed in the RECORD is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" (JASTA), which would, among other things, remove sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated state sponsors of terrorism.

I have deep sympathy for the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11), who have suffered grievously. I also have a deep appreciation of these families' desire to pursue justice and am strongly committed to assisting them in their efforts.

Consistent with this commitment, over the past 8 years, I have directed my Administration to pursue relentlessly al-Qa'ida, the terrorist group that planned the 9/11 attacks. The heroic efforts of our military and counterterrorism professionals have decimated al-Qa'ida's leadership and killed Osama bin Laden. My Administration also strongly supported, and I signed into law, legislation which ensured that those who bravely responded

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



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