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Senate

The Senate met at 9:46 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Ricky A. Phillips, Pastor, St. John's Church, Winfield, PA, and Zephyr Union Church, Lewisburg, PA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, our Maker and Redeemer, You bless us every day with the beauty of creation. When we look at creation, we can see the beauty of its diversity. In this room today, we can see this wonderful diversity. There are many different God-given talents.

May Your presence be felt by all the Senators, and may they come to You for guidance and comfort. May You bless them and give them the ability to recognize the strength of this diversity in its fullest capacity.

These are tough times. There are many who are in need. There are many who are hurting.

Empower our Senators to celebrate this diversity by helping them to reconcile these different talents so that they can help those who are in need and those who cannot defend themselves. May they yield themselves to Your will in order to fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and the world.

In Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, today we will resume voting on amendments and motions to the health care legislation. Senators should expect a series of votes to begin momentarily.

Under a previous agreement, we will proceed to passage of reconciliation at 2 p.m. today. Other votes will still be possible with respect to short-term extensions of provisions that expire over the break, I should notify all Members.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of H.R. 4872, which the clerk will report.

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).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, the Senator from Nevada is going to be recognized to offer an amendment at this time. I note that after the Senator from Nevada, the plan is to go to Senator COBURN, Senator SESSIONS, Senator CORNYN, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator VITTER and Senator DEMINT, and then maybe Senator COBURN again and then maybe Senator ENSIGN again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

AMENDMENT NO. 3593

Mr. ENSIGN. Madam President, I call up amendment No. 3593.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN] proposes an amendment numbered 3593.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve access to pro bono care for medically underserved or indigent individuals by providing limited medical liability protections)

At the end of subtitle B of title II, insert the following:

SEC. 2. HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET ENHANCEMENT.

(a) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a health care professional shall not be liable in any medical malpractice lawsuit for a cause of action arising out of the provision of, or the failure to provide, any medical service to a medically underserved or indigent individual while engaging in the provision of pro bono medical services.

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



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