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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Divine Redeemer, who stands outside the closed doors of human hearts, knocking repeatedly, give our lawmakers the grace to open themselves to You. May they open their ears in order to receive Your wisdom and to follow Your plan. May they open their eyes so that they can see the unfolding of Your loving providence in our Nation and world. Lord, may they open their minds to welcome creative strategies for making America a shining example of Your purposes. May they open their hands, sharing their blessings, to enrich humankind. May they open their hearts so that You can keep them from deviating from the path of integrity.

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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 20, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of S. 744, the comprehensive immigration bill, and that the time until 12 noon be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees and that I be recognized at 12 noon.

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I indicated last night that I was going to create a vote at 11:30 this morning, but Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY have asked that we put that over a little bit, so we are going to do that at noon because they are having an important markup in the Appropriations Committee.

We will continue to work through amendments to the bill today. Hopefully, we could have, at that time—at noon—a path forward on this legislation. We have a number of amendments that are now pending. We hope to have a way of disposing of those, and I hope there is something that can be worked out. Senator LANDRIEU and others have indicated they want some amendments, and I hope we can work that out so we can move forward on the bill.

So we will continue to work through the amendments, as I indicated, today. The first rollcall vote, as I have indicated, will be at about noon today.

Mr. President, we have made some significant advances on the historic immigration legislation that is now before us. I am confident and I am hopeful that we can pass this bill. I have indicated on a number of occasions that we are going to do everything within our power to finish this bill before the July 4 recess.

I have had conversations with the Republican leader and other Republican Senators, and, of course, with my Democratic Senators, and I think that is the goal, and I have no reason that we should not be able to meet that goal.

We have made progress on amendments. I expect and I hope that a group of Republican Senators working with the Gang of 8 will come forward with a way that they think we can move forward on this bill dealing with the border. As I have said all along, I am willing to look at any reasonable amendment—I think we all are—and I hope something can be worked out with my Republican colleagues and the Gang of 8.

I have said before, and I say it again, I appreciate very much the Gang of 8 for their diligent work, both in crafting this legislation and in shepherding it through this transparent and thorough process. It goes without saying that the chairman of the committee Senator LEAHY has been remarkably focused on how to get this done.

One of my favorite Senators I have had the opportunity to work with over the years is CHUCK GRASSLEY, the Senator from Iowa. He is the ranking member of that committee. Even though we disagree on occasion on how to move forward, I never remember having an unpleasant conversation with CHUCK GRASSLEY. So I appreciate his working on this.

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



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