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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the guest chaplain, Rabbi Harold Kravitz from Minnetonka, MN.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Our God of all that is good, it is a privilege to be inside this Capitol Building, richly designed to inspire those who govern to achieve the loftiest goals possible for this Nation.

Guide the Senators who sit in this Chamber to do what the Book of Deuteronomy describes: "that which is right and good in the sight of the Eternal One."

We pray for all Americans, especially those who lack sufficient food to feed themselves and their families. This body has the power to change this reality, to do that which is right and good.

May the One who Provides Sustenance for All—Hazan et Hakol—bless this United States Senate with the wisdom and compassion to act on its responsibilities for those who are vulnerable and in need.

May all God's people in this land be able to live with dignity and share in the plenty with which this Nation is blessed.

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.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the majority leader and I will yield to the Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. FRANKEN. Thank you, Leader REID.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Rabbi Harold Kravitz for offering the opening prayer today in the Senate and to praise him for all of his excellent work.

Rabbi Kravitz is rabbi at Adath Jeshurun in my State of Minnesota and is an important leader in our State. In addition to serving his congregation, Rabbi Kravitz is also a leader in the fight against hunger. He is outgoing chair of the board of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, where he has been working to end hunger for all people regardless of their faith background.

One of the things most notable about Rabbi Kravitz is his commitment to bringing together people of all faiths to end hunger. I especially want to recognize Rabbi Kravitz's work in Minnesota to make school lunches free and available for all children.

No child should ever go hungry. We know kids won't do as well in school when they are hungry. It is also just wrong. That is why I have taken up the issue at the Federal level as well, to try to make this commonsense policy that Rabbi Kravitz has championed in MAZON as widespread as possible.

Rabbi Kravitz has done excellent work in Minnesota and as a national leader in the fight against hunger. Thank you for that, Rabbi, and thank you again for offering the opening prayer this morning.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

OBAMACARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, sometimes the divide between the

White House and reality can be stark. That was evident yesterday when President Obama told us that Obamacare was "working" and that essentially "none" of the warnings of the law's failures and broken promises had come to pass. I imagine the families threatened with double-digit premium increases would beg to differ, as would the millions of families who received cancellation notices for the plans they had and wanted to keep. That is especially true considering something else the President said—that Obamacare "hasn't had an adverse effect on people who already had health insurance." That is what the President said, that Obamacare hasn't had an adverse effect on people who already had health insurance. President Obama actually said that. It may border on the absurd, but he did say it.

Perhaps the President will make even more bizarre claims today as he tries to bolster the image of a law that only 11 percent of Americans say is a success—only 11 percent of Americans say Obamacare is a success—or perhaps he will keep realities facing the middle class in mind. Instead of jousting with reality again, perhaps he will consider the concerns of constituents who write in literally every day to tell us how this law is hurting them. Maybe he will remember the Kentuckian who wrote to tell me this: "I cried myself to sleep."

"I cried myself to sleep," said this Kentuckian who wrote to me about this law. That is how she felt after losing health coverage with her employer and then being forced—forced—into an exchange plan she called "subpar" with a nearly \$5,000 deductible. How helpful to most middle-class people is a health insurance policy with a \$5,000 deductible? She said, "I work hard for every penny I earn, and this is completely unacceptable." It is also another example of a law that has failed, and the sooner President Obama can come to grips with that reality, the sooner 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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