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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our God, we honor Your Name. You continue to guide our Nation, and we trust the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. Help us to effectively tell this generation about Your mighty works so that Your Name will be known by those not yet born. Use us to inspire people to celebrate Your matchless mercy and Your power to save. Thank You for keeping Your word, for extending to us Your daily blessings, and for picking us up each time we fall.

Guide your Senators with Your love today. Be for them a shade by day and a defense by night. Lord, keep them on the road that leads to life.

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, March 9, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAND PAUL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PAUL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate will soon have a chance to come together in support of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, a bill designed to help address the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic that is spreading across our country.

We have seen the impact this crisis is having in all 50 States, how it is affecting people of all different ages and backgrounds. We know that heroin and prescription opioid addiction devastates communities, destroys families, and claims thousands of lives each year, but we also know there are steps

we can take here in the Senate that can help heal our Nation. For instance, just a few months ago we appropriated \$400 million to opioid-specific programs—which is nearly one-third more than what the Senate appropriated the preceding year—and all \$400 million of those funds remain available to be spent today.

We can take another step forward now—a big step—with the passage of this authorization bill. Just listen to what some officials are saying about CARA's potential impact: Northern Kentucky's top anti-drug official said this bill can help "allow individuals, families, and communities to heal from this scourge." The president and CEO of a nonprofit organization with programs in Kentucky noted that CARA can "create lasting impact in Kentucky" and ultimately help lead to more Kentuckians "receiv[ing] the treatment they desperately need. A group that provides overdose prevention training in the Commonwealth said that CARA can give them a "stronger foundation to move from training to action." President Obama's own drug czar noted that provisions like those in CARA are "critically important to make headway" in this epidemic.

The bill before us, with all of its important provisions, is the result of hard work and leadership from many colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Of course, there is the lead Republican sponsor of this bill, the junior Senator from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, who has worked closely with colleagues in both parties, such as the junior Senator from New Hampshire, Ms. AYOTTE, as

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



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