



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 153

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007

No. 100

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, Your great Name keeps us from harm. We remember all Your gifts and praise You for Your mercies. Today, guide our Senators. Make their plans succeed as they find wisdom by following Your directions. When they don't know what to do, teach them to be still until You make Your will clear. When they feel alone and anxious, remind them that You will never abandon them no matter how difficult the challenge. Keep them from elevating the empty and hollow while neglecting the truly valuable. Help them to focus on the things that are excellent, commendable, true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 20, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,

a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any remarks that I make and the Republican leader does, if he chooses to do so, we will begin consideration of H.R. 6, the Energy bill, with 30 minutes of debate on the DeMint amendment No. 1546. A vote in relation to that amendment is expected to occur at 10:10 or 10:15 this morning. Last night cloture was filed on the Baucus-Grassley amendment, and cloture was filed to the substitute amendment and the Energy bill itself.

Last night I stated the obvious. Every step of the way for 6 months we have had to procedurally jump through every hoop the complicated Senate rules allow. That is unfortunate. We, as Democrats, have been in the minority, and we never did anything similar to this. There were times when it was necessary, because of what we did not allow, that cloture was filed. But this is untoward, what is happening now.

I hope the Republican leadership would look at this. Is it necessary, if we get cloture on the substitute, to

have to go forward on a cloture vote on the bill itself? I hope not.

Germane first-degree amendments to the substitute and the bill need to be filed at the desk by 1 p.m. today. There will be votes today and into the evening.

STEM CELL RESEARCH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday, a few feet out of this Chamber, I had the opportunity to meet with three young ladies from Nevada. Megan Christensen is 14 years old; Anna Ressel, from Sparks, 13 years old; and Jordan Exber, a 14-year-old from Las Vegas.

These girls were here to present me with a little award as a result of work I have done on juvenile diabetes. I was representative of many people who have worked on the issue. But the reason I mention this is not any award that was given to me or any of the other Senators but the plight of these young ladies.

One of the girls was determined to have diabetes 3 months ago—a beautiful child, Jordan, from Las Vegas. They prepared a book for me: “2007, Children’s Congress.”

Among other things, one of the pictures in this is a bunch of syringes. Look at this. I can’t count them. This is 1 week’s picking and poking at this young lady’s body that she has to go through because of diabetes.

Type 1 juvenile diabetes is a chronic disease and for the child with type 1 diabetes, the pancreas does not produce insulin, a hormone necessary to sustain life. Without insulin the sugar in the blood can’t be used. It builds up in the bloodstream, even though the body is starved for energy. A person with type 1 diabetes must take one or more injections of insulin daily to stay alive.

She has written here: “I take 42 shots, at least, every week. This does not count the testing,” to find out

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S8001

what her blood sugar levels are; 42 a week.

The reason I mention this is these young and beautiful children were here to talk about something the President is going to do today—veto stem cell research legislation. What a shame. Last year, the Republican-controlled House and Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill to open up hope for these young ladies.

To indicate this is not just something that is important for Nevada, they had there a girl from Australia. A teenager from Australia was here to indicate this is an international problem. We in America, with the genius we have here—out of the top 142 universities in the world, we have 129 of them in America. One of the best, of course, is in the State of the Presiding Officer—Johns Hopkins. Research is going on there. Stem cell research should be going on there, and it is not.

It was a happy day for all of us when the bill passed the House and the Senate. It was a day Democrats and Republicans put politics and partisanship aside to do the right thing for the American people. Yet when we sent this historic bill to the President's desk, he vetoed it. It was his first veto of his Presidency.

With the health and hope of literally millions of Americans hanging in the balance, he vetoed the bill. It was the first veto, I repeat, of his administration.

A year passed. The best scientists continued to work with one hand tied behind their backs. I indicated 129 great universities in America, the best universities in the world, are not allowed to do this. Countless millions of Americans have been diagnosed with dread diseases, thousands and thousands, with Parkinson's, spinal cord injuries, heart disease. A year has passed, but today we are told the President plans to veto the stem cell bill again.

These children suffer from diabetes. They were here to help get this bill passed.

When we sent the bill to the President 2 weeks ago, Speaker PELOSI and I were joined by 10-year-old Toni Bethea, who lives in the District of Columbia and suffers from diabetes, and Allison Howard, who suffers from Rett Syndrome—beautiful children, one of them extremely ill. They deserve hope, just like these girls from Las Vegas, Sparks, Reno, from Australia.

President Bush has indicated that he would not give them any hope. He is going to veto the bill, we are told. He would not listen to the more than 500 leading organizations who support this bill, the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, the American Medical Association, the American Diabetes Association, more than 500 organizations. He would not listen to 80 Nobel laureates who have said this is essential. He would not listen to his own Director—I am talking about President Bush—his own Director of the National Institutes of Health, who

supports embryonic stem cell research. He is not listening to the majority of the American people. This proposal is supported by more than 80 percent of the American public. They call for stem cell research.

This narrow ideology that has guided this administration, that has us in this intractable war in Iraq, that has us losing standing in the world community, having 47 million Americans with no health care and no plan coming from the White House to improve that—a program that is lacking in keeping our children in school. On the environment, global warming is taking place. It is being ignored by this White House. This, a hope for millions—stem cell research—indicates this narrow ideology is wrong, and it is preventing the curing of diseases, the prevention of diseases. We deserve better. We are a nation of endless compassion and unlimited ingenuity. Megan, Anna, Jordan, Toni, and Allison deserve to know we are a better country than this narrow ideology.

President Bush's veto is a setback, but we are going to continue to give hope to these children and the American people.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CREATING LONG-TERM ENERGY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NATION ACT OF 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 6, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6) to reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 1502, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid (for Bingaman) amendment No. 1537 (to amendment No. 1502), to provide for a renewable portfolio standard.

Klobuchar (for Bingaman) amendment No. 1573 (to amendment No. 1537), to provide for a renewable portfolio standard.

Bingaman (for Klobuchar) amendment No. 1557 (to amendment No. 1502), to establish a national greenhouse gas registry.

Kohl (for DeMint) amendment No. 1546 (to amendment No. 1502), to provide that legislation that would increase the national average fuel prices for automobiles is subject to a point of order in the Senate.

Corker amendment No. 1608 (to amendment No. 1502), to allow clean fuels to meet the renewable fuel standard.

Cardin modified amendment No. 1520 (to amendment No. 1502), to promote the energy independence of the United States.

Collins amendment No. 1615 (to amendment No. 1502), to provide for the develop-

ment and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated U.S. research program that assists the people of the United States and the world to understand, assess, and predict human-induced and natural processes of abrupt climate change.

Baucus amendment No. 1704 (to amendment No. 1502), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for energy advancement and investment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 30 minutes of debate on amendment No. 1546, offered by the Senator from South Carolina, Mr. DEMINT, with the time equally divided and controlled between the Senator from New Mexico, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. DEMINT.

Who yields time? The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes and that it count against my allocated 15 minutes on my amendment and that it appear in a separate place in the RECORD.

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

(The remarks of Mr. DEMINT are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

AMENDMENT NO. 1546

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to speak about my amendment which the Senate will be voting on a few minutes after 10 this morning. This amendment would create a 60-vote point of order against bills or amendments in the future that would raise the price of gasoline.

This amendment is very straightforward. It would require the Congressional Budget Office to score legislation to determine if it would increase the cost of gasoline. If the legislation would increase the cost of gasoline, a 60-vote point of order would lie against the bill.

This applies the same principle we use in the Congressional budget process to our energy policy. The traveling public is coping with the high price of gasoline every day. While there are many factors out of our control forcing up the price of gas, we can control what we do here in the Senate.

For all the time that has been spent over the last few weeks railing against big oil or the high cost of gasoline, little time has been spent to examine one of the leading causes of high prices of gasoline, which is the Congress. Too often the idea of a rational energy policy here in Congress is to create burdensome regulations, onerous mandates, and higher taxes, all of which directly translate into higher prices at the pump for American families. My amendment proposes to hold Congress in check by instituting a safeguard that encourages the Senate to take a "do not harm" approach when considering legislation affecting gas prices.

My amendment, again, is very straightforward and very simple. If the Senate wants to pass legislation that