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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, center of our joy, give to the Members of this body the gifts of grace, compassion, and kindness. May Your gift of grace prompt them to exemplify civility. May Your gift of compassion motivate them to become voices for the voiceless. May Your gift of kindness empower them to treat others as they themselves desire to be treated, to forgive those who may have wronged them, and to cultivate renewed trust in those with whom they labor. Lord, renew them this day by the power of Your spirit that they may walk in unity for the good of this land we love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN 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. INOUYE).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2010.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN 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. Madam President, I note the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The time until 12:30 will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes.

The Senate will be in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today for the weekly caucus meetings.

Following the caucus, the time between 2:15 and 2:45 will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the final 15 minutes. At 2:45, the Senate will proceed to a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 3628, the DISCLOSE Act.

CORRECTING ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 725

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to H. Con. Res. 304.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of H.R. 725.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 304) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce the business for the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each and with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from Illinois.

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



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THANKING TOM FALETTI

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor to say thank you to someone who has, for more than 20 years, been my right hand on Capitol Hill. Tom Faletti is one of the most decent, honest, and caring persons I have ever known. Tom came to work for me 24 years ago, when I was an unknown second-term Congressman from downstate Illinois and he was a 20-something idealist with a master's degree in public policy and a determination to change the world. We have been a team for 24 years.

Now Tom is preparing to leave Capitol Hill for a new career—not to cash in as a K Street lobbyist but to work at an inner-city high school as a teacher. I know he is going to be an excellent teacher because I know how much he has taught me about how to turn noble ideas into good laws. Among the legislative accomplishments of which I am most proud, almost all of them bear Tom's fingerprints.

Tom Faletti is a quiet, effective person, who has achieved more than many of the most celebrated on Capitol Hill. He is a profoundly good person, too—deeply spiritual, with a deep devotion to his faith, and he is a remarkably patient man. How else could he have survived 24 years with me? One of his greatest personal qualities is his persistence. He has great staying power, and when you consider that many of the historic bills he has worked on require that kind of patience, you understand that is the key to his success.

Tom Faletti grew up in Antioch, CA, about an hour east of San Francisco. He was one of six kids, all boys. His father worked in the accounting department of a steel mill. His mom was mostly a stay-at-home mom who sometimes did child care to help make ends meet. He grew up in a neighborhood surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents, all living within blocks of each other. It was the Faletti equivalent to Hyannis Port. He met his wife Sonia in the freshman dorm at Stanford University and they have been inseparable ever since. In fact, July 26 was their 30th wedding anniversary.

After earning his master's degree from Berkeley, Tom turned down some good job offers in California because the issues he cared most about, such as ending poverty and hunger, were national issues. He asked his Congressman and my good friend GEORGE MILLER for advice on how to get a job in Washington. GEORGE MILLER replied: You have to be there. So, in 1986, Tom and Sonia packed their belongings and drove across America in their 1978 blue Ford Fairmont. On the way they stopped in Chicago to see the Cubs beat Tom's favorite San Francisco Giants at Wrigley Field—the only time, until then, Tom had ever set foot in my State of Illinois.

Both Sonia and Tom arrived in DC without a job. Within a week, Sonia—who Tom will concede is the much

more talented of the two—landed a job as a teacher. Tom had two interviews with both the U.S. Catholic Conference and Bread for the World. Both of them liked his resume but told him: Tom, you need some Hill experience.

Fortunately for me and the people of my State, Tom heard through a friend of a friend that this fledgling Congressman was looking for a part-time legislative correspondent. Well, my office offered him a job, trying to get rid of the growing backlog of mail in my congressional office. We told him we just had enough money to pay him for 3 months, and we weren't sure what would happen after that. But 3 months later, Tom Faletti turned a routine legislative correspondence assignment into proof positive of his potential. We promoted him to a legislative assistant position handling agricultural issues—not necessarily his forte, but I learned then and have learned ever since you can hand Tom Faletti any assignment and, in a short period of time, he will become a resident expert.

Two years later, the position of health care adviser opened on my staff. Tom jumped at the chance and a real legislative partnership began. Tom's tireless and meticulous work on health care reform and tobacco control has literally saved lives in America. Tom helped to draft the bill which I am so proud of, in which we banned smoking on all domestic airline flights more than 25 years ago.

Neither Tom nor I realized at that moment that that bill was a tipping point. The American people finally opened their eyes and said: If it is unsafe to smoke on an airplane, then why is it safe to smoke on a bus, on a train, in an office, in a hospital? Twenty-five years later, we live in a different nation because that bill came at the right moment. That bill would not have happened were it not for Tom Faletti's good work.

He also drafted a bill that banned smoking in Head Start and other Federal children's programs—unthinkable, but it was considered pretty bold at the time. In 1998, he helped me organize the first International Conference on Tobacco Control that brought together cancer researchers and advocates from nearly 30 nations to help advance the cause of tobacco control around the world.

He also worked to help preserve the historic settlement between tobacco companies and States when it appeared the Justice Department, under President George W. Bush, might gut the settlement.

In the early 1990s, Tom Faletti helped draft what may have been the first meaningful regulation of tobacco.

It was the simple statement that captured where we ended up so many years later, and it said:

The Food and Drug Administration shall regulate tobacco but shall not ban it.

That was the political sweet spot, the middle ground where we eventually ended up many years later.

At the time it seemed impossible, but FDA regulation passed last year and is now the law of the land.

In 1992, Tom helped draft a bill called health status rating in the small business health insurance market. That bill said simply that insurers can't charge more because of a preexisting condition. Have you heard that phrase before? Do you remember that cause? It was the propelling force behind our health care reform that we just completed. People suggested then we could not prevail.

Tom knew where we needed to be as a nation, and today that bill—with minor changes—is the law of the land. It was included in the historic health care reform that President Obama signed into law.

Tom has helped achieve lifesaving change for America in so many other ways, including increasing organ donations and improving health care for veterans and their family caregivers.

In the early 1990s, he drafted a bill to create a pilot program of long-term substance abuse treatment centers for women where they could bring their children with them, thus removing one of the main impediments to women receiving lifesaving treatment.

The list of accomplishments bearing Tom Faletti's imprint goes on and on.

When President Obama invited me to the White House a little over a year ago to see him sign the Family Smoking Prevention and Control Act, granting FDA the very power to regulate tobacco, which Tom Faletti called for so many years ago, I invited Tom to be by my side. I can recall a dinner a few months ago when I was given recognition for all the work I have done in the field of tobacco and looking out over the audience and all the people who have been helpful and spotting Tom. I told the people there—and I say it today—that none of this would have happened without Tom Faletti.

When President Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act last March, I again asked Tom Faletti to join me at the White House and witness that historic event and see the new law, including the preexisting conditions.

No member of my staff—or any other Senate staff—worked harder, over more years, to make those two great achievements a reality.

There is one downside to finally winning so many long-fought battles; that is, Tom has decided to retire—well, to retire from the Senate. He has decided it is time to try a profession that he told me he always wanted to try, to become a high school teacher. He is going to teach at Archbishop Carroll, an inner-city Catholic high school in Washington, DC. I was not surprised because Tom has been a teacher for as long as I have known him. He taught hundreds of my staff everything from spelling and grammar to the inside information on moving a bill and changing a nation.

I know Tom and Sonia decided long ago that life on Earth is about more