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## Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, thank You for Your great compassion that removes our guilt and purifies us from transgressions. As our lawmakers and those who work with them face the challenges to liberty, give them light for their path and courage to live for You. Lord, enrich them with the durable satisfaction that comes from doing Your will. In their attitudes and expressions, remind them that those who are slow to anger are better than the mighty. Give them courage to passionately seek the truth and the reverence to follow Your light that illuminates their path.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, 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. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 10, 2011.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks there will be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

There will be no rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate. However, I hope we will be able to extend the trade adjustment assistance legislation today.

Senators should expect the next series of votes to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. We hope to have as many as three votes on Monday starting at 5:30.

### CUTTING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, saying you want to cut government spending is an easy applause line. We all want to lower the deficit. We all wish Americans had less debt sitting in the treasuries of other countries. None of us wants to leave the most difficult decisions to the next generation. They deserve better from us.

But actually figuring out what and where to cut is the hard work. That is an entirely different story. The American people do not need to hear an applause line. They need us to ease the burden on our Nation's bottom line, and there is a fine line between doing so responsibly and recklessly.

It is our job to do that hard work, to figure out what and where to cut, to do the math carefully and practically and with common sense. It is our responsibility to remember we are not just taking numbers off a ledger. In many cases, these proposals may mean taking workers off the assembly line, taking teachers out of the classroom or police officers off the street.

I want to talk about taking police officers off the street. In the Republicans' haste to make as many cuts as possible, they have proposed eliminating the COPS hiring program. COPS stands for Community Oriented Policing Services, and it has helped put thousands and thousands of police officers and sheriffs on patrol around the country, about 450 of them in Nevada.

Under the Republican plan, many could lose those jobs and many more who want to join the force will not be able to. The COPS program also helps our law enforcement departments afford the computers and communications equipment they need to do their jobs. These jobs are keeping us safe. So cutting COPS does not just put them at risk, it puts all of us at risk.

This is not the kind of investment we gain from losing. This extreme plan does nothing to grow our economy or keep us competitive. It does not make our future more secure; it makes our neighborhoods less so. We have to cut responsibly. That is not the kind of cut we have talked about, wiping out the COPS program. We cannot support that.

When we talk about cutting government waste and excess, this is what we mean, among other things. We mean eliminating handouts to oil companies that are already making record profits. We mean cutting billions in wasteful Pentagon spending to contractors such as Halliburton. It means stopping the government giveaways to companies that ship American jobs overseas. These are commonsense cuts and a good place to start the conversation.

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



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But so far Republicans have shown no interest in meeting us halfway and have shown every intention of protecting their rich corporate friends. As this conversation continues, Democrats do not need any lectures from the other side on fiscal responsibility. Remember, we were the ones who balanced the budget during the Clinton years. We did it. We were accused of reducing the deficit too much. We were spending less money than we were taking in. Because of the work we did during the last of the Clinton administration, even President Bush, during his first year, because he got all of the progress from the Clinton administration, turned in a record budget surplus. But as soon as his policies went into effect, he changed that very quickly. In a matter of months, he turned a record surplus into a record deficit that we are fighting today.

In conclusion, any budget debate is going to be about numbers. That is the way it should be. But that is not the real priority, and those figures should not blind us to the real story behind the numbers. Our goal and our charge is not to cut billions of dollars just to say we did it. Our task is to make our government more efficient, our economy healthier, and our future more secure. Our challenge is to do so in a way that does not put our public safety at risk or break our promise to seniors.

So we need to think about what we are cutting and making sure those cuts are not counterproductive. We need to pay attention to the quality of those cuts, not just the quantity of those cuts. After all, you can lose a lot of weight by cutting off your arms and legs but no doctor would recommend it.

#### 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, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

#### TAA AND HCTC EXTENSION

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I thank the majority leader for his support on our upcoming efforts. I am joined on the Senate floor by Senator CASEY, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, who has been a leader for workers in this body.

I want to make some brief comments about something very important for workers and businesses and international trade. Then Senator CASEY will make a couple of unanimous-con-

sent requests. He will make one that I hope is agreed to. If it is, then he will not need to make a second, and I will not need to make a third.

In December, just before the 111th Congress adjourned, it extended two critical trade programs which Senator CASEY and I were on the Senate floor working on. First, we extended the Andean Trade Preferences Act, thanks in part to Senator MCCAIN of Arizona. It provides assistance to Latin American countries and also helps American businesses and workers by granting access to new inputs and products.

Second, critically important to our two States, Pennsylvania and Ohio, and I know to the Presiding Officer's State of Minnesota, we extended trade adjustment assistance. That is the least we can do when this Congress passes wrong-headed trade agreements.

We extended the health coverage tax credit so that together workers who lose their jobs because of bad trade agreements, such as NAFTA and CAFTA, and bad trade positioning such as PNTR for China, can at least get some help for retraining so they can get back to work in comparably paying jobs, we hope, and get some assistance, some tax credits to buy health insurance for them and their families.

As a result, thousands of workers and retirees who depend on TAA and the HCTC made it through the holidays, when we did this in late December, at the last minute—it should not have been that long, but in the last minute—with these critical sources of support.

The Andean Trade Preferences Act has brought benefits for our businesses and workers. It is nice that sunflowers from Colombia will be in florist shops for Valentines Day next week because of this act. But the difficult reality faced by too many workers reliant on TAA, reliant on the health care tax credit, reminds us of the effects of trade and globalization, the downside of trade and globalization.

It reminds us that our actions bring consequences. We hear Presidents and Congresses trumped the advantages of free trade. Yet they forget about fair trade, what happens to too many workers. Good for investors, good for some companies, good for some countries, not always good for our workers—they forget about that.

By this weekend, if we fail to act, crucial improvements to TAA and the health care tax credit will expire. Workers again will be hurt not just by loss of jobs but loss of these benefits. It will expire at the expense of workers who played by the rules, who lost their jobs, most of their pensions, and their health care—or all three.

Just last month I visited the Mahoning Valley on the Pennsylvania border in Northeast Ohio—the Mahoning Valley One Stop to visit with workers who are using TAA to develop new skills and training to find new secure jobs. One industrial manufacture worker, I believe, in her forties

has a child, a daughter, I believe, in her late teens. She and her daughter both were in the same school studying to be health care workers, both becoming professionals, both getting their lives and their futures in order—the mother able to do it because of trade adjustment assistance.

I was there with a simple message: We cannot keep passing trade agreements that undermine Ohio workers and then turn our backs on those workers when their jobs are offshored.

The TAA and HCTC enhancements are not expensive; they are not complicated. They are modest improvements that Congress passed to programs that help tens of thousands of Americans either get back to work or regain some measure of the financial security that had been stripped unceremoniously from them.

Last week, 12 Senators and I, including the majority leader, sent House leadership a request for a long-term extension of trade adjustment assistance, the health care tax credit, and the Andean Trade Preferences Act. TAA is a critical part of our Nation's competitiveness strategy.

In the last 2 years, more than 155,000 additional trade-affected workers across the country who might not have been certified under the former TAA program became eligible for TAA benefits because a year and a half, almost 2 years ago, in the Recovery Act, we added expanded trade adjustment to help those workers who had lost their jobs because of trade.

These Americans are rubber workers from Johnson Rubber Company in Wood County. They are furniture makers from Masco in Jackson County or aluminum castings workers from Mansfield Brass and Aluminum in my home county of Richland. In addition, workers in the service industry are eligible for TAA because of these changes. Those workers include engineers at Belcan Engineering in Cincinnati and computer programmers at Electronic Data Systems in Fairborn, a suburb of Dayton. It includes researchers at the Transportation Research Center in Moraine.

In total, 360,000-plus workers nationwide have been certified eligible for TAA since 2009. These workers use TAA to acquire new skills to return to work as quickly as possible. This is not theory; this is not some game. This is workers who have lost their jobs because of decisions in this body and in the White House that cost people those jobs. And it is helping those workers so they can get back on their feet.

It is not a game; it is not a happy time. It is the least we can do for those workers. Health coverage tax credit programs also help those same trade-affected workers and retirees who lose their benefits. I could go on about this. I will stop.

I hope Republicans do not object. The combination of TAA and HCTC, trade adjustment and health care tax credit, is a winner for business. The combination is a winner for workers; it is a