



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2014

No. 61

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of history, strong to save, remind us that You are not an indifferent spectator to the progress and pathology in our world. Help us, dear God, to view our world as You see it, becoming Your ambassadors of reconciliation. Empower us to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us, and to pray for those who maliciously use us.

Today, guide our Senators through all their deliberations, keeping ever before them the vision of a better world that is yet to be. May they work for justice and peace, advancing Your kingdom on Earth.

Sustain us all with the knowledge that our prayers are not in vain.

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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2014.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 354, S. 2223, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Jeff Merkley,
Patrick J. Leahy, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Richard J.

Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Thomas R. Carper, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in morning business until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5:30 p.m. there will be up to four rollcall votes. The first vote will be on the confirmation of the Friedland nomination to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit. The next vote will be a cloture vote on the Weil nomination to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor, and then a confirmation vote on the Weil nomination. The last vote will be a vote on confirmation of the O'Regan nomination to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

SEEMINGLY REAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Nevada, and especially Las Vegas, is home to the best entertainment on the planet. Those who visit Las Vegas and Reno know they will find the best musical, theatrical, and comedic performances anyplace on Earth. Some of the most popular performers in Nevada are magicians and illusionists who entertain their audiences by making the impossible seem real. Through misdirection, these performers distract viewers from what they know to be true and instead funnel their attention to something entertaining—and it is really fake.

It seems that the Republican party has decided to follow in Houdini and Copperfield's footsteps and employ a

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2409

bit of misdirection of its own. For example, last week the Wall Street Journal reported that the Republican Party has a newly adopted campaign strategy to defeat Senate Democrats. They are going to attack me because their attacks and fabrications regarding the Affordable Care Act have borne little fruit.

In Senate races across the country, Republicans will avoid the issues that matter most to Americans and instead will try to focus attention on a Senator who is not even up for election—and that Senator is me.

What are those issues that Republicans so desperately want to avoid? How about immigration? That bill was introduced a year ago, and it passed the Senate many months ago. It is a good piece of legislation and the vast majority of the American people think it is a good idea. Yet instead of explaining to the American people why this bipartisan bill sits idle in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, they want to change the subject.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives refuses to allow a vote. If a vote were allowed to occur, it would pass overwhelmingly. It is a good piece of legislation. Not only is it fair and equitable, but it would also reduce the debt by \$1 trillion.

While struggling American families plead to Congress for help in providing work or getting paid fair, livable wages, House Republicans prefer to talk about anything other than what is relevant? Why? Because their billionaire sugar daddies are not interested in helping middle-class Americans.

Charles and David Koch are not concerned with the long-term unemployed families, and so the Republicans they sponsor in the House of Representatives are content to do nothing. These billionaire oil barons don't care that working women are being deprived of fair wages.

My daughter—or the Presiding Officer's wife—can do the exact same work as a man but only get 77 cents while the man gets paid \$1. We want to change that. The Koch-driven Republican Congress refuses even to allow us to have a vote on it. They have started filibusters here in the Senate time and time again on this issue, and they will not bring this matter to a vote in the House either.

As the Senate turns its attention to increasing the Federal minimum wage, which we moved to earlier today, is there any question as to whether Republicans will once again do the Koch brothers' bidding? Of course not. They are not going to give millions of Americans a fair shot at earning a decent wage.

Eighty billion dollars is not enough for these two brothers. Evidently the Kochs think that \$10.10 is too much for a hard-working American with a family to take care of. If a person works 40 hours at \$10.10, you just hit the magic spot where you are no longer in pov-

erty. They refuse to allow millions of Americans the opportunity to get out of poverty and to give millions of Americans a raise.

The Republicans in Congress yawn at the idea of giving the American middle class a fair shot at financial stability and instead have chosen to distract the American people by attacking me. Like all illusions, they are using misdirection to call the American people's attention away from reality and attempting to buy America with their billions.

The Koch brothers and their accomplices continue to put millions upon millions of dollars into attacking anyone and anything that stands in their way of getting richer—and already rich they are.

Senate Democrats refuse to stand idly by while two megarich individuals attempt to create an American oligarchy.

I have spoken on the Senate floor against the Koch brothers' attempts to rig the system in their favor because it comes at the expense of families in Nevada and families across this great country. In response, one of the Kochs' puppet organizations announced its plans to run ads against me in the State of Nevada.

I am not running for anything for a few more years. As I said before, being the target of a couple of rich billionaires is not going to intimidate me.

Shockingly, the leadership of the Republican Party has decided to follow suit with their new campaign strategy. It is obvious their previous strategy of attacking ObamaCare has proven to be a miserable failure. Over 8 million Americans have chosen the coverage of the Affordable Care Act, plus 3 million more who are on their parents' insurance because of the Affordable Care Act. Up to 6 million people are on their way to having health care because of Medicaid, which is also as part of ObamaCare.

For example, in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 413,000 people have already signed up for the State-sponsored health care they have in Kentucky. So with one failed strategy behind them, Republicans and their benefactors are trying something new, but it is still the same smoke-and-mirrors routine they tried in the past. Divert and obstruct is what they do.

To those Republicans who would rather bash me than speak out about what matters most important to their constituents, I say fire away.

To Charles and David Koch and their radical henchmen, feel free to attack me as much as you want. I can take it. Don't expect the American people to be fooled by this newest slight of hand strike. Ultimately voters will see the new tactic for what it is—a distraction that is keeping American families from getting a fair shot at financial stability.

In the meantime Senate Democrats will continue to speak against the shadowy influence of two power-drunk

billionaires and their devoted followers on Capitol Hill.

Most importantly, Senate Democrats will continue working on meaningful legislation that will get our Nation's middle class back on track.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

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 until 5:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders and their designees.

Mr. REID. I note the absence of a quorum and ask to have the time charged equally against both the majority and minority.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MAREN SANCHEZ

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, in just a couple of hours in Milford, CT, at 7 p.m. this evening there will be a vigil that will bring together many different members of the Milford community to celebrate, mourn, and grieve the life of a beautiful young woman who suffered a senseless and brutal death last Friday morning. In this inexplicable act of violence, she was killed by a fellow classmate shortly after 7 in the morning.

Jonathan Law High School was turned into a crime scene as members of the emergency responder team—first the police and then the medics—sought to save her life. Tragically and unfortunately, they were unable to do so. The evening that was to be their junior prom instead became a vigil.

We will perhaps never know what prompted this horrific and unimaginable act of brutality. This horrific event has united and brought together people who are now mourning Maren's death.

We know with certainty what a wonderful human being Maren Sanchez was, and we also know this community has shown strength and courage by coming together and uniting to help each other—particularly those students who knew her. We also know with certainty how gifted, talented, compassionate, and caring she was as