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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, You are robed with honor and majesty. Today, guide our lawmakers in their work, enabling them to be Your messengers of unity and hope. Lord, make them productive servants who live lives that honor You. Remind them that no good is permanently lost.

Lord, give them the wisdom to speak words that lead to life. Guide them away from crooked roads where they might slip and fall, as You strengthen them to seize opportunities that bring peace, hope, and freedom.

And Lord, we continue to praise You for the life and legacy of former Senator Robert Dole.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 senior legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 7, 2021.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2020. (Reappointment)

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to begin today with a short update on the debt ceiling. Over the past few days, we have made good progress on this issue, and I am optimistic that we will be able to prevent the awful prospect of the U.S. defaulting on its sovereign debt for the first time ever. No-

body wants to see the United States default on its debts.

As Secretary Yellen has warned, a default could eviscerate everything we have done to recover from the COVID crisis. We don't want to see that and I don't believe we will see that and I continue to thank all of my colleagues for cooperating in good faith to preserve the full faith and credit of the United States.

#### NOMINATION OF JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Mr. President, on Jessica Rosenworcel, the Senate will vote to confirm a remarkable, highly experienced, and historic nominee: Jessica Rosenworcel to be the Chair of the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission. Ms. Rosenworcel has served as a Commissioner at the FCC for nearly a decade, the past 10 months as Acting Chair.

I believe she will receive great bipartisan support as she becomes the first woman ever confirmed by this Chamber to lead the FCC. Ms. Rosenworcel is exactly the right person for the job in 2021. She has set herself apart as one of the Nation's leading champions for more affordable and accessible internet.

After the FCC repealed net neutrality during the Trump administration, the best thing the Senate can do is confirm someone with a proven record of standing on the side of American consumers.

Ms. Rosenworcel will also step in as Chair at a time when the FCC is carrying out the important task of expanding broadband to millions of Americans who have long been left behind. Ms. Rosenworcel is keenly aware of the immense damage that the digital divide has caused our country. It has shut out rural, urban, and low-income Americans, including far too many women and people of color for whom basic internet access remains unavailable or unaffordable, even as it is a necessity in the 21st century.

Ms. Rosenworcel has long focused on these issues, and I am confident that,

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



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under her leadership, the FCC will make immense progress in addressing these challenges.

Americans don't want to see their internet bills go up and up and up. They don't want to have to drive long distances at late hours just so their kids can finish homework at public libraries. And they want telemedicine to be available so they can be in the best of health.

No. Every American wants and deserves fast, affordable, and reliable internet access directly in their homes. Already this year, as a result of the President's infrastructure bill, we have made tremendous strides in closing the digital divide. We will build on that progress by confirming Ms. Rosenworcel today so that Americans can rest assured that they will have an FCC fighting for them.

#### BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

Mr. President, on Build Back Better, Senate Democrats continue our work to pass the President's Build Back Better Act before Christmas. Making progress on Build Back Better has been no small task, but sticking to our deadline will be worth it for one simple reason: at its core, Build Back Better is the best shot we have had in decades to help families lower costs, to cut taxes for working and middle-class Americans, and create good paying jobs while fighting the climate crisis.

Economists across the ideological spectrum have said it will not—will not—worsen inflation, something we are seeing happening across the world, not just in the U.S.

Here is something just about every American can appreciate: Build Back Better will make it cheaper for parents to raise their kids. For that alone, it is more than worth the effort. By providing the largest investment in childcare in American history, Build Back Better will make it so the vast majority of families will pay no more than 7 percent of their income on childcare for kids under 6. That single investment could save parents hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year. I think it is a pretty great deal for American families.

It will also help our economy. Everywhere you go you hear about shortages of labor. One of the main reasons is inadequate childcare. We rank way low on the list of developed nations. The United States' provisions for childcare come out near the very bottom. That is something we cannot tolerate anymore. And that is just one item, childcare.

Build Back Better will also provide, for the first time ever, free universal pre-K for millions of American families. By one measure, pre-K can cost parents up to \$8,600 a year per child. Under Build Back Better, many parents will pay zero. Think about that: pre-K, for the first time in U.S. history, the greatest expansion of free education that the United States has seen in a century. When we made high schools available to everyone, it made

our economy the strongest in the 20th century. We have got to learn that lesson here in the 21st century with pre-K.

Build Back Better, of course, will also extend the child tax credit that Democrats passed under the American Rescue Plan. This simple lifeline—a \$300 check in the mail each month for each child—can be a game changer—a game changer—during the winter months, and under Build Back Better, we can make sure this benefit stays in place.

None of this approaches the many other ways that Build Back Better will save Americans money. It will provide the largest investment in affordable housing ever. It could save Americans hundreds—even more—by making prescription drugs, like insulin, cheaper. And it will take necessary and long-overdue steps to fight the climate crisis, which costs our country tens of billions each year every time hurricanes, wildfires, and floods wreak havoc across the country.

Creating jobs, lowering costs, fighting climate change, and keeping more money in people's pockets—these are the things Americans want. These are the things Americans need, and it is what Build Back Better does. We are going to continue working to get these things done before the Christmas holiday.

#### REMEMBERING GIL HODGES

Finally, Mr. President, I close with a bit of joyful, long-awaited news not only for Mets fans all over the world, but for Brooklynites and those who have ancestry in Brooklyn that have spread across the country.

Sunday night, the National Baseball Hall of Fame announced that, after decades of waiting, Brooklyn's wonderful Gil Hodges—one of the great defensive first basemen of his era, a long-time member of the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers, and a manager of the Mets presiding over the "Miracle Mets" 1969 World Series championship—has finally, finally, earned his place in Cooperstown.

Some of the earliest memories I have are listening and watching the Dodgers with my dad. Gil was an essential figure of that era—a hero of the 1955 World Series, an eight-time All-Star, three-time Golden Glove winner. I think he was the first to win the Golden Glove. He was such an amazing fielder at first base, as well as Greg Gibbons.

And what a nice guy he was. One of the highlights of my life each year was to go trick-or-treating and knock on Gil Hodges' door. Who would come out and give us candy? The great man himself while he was a Brooklyn Dodger. That was an incredible, incredible situation. And so it shows you what a nice guy he was. He is a caring guy.

As much as he was a titan of the game, he was a central part of our Brooklyn family, and we all admired the fact that he lived in Brooklyn, right near all of us. Year after year, from one decade to another, Mets fans

have waited for this great player to receive Hall of Fame recognition. The wait is over. Gil is in that hall.

I congratulate Mrs. Hodges and the whole Hodges family for receiving this honor. And I want to congratulate, of course, all the other inductees in the Hall of Fame, among them many history-making, barrier-breaking athletes who have made the sport what it is today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. 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.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the last time Washington Democrats pushed through a huge change that disrupted families' arrangements, it earned President Obama the "Lie of the Year" award.

Democrats insisted that if you liked your healthcare plan, you could keep your healthcare plan. It turned out that was totally false. Their reckless government takeover threw many families into chaos.

This year, many of the same Democrats want to write a sequel. They want to ram through a radical, reckless, multitrillion-dollar taxing-and-spending spree between now and Christmas. And a huge part of their bill would completely upend childcare and pre-K as they exist for families all across our country.

If you like your childcare, you can keep your childcare. Well, buckle up, parents. What could possibly go wrong?

The Democrats have written their toddler takeover in ways that would turn families' finances literally upside down and make already expensive childcare even costlier. So let's walk through how they did it.

First, their reckless taxing-and-spending spree would make childcare dramatically more expensive through an avalanche of new mandates, regulations, and micromanagement—the usual Washington, DC, routine.

State and local governments are panicking about the childcare inflation this would cause. Here in the District, as one liberal analyst uncovered, local officials have formally estimated—listen to this—that the per-child daycare cost for a toddler or an infant would jump up \$12,000 a year—increase the cost of childcare \$12,000 a year; \$12,000 more per child per year. President Biden's inflation is coming for daycare.

That is why the other half of their clumsy scheme is to dump subsidies onto some families. They want to borrow and print even more so they can