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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, You are great, eternal, and wonderful in glory. You keep Your promises to those who serve You. Consecrate with Your presence the path that we should follow. Lord, kindle in the hearts of our Senators the true love of peace, the passion for Your unfolding providence, and the courage to trust You come what may.

May the faith they confess with their lips put such hope in their hearts that they may live each day with integrity. Cleanse them from every thought displeasing to Your goodness, that with pure hearts, clear minds, and calm hope they may honor You.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DISAPPROVING THE ACTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL IN APPROVING THE D.C. INCOME AND FRANCHISE TAX CONFORMITY AND REVISION TEMPORARY AMENDMENT ACT OF 2025—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 142, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 142) disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE BUS CRASH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, before I remind people that this day is Abraham Lincoln's birthday and talk about Lincoln, I want to start this morning by saying that my wife Barbara and this Senator are praying for those involved in the bus crash from Iowa Lakes Community College. Just yesterday, in Calhoun County on Highway 4, a bus rolled several times leaving 1 dead and 32 injured.

These young people were traveling to a baseball tournament when tragedy struck. We are praying for the family who lost a loved one. To the passengers and their families, we are praying for you and for full recovery from your injuries.

I am thankful for the Iowans on hand to help, including emergency personnel, healthcare providers, and the Iowa Lakes Community College community for supporting the team through this difficult time.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Mr. President, as we celebrate the 250th birthday of this great America and our independence from Great Britain, I want to recognize the birth of

our Nation's 16th President on this very day, February 12, 217 years ago.

Americans know that President Lincoln was instrumental in preserving the United States and abolishing slavery. He also championed a law to fight fraud. That is my intention today.

In 1863, President Lincoln signed the False Claims Act. "Lincoln's Law," as it is referred to, helped expose fraudsters at that time selling inferior supplies at premium prices to the Union Army during the Civil War.

So how did this law work? It gave patriots a financial incentive to blow the whistle on wrongdoing, rewarding them with a share of the fines collected through litigation.

Now, what happened to Lincoln's Law during World War II, and for reasons I don't know, but I have a suspicion that maybe Congress, at that time, felt that reporting this stuff may hurt our defense efforts to win World War II or for whatever reason, they neutered the legislation.

Then, four decades ago, I strengthened Lincoln's Law. I wrote the 1986 amendments to Lincoln's Law that restored this commonsense tool to fight fraud. By empowering patriotic whistleblowers to reveal wrongdoing, the law continues to deliver for the American people, returning approximately \$85 billion for taxpayers since my amendments were adopted 40 years ago.

And that is not all. There is a deterrent effect of the legislation. My amendments to the False Claims Act have saved even more taxpayers' dollars by deterring untold billions of dollars of fraud in the first place.

In the last fiscal year, the Federal Government recovered over \$6.8 billion dollars in fraudulent payments. This is the largest single-year recovery in the history of the False Claims Act. As we observe President Lincoln's birthday on February 12, I also want to remind Americans to celebrate the patriotic

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



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