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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, our morning prayer is like being amazed by deposits in our checking account from unexpected sources. We are astounded by Your goodness. You know what we will need for today and You deposit the required amounts of insight, discernment, and vision in our minds. You fill the wells of our hearts to overflowing with the added courage and determination that are necessary for the demands of today. Even now, we feel the fresh strength of Your Spirit energizing our bodies. We should not be surprised. You have promised that,

"As your days, so shall your strength be".—(Deuteronomy 33:25).

Bless the women and men of this Senate and all who work with and for them that this will be a day in which we draw on Your limitless resources for dynamic leadership. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. AKAKA 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time to be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

In my capacity as the Senator from the State of Hawaii, I suggest the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. 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.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. ENZI. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. ENZI pertaining to the introduction of S. 2760 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

21ST CENTURY MEDICARE ACT OF 2002

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, since I still have time remaining under morning business, I will comment on another issue that I am sure will be commented on throughout the day and later next week. Later this morning I will be at a conference meeting on the accounting reform bill. I have had a considerable role in that process and will be doing that when we get to the actual debate on this bill. I see that as a top priority as well.

Today I rise in support of the tripartisan 21st Century Medicare Act, which was introduced on July 15 by Senators GRASSLEY, SNOWE, JEFFORDS, BREAUX, and HATCH. This bill is a giant step forward for seniors in this country and it demonstrates a sincere commitment to future beneficiaries, by taking steps to preserve, improve, and modernize the Medicare Program. No other proposal before the Senate can deliver on such a promise.

Some of them have not been introduced yet. In fact, we have been a little disappointed that bills have not been introduced so that a more direct discussion can be done on that.

I should say, not only no other proposal is before the Senate, no other proposal that is being talked about out there can deliver on the promise that this bill does.

This bill very likely has the support of the majority of the Senate. Of course, we would need a supermajority, or support of 60 Members, to adopt the bill. It raises a very important and interesting question. It is a budget question, because the score of the tripartisan bill exceeds by \$70 billion the \$300 billion Congress reserved last year for Medicare; there is a budget point of order that can be raised against the bill.

Essentially, if a Senator votes against removing or bypassing the budget point of order, they will be saying this bill costs taxpayers too much,

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



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