



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2013

No. 69

## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You don't disappoint those who look to You in faith. Guide our lawmakers by Your truth and instruct them with Your wisdom. Lord, lead them to do what is right and to stay on Your path. Keep them from being intimidated by the many challenges they face, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for every need. May they be true to You, living so that their words and actions will receive Your approval. Help them to live this day with a sense of accountability to You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 16, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN SCHATZ, a Sen-

ator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCHATZ 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. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in executive session to consider the nomination of Ernest Moniz to be Energy Secretary. There will be up to 3 hours of debate on the nomination. At about 2 p.m. there will be a rollcall vote on confirmation of that nomination.

### BENGHAZI ATTACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for months my Republican colleagues have argued the Obama administration has engaged in a coverup regarding the tragic events surrounding an attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi. The administration provided Members of Congress with over 100 pages of e-mails—sent following that attack—during closed-door sessions. The e-mails proved there was simply no coverup.

Yet Republicans, with full knowledge of these e-mails, claimed the White House was hiding the truth. Yesterday, the administration released even more e-mails to the public. This is only the latest effort by the administration to ensure transparency for the media and the public regarding this awful attack on Americans.

This new information came out for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that we know the press corps spent most of the past week chasing a story based on an e-mail that didn't

exist. It was fabricated by a Republican aide and then reported as fact. It is a sad commentary that Republicans are so dead set on embarrassing the President, the Foreign Service, the CIA, and our military they would actually lie to a news organization about the contents of an e-mail and let that news organization report their lies as facts.

The attack on Benghazi is an issue of life and death. We should be focused on tracking down the terrorists who committed this act and bringing them to justice, not on smear politics and false scandals. I hope the media will realize they were fed a false bill of goods and be more skeptical next time.

### IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 6 short years ago the prospects for a bipartisan solution to America's broken immigration system seemed bleak. Despite support from congressional Democrats and a Republican President, an immigration reform proposal had been defeated on a procedural vote. Let's say that again. Despite support from congressional Democrats and a Republican President, we couldn't get enough Republicans in the Senate to move forward on a reform proposal. It was defeated, I repeat, on a procedural vote in the Senate.

But one man, who was a long-time member of the Judiciary Committee and who had been chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security for decades—Senator Ted Kennedy—reminded us all the reform for which he had fought so hard would pass one day and that day could not be far off. This is what he said when that bill was defeated:

America always finds a way to solve its problems, expand its frontiers, and move closer to its ideals. It is not always easy, but it is the American way. . . . I believe we will soon succeed where we failed today, and that we will enact the kind of comprehensive reform that our ideals and our national security demand.

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



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