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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, help us to so live that the generations to come will know of Your mighty acts. Today, give our lawmakers the singularity of heart to seek, find and follow Your will, so that their legacy will be exemplary. Lord, guide them in the path You have created, inspiring them with the potency of Your powerful presence. May they trust You in times of adversity and prosperity, knowing that they will reap a productive harvest if they persevere. Keep them from underestimating the power of Your great Name. And, Lord, we ask that You would sustain the victims and families of the Los Angeles airport shooting.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to tell the Senate that following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 815, the Employee Non-Discrimination Act. At 5 o'clock today the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nominations of Gregory Woods to be United States district judge in New York and Debra Brown to be United States district judge in Mississippi. After debate on those two nominations, at 5:30 there will be up to three rollcall votes. I hope one of them will go by voice, but we will have to wait and see. We will have votes on the confirmation of the Woods and Brown nominations and then the vote on the motion to proceed to ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Springfield, MA, police officer Michael Carney fought for 2½ years to get his job back—and he won. After he took a medical leave of absence, Springfield officials refused to reinstate Officer Carney because the veteran officer had revealed he was gay. But Officer Carney was determined to return to the force. Because he lived in Massachusetts, one of only 17 States to protect employees against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, Officer Carney is now back on the job, serving and protecting the people of Springfield, MA. I am also pleased to say Nevada law also includes

robust protections against this type of discrimination. Officer Carney testified before the House of Representatives in 2007 and shared his story. This is what he said:

I'm a good cop, but I have lost 2½ years of employment fighting to get that job back because I am gay. I never would have been able to do that had I not lived in Massachusetts or one of the handful of other States that protect . . . employees from discrimination.

Sadly, not everyone is able to fight back like Officer Carney. In 33 States, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people can be fired and harassed just for being who they are.

West Virginia coal miner Sam Hall was terrorized by his coworkers for 7 years because he was gay. Mr. Hall just wanted to make a living, but supervisors told him he would have to endure the persecution if he wanted to keep his job. West Virginia is one of 33 States with no protections against this type of oppression. That is why I so admire JOE MANCHIN for recognizing that this is an issue which is important to everyone.

A patchwork of State laws that excludes tens of millions of Americans from basic protection against discrimination is simply not good enough. It is time for Congress to pass a Federal law so that all Americans, regardless of where they live, can go to work unafraid to be who they are. As long as hardworking, qualified Americans can be denied job opportunities, fired or harassed because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, all workers are at risk.

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



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