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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal and ever-blessed God, thank You for waking us to see the light of this new day. Lord, on this All Saints' Day, we remember the unseen cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. We are grateful for all the saints who from their labors rest but whose works follow them.

We thank You for the many law-makers in our history whose integrity, creativity, and diligence have helped to keep us free.

Lord, we praise You for all of Your gifts, the glimpses of beauty, the echoes of truth, and the kindness of friends. Thank You for all those who lived and died for freedom. Grant us in our day and generation to live to honor our noble heritage.

And Lord, please remember all of those affected by the violence in New York. Bring a speedy recovery to the injured.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

NEW YORK CITY TERROR ATTACK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday's attack in Manhattan was sickening, twisted, and heartbreaking. The suspect appears to have been inspired by ISIL. We know that in the days ahead, our intelligence community will make every effort to learn more about him and whether he had any connection to this terror group and its hateful ideology. But today we are thinking of everyone affected by this tragedy. We are praying for the victims and their families. We are thinking of our fellow Americans in New York. We are expressing our gratitude for the critical work of our first responders. To them we say: Thank you for your courage. Thank you for all you do, especially in the face of such a terrible tragedy like we witnessed yesterday.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT RESOLUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, after 8 years of sluggish growth and missed opportunities for the middle class under 8 years of the Obama administration, the American people elected a new President and Congress dedicated to getting our country moving again after so many years of failed leftwing policies. We are working hard on joint legislative initiatives on tax reform.

We have also undertaken what has been described as "the most ambitious regulatory rollback since Reagan." The administration has the ability to take serious action on its own, and it has. The Congress has taken important action many times as well. We have used the tools contained in the Congressional Review Act, which allows us to overturn certain regulations with a majority vote in Congress and the President's signature. The President signed all of the many CRA resolutions we passed already, which overturned regulations that threatened everything from job creation to economic growth.

The President will sign another CRA resolution today, one that will overturn a regulation that threatened to drive up costs for millions of Americans who carry a credit card. It is a regulation dreamed up by a government agency, the CFPB, that claims to protect consumers but seems to have found a way to actually harm them. The Treasury Department released a study showing how this regulation has little to do with consumer protection and everything to do with lining the pockets of trial lawyers. This unaccountable agency ignored that study and issued its regulation anyway.

We passed this Congressional Review Act resolution to protect consumers from wrongdoing while avoiding frivolous lawsuits that will only drive up costs for the millions of Americans who have a credit card. The CFPB continues to be one of the most unaccountable bureaucracies in Washington, and this Congress will continue to stand up for consumers even when the CFPB will not.

NOMINATION OF JOAN LARSEN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, when the Senate confirmed the nomination of Professor Amy Barrett to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, we took another important step to ensure that the Federal judiciary fulfills its role in our constitutional system. Now we have an opportunity to confirm another well-qualified woman to the bench, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Joan Larsen. President Trump nominated her to serve on the Sixth Circuit, and she will be a strong addition to that court and a benefit to our Nation.

After graduating first in her class from Northwestern's law school, Justice Larsen served as a law clerk for Judge David Sentelle of the DC Circuit Court and then for Justice Antonin Scalia. These clerkships honed Justice Larsen's legal abilities and respect for

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



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the rule of law, preparing her for a distinguished career.

Joan Larsen also served as the Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. Former government officials from both Republican and Democratic administrations wrote in strong support of her nomination, each of them holding her in the highest regard.

Joan Larsen later joined the law faculty at the University of Michigan, teaching there for many years. She excelled in academia, earning the praise of her students and the esteem of her colleagues. In fact, more than 30 of Michigan's deans and law professors wrote to support her nomination. They wrote that Justice Larsen's "commitment to the rule of law and her capacity for top-flight legal analysis are both of the first order, and her personal integrity and decency are exceptional." Even when they disagreed, her colleagues praised Justice Larsen's generous manner, her personal integrity, as well as her legal acumen.

In 2015, Larsen was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court. The next year, she won election to a full term, winning every single county in the State. Her fellow justices—even those with different ideologies—praised her intellect and her commitment to apply the law as it is written to every case before them.

Joan Larsen's time on the Michigan high court has shown a record of independence and of fairness. Here is how one practitioner put it in a letter to the Judiciary Committee: "I am not a Republican," he wrote. "Justice Larsen approaches cases with an open mind and an independence from party affiliation. . . . I believe that . . . Justice Larsen has had a very positive influence on the Michigan Supreme Court. In my view, she would be a deserving addition to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals."

Another lawyer wrote the committee, advising that he "has practiced law in Michigan for 39 years" and is "a past president of the Michigan Association for Justice (formerly the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association)." He goes on to say that Justice Larsen "has demonstrated on the bench that she is precisely who she is in person, a genuine, thoughtful individual who respects precedent, the common law and the role that lawyers and judges play in society. . . . I have no hesitation in telling you that Justice Larsen will make an excellent judge on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals."

In conclusion, President Trump continues to nominate smart, well-qualified, and impartial individuals to our Nation's Federal courts. Justice Larsen, like each of the other nominees before her, was nominated on the basis of her belief in the rule of law and her commitment to apply the law fairly to everyone who enters her courtroom.

Once again, I would also like to thank Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY for his leadership on the Judiciary Com-

mittee, tirelessly working to bring the President's nominees to the floor.

I look forward to voting to confirm Joan Larsen today, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Larsen nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Joan Louise Larsen, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NEW YORK CITY TERROR ATTACK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise this morning with a heavy heart. My city, my dear city of New York, no stranger to terrorism, was once again its victim yesterday.

Yesterday afternoon, a man deliberately drove a rented truck into groups of pedestrians and cyclists, killing eight and injuring about a dozen more. Some of the injured were schoolchildren. These people were biking or walking home, enjoying a brisk and beautiful New York autumn day. It is tragic. It leaves a hole in your stomach.

Our hearts go out to the victims and their families, and we wish all of the injured a full and speedy recovery. We are also grateful—deeply grateful—to the New York Police Department and the first responders, especially Officer Ryan Nash, 28 years old, who was the first on the scene. He reacted quickly and decisively to bring down the attacker and bring him into custody. Who knows how much worse the tragedy would have been without his actions.

As one of thousands of New Yorkers who regularly ride on the path where this attack took place—in the last month, I have ridden on it twice—it hits close to home. My daughter went to the school near the scene, Stuyvesant High School, and she used the bike path I don't know how many times. This is our territory, our home.

The attacks are meant to confuse and terrorize, but, as the world learned after 9/11 and will learn again, New

York doesn't scare easily. New Yorkers are resilient. We always bounce back. We won't let these terrorists get their way or affect our way of life. We will never let terror prevail.

True to form—something that made my heart swell with pride—the New York City Halloween parade marched on last night. Thousands of school kids went right into Stuyvesant today. The terrorists cannot stop us. They cannot change our way of life. We love New York. We love America. That bond holds us together.

ANTITERRORISM FUNDING

Now, I have seen the tweets from President Trump. After September 11, the first thing President Bush did was to invite Senator Clinton and me to the White House, where he pledged to do whatever was in his power to help our city. President Bush, in a moment of national tragedy, understood the meaning of his high office and sought to bring our country together.

President Trump, where is your leadership?

The contrast between President Bush's actions after 9/11 and President Trump's actions this morning could not be starker.

Again, President Trump, where is your leadership?

I would say in closing that I have always believed that immigration is good for America. I believe it today.

President Trump, instead of politicizing and dividing America, which he always seems to do at times of national tragedy, should be bringing us together and focusing on the real solution—antiterrorism funding, which he proposed to cut in his most recent budget. So I am calling on President Trump to rescind his proposed cuts to this vital antiterrorism funding immediately. Our city relies on this funding to track potential terrorists and to snuff out attacks. The NYPD, which bravely and quickly responded to the scene yesterday and brought the mayhem to an end, depends on this antiterrorism funding to keep our city safe day in and day out. So, again, I am calling on the President to rescind his proposed cuts to this vital antiterrorism funding immediately.

Instead of dividing, instead of politicizing, do something real, Mr. President. Restore these funds now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this week the Senate is moving through a series of votes to fill vacancies in the Federal appeals court. President Trump has nominated highly qualified, mainstream judges and legal scholars to do these jobs. Now, Democrats have responded once again with delay and with obstruction. It is clear to me that we need to change the rules in the Senate that govern how we debate nominations in this body. All year Democrats have been putting up roadblocks to nominations. They have forced the majority leader to file cloture so that