

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,  
always abounding the work of the Lord,  
knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

--1 Corinthians 15:58

Dear CWA Friends,

Elections have consequences, and the recent election has emboldened U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada). Sen. Reid has indicated he might break the senate operating regulations, which are used to change the rules and thus curtail the rights of the minority (the Republican Party). **This change could enable the Senate to pass anti-life, anti-family legislation.**

A change in the senate rules for operation usually requires 67 votes. Rather than allow for a simple majority vote of 51, this "super majority" vote of 67 ensures that the minority has a voice in how the Senate is run. Reid is selling the idea that a major change in rules to allow for only 51 votes is okay as long as it is done at the beginning of the next Congress. He does not care that this has never been done before.

**The filibuster rule specifically requires 60 votes to end debate on a motion and move to a vote. In other words, it's a vote to proceed to vote on a piece of legislation.** The purpose of the rule is to **protect the rights of the minority** and make senators find compromising solutions, instead of ramming through the extreme views of any one group. We need to protect that. This is actually the only way the minority has been able to get any input on legislation under Reid's heavy-handed leadership.

There are two other vehicles the minority parties can use to have input on legislation, and Reid has undercut them both regularly.

1. One is by offering amendments in committee, which Sen. Reid has bypassed by using a rule that allows him to write legislation behind closed doors and bring it straight to the senate floor without going through a committee.
2. The other is by offering amendments on the floor and, as you have probably heard, Sen. Reid usually "fills the tree," which means that he, himself, offers amendments until there is no more opportunity for anyone else to present other amendments and then calls for a vote.

Now, with his proposed change, he will have the last piece of his plan; he will be able to end debate with a simple majority, which of course the Democrats have. **They will be able to pass anything they want without virtually any input from the minority.**

**ACTION: Please contact Sen. Tim Johnson and urge him to oppose any change to the Senate rules which protect the minority party and lend to honest debate.**

<http://www.johnson.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=ContactForm>

1-800-537-0025

God bless you for your faithfulness in prayer and action.

Linda Schauer  
State Director