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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 9 a.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of majesty, in spite of our challenges, Your glory and power continues to inspire us. We exalt Your Name, even when we are overwhelmed by the problems we face.

Lord, breathe Your strength and peace into our Senators and use them for Your glory. May they continue to totally depend on You, knowing that with Your mighty power You will surround them with the shield of Your blessing.

Holy God, Your goodness will prevail until the end of time.

We pray in Your great 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as the coronavirus spreads, U.S. Federal health and intelligence agencies are working hard to protect the public. It is critical that their hard work not go to waste. Federal health agencies must have access to all intelligence community information that could help combat this pandemic. To help with that access, the intelligence community must guard against overclassifying information. In situations like this, information is power. Our Federal health and intelligence agencies are the best in the world. Let's show the world that America can stop the spread of this virus.

My tweet for the morning is this:

2day at 948AM we just received the bill from the House the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act" What business do democrats hv blaming McConnell all wknd for not calling a vote when we can't do anything until the House sends it over? They know better Stop the politics!

This is in response to 172 calls my office got yesterday wondering why we have not voted on this important bill. So it is important for me to remind everybody that the Senate can't pass this bill or even debate this bill until the House sends it over. We have now received it, and I assume we will soon do that.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as the global outbreak of the new coronavirus continues to grow, its impact on American families and small businesses is continuing to scale up. School closures are challenging both parents and teachers. Childcare closures are complicating family life even further. Main Street small businesses and their employees are grappling with an unprecedented situation, where their local leaders are effectively winding down their businesses for a period of time through no fault of their own. Major industries that our Nation relies on have seen businesses virtually dry up overnight—again, not due to any business decision they made but because of appropriate directives from public health experts. And most important of all, our healthcare system and our doctors, nurses, and other frontline professionals are gearing up for what seems very likely to be the most significant nationwide challenge they have faced in generations. At every level, this new challenge is testing or Nation and our institutions.

Yesterday, my home State of Kentucky reported its first coronavirus-related death. Our thoughts are with the family, friends, and neighbors in Bourbon County, who are mourning.

I spoke with Governor Beshear yesterday, and we are continuing to stay in close touch. The Bluegrass has now confirmed 25 total cases to date.

And we are heeding the sober warning of Dr. Fauci. This is what Dr. Fauci said: "Things will get worse before they get better."

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



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It is abundantly clear that our Nation cannot afford partisan politics as usual. This is a moment for bold and bipartisan action. That is what the Senate did earlier this month when we passed billions of dollars in targeted funding to assist medical professionals and responders in every State and to ease the initial shock to small businesses. And that is what the Senate needs to expand on this week—bold and bipartisan action.

Yesterday evening, the House finally completed its work on their coronavirus relief proposal, made a number of changes, and sent the paperwork over here to the Senate.

I know Senators on both sides are eager to assist workers, families, and small businesses with the financial fallout of this extraordinary period. So, as I said yesterday afternoon, Senate Republicans are convinced that the House's noncomprehensive bill can only be the beginning—the beginning—of our efforts to support our health system, assist individual Americans and families, as well as stabilize the U.S. economy.

So, last night, a group of Republican Senators conferred with Secretary Mnuchin. He is returning to the Capitol to meet with our entire conference today. We are continuing urgent talks on further legislation that will address head-on the three major priorities we have spent the last several days discussing in depth.

No. 1, we need to provide more direct assistance for American workers and families.

No. 2, we need further strong steps to secure our economic foundation, most especially our small businesses. In particular, it seems increasingly clear that the House's effort to mandate that small businesses provide new worker benefits, just as many small businesses themselves are in significant jeopardy, might even be actually harmful unless we urgently address a broader package that includes more and broader small business relief.

And, No. 3, of course, the foundational priority is to continue providing all the support that our medical professionals need as they fight this new virus on the frontlines.

These conversations are ongoing. We are making progress. The House of Representatives may have left town, but the Senate is right here at work. We are crafting the major legislation that the American people deserve in the face of this major challenge. It is my intention that the Senate will not adjourn until we have passed significant and bold new steps—above and beyond what the House has passed—to help our strong Nation and our strong underlying economy weather this storm.

Now, before I conclude this morning, I wanted to take a moment to echo and amplify the updated guidance that our public health experts and the White House rolled out yesterday. As President Trump said yesterday, the next 2

weeks are an important opportunity. Our Nation will have a major say in how long the virus will spread within the United States before it is contained.

Following the commonsense steps laid out by the White House Coronavirus Task Force can significantly reduce each American's risk of being exposed or spreading the virus within communities.

First, obviously, those who feel sick, stay home. Those who feel sick, stay home. Unwell children should be kept at home. And anyone with questions about their symptoms should contact their medical provider.

Wherever possible, Americans should engage in work or school from home. Those who cannot, including those whose in-person job functions are central to our government or our Nation, must take especially seriously the CDC's guidelines for health and hygiene, especially washing hands and social distancing.

All Americans have been strongly urged to avoid eating or drinking out, to avoid discretionary travel, and to avoid visiting nursing homes or retirement facilities unless—unless—it is to provide critical assistance.

Some of these recommendations sound like basic common sense. Others of them would have sounded almost unthinkable just a few weeks ago.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the pace of change over the past weeks and days, but Americans are strong. We are resilient. This is a proud Nation with a world-changing history, and we have come through far greater challenges than this. This is not a time for fear or panic. It is a time to follow the facts, listen carefully to the experts, and take precautions to protect not only ourselves but the most vulnerable in our society. Every single one of us can do our part.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Illinois.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday, the President of the United States and the Centers for Disease Control contacted us individually and at least through the media to advise us to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people. It is a reflection of the national emergency we face and the public health crisis that America is facing head-on, as it should.

This morning, as we opened the Senate, there were 18 people gathered on the floor of the Senate—3 Senators and 15 staff people. As those who follow all the Senate can tell, our staffers come to work, as they are expected to, but come under circumstances that are more challenging than they were just a few weeks ago.

I want to thank each and every one of them here on the floor, as well as the many who you don't see, behind the scenes, who are necessary for the opening of this Capitol and for the protection of everyone who works here. There are policemen and there are people engaged in basic activities here who keep this magnificent structure functioning, and they come here now in the midst of a public health challenge, where most every American has been told to stay home: If you can possibly stay home, do it; for social distancing, make certain that you stay a certain distance between yourself and some other person. Yet they come here, and we thank them for it.

The obvious question is, Why are we here under these circumstances? We were called back into a week of legislative activity, which had been scheduled to be a week where we were back home in our individual States. There is a lot for me to do back home, and I am sure that is true for every Senator, from the crises which we had at O'Hare Airport—I was working on that on Saturday and Sunday night—to the issue of closing schools and feeding children, and all of the other issues that are part of this coronavirus challenge.

But we were told to come back here this week, to make a trip back, to fly back from wherever, to come to the U.S. Capitol for two reasons. We were told we had to pass the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act reauthorization because it expired as of last weekend. It turns out that we have found a way to avoid a necessary vote at the last minute. The Senate Republican leader agreed last night, just a few minutes before the scheduled vote, to accept a proposal that had been made to him by Republican Senator MIKE LEE of Utah last Thursday. The Senate Republican leader did not accept it then. He accepted it last night. The net result was we didn't have to be present. We didn't have to make the journey for that purpose.

The second part of our return is equally important and maybe more so in light of this public health crisis, and that was to consider the measure that was taken up by the House of Representatives and passed in the early-morning hours of Saturday. This measure, known as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, is the second piece of legislation we have considered and, I am sure, not the last. We are already talking about the coronavirus 3 act, which is likely to be debated and voted on soon.

The point I am making is this measure, which was physically sent to us last night with technical corrections,

could have been considered as early as last Saturday. By unanimous consent, the Senate can take up a measure before it physically arrives from the House. It has happened many times before. It is not extraordinary. The physical presence of the document is not necessary for this debate or for a vote to consider it.

We acknowledge the fact that sometimes the movement of paperwork from the House may take a little longer than the actual time when we physically can take possession of it through other means.

So the argument that was made this morning that it wasn't until we received the document last night that we could consider it is not accurate. Under the Senate rules, by unanimous consent, we could have considered it as soon as it was enacted by the House.

The question before us now is, What are we waiting for? There was a technical correction bill that was added to it yesterday, after the House overcame the objections of a Republican Congressman. After his objections were set aside or satisfied, they moved forward with the technical corrections.

We have the package. It is before us now. The obvious question is, Why aren't we passing this measure immediately? We should because contained in this measure are important changes in the law that will help American families respond to this coronavirus crisis—fundamental questions: Will we provide, for many American workers, medical leave if they decide that they don't feel well and want to keep themselves, their family, their coworkers, and the public safe by staying home?

They are afraid that if they don't get a paycheck, they won't be able to meet the needs of their families. So this bill extends the medical leave coverage to more workers across America. I am unhappy that it doesn't go further, and perhaps we can extend it further with the third iteration of our coronavirus legislative package. But there is no reason not to pass this and to pass it now and not to wait a day or two or three before we get around to it. Let's do it. Let's get it done.

In addition, we have changes in unemployment compensation. If someone literally loses their job because of this public health crisis, we want to make sure they have something coming in to help their families as quickly as possible. That is a measure I am sure all of us agree on—to change the unemployment compensation laws to help these families through very difficult times. Why would we wait to pass that?

We should pass this by unanimous consent today and do it quickly. That is something I hope the Senate Republican leader will consider. There is just no reason for the delay.

There are so many other things involved in this. The basic issue of feeding America is now in question. Who is going to feed these students whose schools have been closed across Illinois and across the United States? It is a

practical challenge in Springfield, IL, as well as in Chicago. Well, we have issues that are raised by this coronavirus legislation that is before us that will change and strengthen food assistance at this time of public health crisis. Why wait? Let's get this done by unanimous consent. We should be doing it and doing it right now.

In addition to that, we provide additional Medicaid benefits to the States to deal with the obvious health challenges. We want to make sure that the healthcare workers—and God bless them for risking their lives for us—are paid. We want to make sure the equipment that is needed by hospitals and clinics comes on board as quickly as possible.

In my State of Illinois, we have challenges, from the city of Chicago to rural and small towns. They need help. The Medicaid assistance in this bill will provide help for them immediately. Why wait? Let's pass this and do it this morning.

We also have free testing for coronavirus that is set out in the law. Whether you have insurance, whether you are covered by Medicare or Medicaid, you are going to be able to be tested—when the tests are available, I might quickly add—without cost to you. And that is the way it should be.

These are things that are basic. They were agreed to not just by NANCY PELOSI, the Speaker of the House, but by the Trump White House, Mr. Mnuchin. The Secretary came forward and negotiated all the changes I have just described. So they are bipartisan in nature.

There is no reason for us to delay this in any way. We should move on it quickly. Putting this off for a day or two or whatever the plan is with the Republican leadership is totally unnecessary and unfortunately requires staff to wait around here when they have been advised they should be home, there should be social distance, and they should be in a circumstance where they are not endangering themselves in terms of their health or anyone else's. Let's get this done.

The third issue I want to raise is one which is critically important but I believe is timely. We have to think anew about the way the Senate does business. If we are telling people to do their work from home when possible, teleconferencing as opposed to being physically present at work, what are we doing to achieve the same thing?

There has been speculation, conjecture about a coronavirus aid package—the third one in the series. I totally support it. On the Democratic side, we have a long list of particulars of things that we think will be helpful to get this economy back on its feet by starting with families and workers and expanding it to small businesses. It is a long list, it is a comprehensive list, and I am sure there are even more suggestions that could come before us. How are we going to consider those? Are we going to meet as committees as we or-

dinarily do, in the same room, when we have been advised that is not a good idea from a public health viewpoint, or are we going to do it by teleconferencing and Skyping and using modern technology?

It is time for the Senate to wake up to the 21st century and to make sure we are using technology that allows us to communicate with one another without any danger or risk to public health.

In addition to that, there is a more difficult question about how we can vote in the U.S. Senate if we are not physically present. I know that is being considered. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I have discussed it. I know she is thinking about it from a Senate rules perspective. Senator SCHATZ of Hawaii has raised the same question. Others have too.

Let's get into this. Let's find a way to do this that protects the integrity of our voting procedure but acknowledges the reality that our physical presence on the floor may not be required to be actually present under the rules of the Senate—at least for the sake of counting our votes. We ought to be discussing that this week and make sure we have a task force that is working on coming up with answers to that as quickly as possible.

Finally, I think it is time for us to start meeting as committees by this teleconferencing and Skyping and talking about this coronavirus 3 package—the one that really stretches us beyond where we are.

Let's take a look at the first two measures. With coronavirus 1, which was a supplemental appropriation, the President asked for about \$2 billion. We came up, on a bipartisan basis in just 2 short weeks, with \$8 billion, primarily focusing on healthcare resources, on research, and on developing vaccines. That was a must, and we did it on a bipartisan basis.

The second package talks about families and workers and small businesses and how they should respond and how we can help them.

The third package I think will take a look at the original two to see if they need to be changed in any way but to expand our reach even more.

Let's do it in the context that we are preaching to America. As we hold the press conferences in Washington and tell Americans "Avoid going to work physically if you can," let's try to find ways to make the Senate work without putting anyone's health at risk. We can do that, but we need to do that together.

Let me also say that the Senator from Kentucky said that the Senate will not recess until significant new measures beyond what the House has passed are considered. If there is a plan for that, please let us know. Those of us who are here and worried about whether there will be transportation back home to our families at some point would like to know what the schedule is going to be. If the Senate

leader, the Republican leader, has a plan, please share it with us too. All of us are waiting and anxious to know what our circumstances will be for the days ahead.

I want to stay here and get the work done, but let's do it in an orderly, safe, and nonrisky way. Let's try to abide by the same guidelines we are preaching to the rest of America. Let's use new technology. Let's use our best thinking and come up with bipartisan answers. That, to me, is the way to manage the Senate in the midst of this national emergency.

We shouldn't be returning, as we have this week, and facing situations like last night where our vote was not even necessary. Many of us came here ready to vote and found that there had been an agreement that made such a vote unnecessary.

It is time for a greater spirit of co-operation and communication. Just to have the Republican side come up with their list and we come up with ours, without dialogue, doesn't lead us to where we need to be. Let's have that dialogue and do it in a safe and thoughtful way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, our country is facing an unprecedented public health emergency with severe and potentially long-lasting economic consequences. As COVID-19 spreads, our local health officials and health experts tell us we are woefully unprepared for what is about to hit us. Public health infrastructure, like hospital beds and masks and ventilators, must be produced and procured. Testing is still not at its proper capacity. The resulting economic downturn from this virus is already impacting millions of American families, workers, and businesses—small, medium, large, alike.

First, on a personal note, please, Americans, take care of yourselves. Avoid unnecessary contact, even though I know so many of the meetings and gatherings and celebrations that we have planned must be postponed. It is painful but not as painful as the continuing spread of this awful virus.

And a little advice—this is not universal, but I have heard this from a number of medical people whom I trust: Take your temperature in the

morning and in the evening. It is a good way to check whether you have this illness and it is progressing within you. Not all experts agree with that, but many do. In my view, it can't hurt. It is something I am doing. I am urging my family to do it, and I am urging my staff to do it.

Our response in the Senate and in Congress—the response to the coronavirus—will require a massive mobilization of public resources—Federal, State, and local—as we have marshaled before only in wartime. It is going to require Congress to work in a bipartisan way and with uncommon speed. And the American people, too, must pull together and sacrifice in ways small and large their normal way of life in an effort to combat this disease and limit its spread. All hands must be on deck because the task before us is daunting and may yet eclipse the pain felt by workers and families during the great recession—at least for many things.

The first order of business here in the Senate is to take up and pass the recent House bill and do it today. It will provide free coronavirus testing. That is essential. It would extend paid sick leave. It would give food assistance, Medicaid reimbursement, and expanded unemployment insurance.

I understand that some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle might want to amend the legislation or have it written differently if they were the ones putting it together. But I remind them that Leader McConnell said that he would defer the agreement between the Speaker of the House and Secretary Mnuchin. The President has said he will sign this bill if the Senate passes it. If we change the bill, it will go back to the House and be delayed and delay the aid it contains for American families coping with the impact of the virus.

Please, my colleagues, we will have other opportunities to legislate, and there will be a great need for them, but let's move this now. Let's move this now. I believe our side of the aisle will clear this. I hope the other side will, and it will be on the President's desk today. Let's hope, and let's not delay any longer.

But there is much more to be done. Once this legislation is sent to the President's desk—COVID 2—our work will not be over, not even close. We must soon move to other very necessary measures to address the coronavirus and its widening impact on the health and well-being of the American people.

Today, I am presenting a series of proposals to congressional appropriators that would provide initial infusion of at least \$750 billion. Our proposal is big, it is bold, but it is also targeted. It focuses on those Americans in the parts of the health sector and the economy most in need now: hospitals and treatment, unemployment insurance and Medicaid, loan forbearance and aid for small business, childcare,

and senior citizens. It focuses on those who need help—those who don't have an income because they have lost their job temporarily; those who need help with senior citizens, with children who are not in school; hospitals that are short of equipment and maybe personnel. That is the immediate focus. That is what we must do right now. We must focus on those who need help immediately and do it in a way that deals with the structural problems in the country that have made the attack of this virus more virulent, more harmful, and worse.

By contrast, it is reported that the administration is proposing a massive Federal bailout of industry and a payroll tax cut. If we are going to follow up the House bill with another major economic stimulus package, which we must, our major focus cannot be based on bailing out airlines, cruises, and other industries. We must first prioritize economic solutions that are focused on workers and their families, solutions that would allow us to fix our broken unemployment system; rebuild our public health system, which is overburdened; save small and medium-sized American businesses that have a cash crunch and will go out of business, even though they were healthy a month ago, because no one is buying their products or using their services.

Let's remember—corporations are not people. People are people. And when it comes to this cascading crisis, we should help our fellow Americans first, even as we plan and execute policies that protect our economy. The administration's proposal, if that is the sum of it—a massive bailout of industry and a payroll tax cut—doesn't do that. It doesn't target the people who most need the help. Any package we are going to do here, which must be passed in a bipartisan way, must contain large elements of what I am talking about and maybe other things as well that help the people who are in need.

I will be sending my proposal and a PowerPoint slide to every one of my colleagues shortly, and I hope they will understand the need for it. I have consulted with large numbers in our caucus, and we have broad support for these proposals and some others.

Again, when it comes to this cascading crisis, we should help fellow Americans first, even as we plan and execute policies that protect our economy.

First, we take actions to fight this virus. First, we get lifelines to our workers, our parents, our students, our seniors, our small businesses. If your house is on fire, the first thing you worry about is not smoke damage to the roof; you try to put out the fire. That is what our proposal does. It means, first and foremost, we work to address the virus itself and the people most impacted.

In the midst of a sprawling health and economic catastrophe, industry bailouts should not be at the top of our

priority list. Our proposal also does not include a payroll tax cut. That option may be premature and the wrong response to the problems we face today. There are much better ways to get money in the hands of the Americans who need it most and in the ways they need it most.

For example, in our proposal, the Senate Democratic proposal, if you are a worker and lose your job or can't work, you would qualify for nearly \$10,000 over 6 months in unemployment benefits. If you can't work because you get sick and your employer doesn't provide paid sick leave, we would allow you to apply for unemployment insurance and get reimbursed. Under Senator MURRAY's leadership, we are also doing more on the sick leave front.

If your hours are cut and you suddenly can't pay your mortgage, you are going to lose your home, or if you are otherwise struggling to make ends meet because you choose to pay your mortgage but then can't pay other vital expenses, our proposal would let you defer your mortgage loans for 6 months with no penalty, fees, or impact on your credit. We will do the same for student loans. We will do the same for small business loans. There will be a 6-month moratorium. That helps real people.

If you are a working parent and suddenly you have to worry about finding a safe place for your kids to stay during the day, we would provide emergency funding to safely ramp up childcare services for heavily impacted parts of the country. If you are a small business suddenly facing cash flow problems, we would allow you to apply for low-interest loans and other forms of direct financial assistance that can offer relief quickly and allow you to overcome this problem and keep your business going in a healthy way.

These are just a few examples. Our proposal includes much more but includes what is needed and needed immediately. It includes what Governors across the country are calling for—aid to public health systems and citizens impacted by this crisis.

I would say to my Republican colleagues: We want to work with you. You will have different ideas, but our ideas must be contained in a package. The thing the administration has been talking about, if that is true, is not good enough at all.

There is one other thing we need. As more testing becomes available, the number of confirmed coronavirus cases will inevitably increase and the strain on our public health system will become even greater. We are going to need massive investments to ensure we have the capacity and necessary infrastructure to treat all Americans who need it. Our proposal addresses that as well.

As we discuss what is to come in the next few weeks, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both ends of the Capitol, to review our proposal and organize our next legislative response around these ideas.

In conclusion, this crisis is going to demand more from all of us—more from the administration and a President who has been far too slow in waking up to the scale of the challenges we now face, more from a Congress that has to set aside partisan squabbles and work together, and more from the American people, who must diligently follow public health guidance and endure massive disruptions of their daily lives. I know my family is enduring that right now, and so are millions and millions of families across America.

We have to stick together, be strong, support one another, and we will get through it. We will. We have not faced a public health crisis of this global scale in recent times. We are unsure how long the disturbance to our national economic life will last. Yet we Americans have overcome challenges of this magnitude and even greater before, and we will again. It will demand determination, cooperation, and sacrifice. It will demand an enormous, coordinated effort by the Government of the United States at all levels to protect the health and safety of the American people. But we will overcome this problem, together—strongly, forcefully, and smartly.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### FISA

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the Senate had three priorities for this week: reauthorizing the expiring provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, passing the second phase of our coronavirus response, and initiating a serious discussion about what else we need to do to help Americans address this challenge. I have to say I am glad we have already made progress on all three fronts.

On Sunday, several key provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act expired, including the provision that allows the FBI to wiretap lone-wolf terrorists—terrorists not affiliated with a specific terrorist organization—and the roving wiretap provision that prevents the FBI from having to seek a new wiretap warrant each time a terrorist suspect changes his phone number.

Every minute of every day, the men and women of our law enforcement and intelligence communities are working to track terrorist threats and prevent attacks on American citizens. We need to ensure that they have all the tools they need to do their jobs.

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act provisions that expired Sunday are key weapons in the fight to

keep Americans safe. I am pleased we were able to pass a 77-day extension yesterday and set up a process for consideration of a long-term extension.

I strongly support the bipartisan House bill, which combines extensions of these key anti-terrorism tools with new accountability measures that will ensure that law enforcement is held to the highest standards when pursuing surveillance of suspected terrorists and foreign agents. Attorney General Barr has also endorsed the House bill. I look forward to taking up this legislation and debating several issues raised by my colleagues before we are on the brink of another expiration.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Of course, the other thing we are focused on this week is the issue that is at the top of everyone's mind, and that is dealing with the coronavirus outbreak.

Two weeks ago, Congress passed coronavirus legislation providing more than \$8 billion in funding for virus research, testing, and medical care. This week, we are looking to pass the second phase of Congress's response, and that is legislation to continue our investment in medical care and to begin to address the economic impact the coronavirus is having on American workers.

The House has reached an agreement with Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, and Senators are currently reviewing the House's legislation, which arrived here in the Senate just this morning. I look forward to passing that bill this week.

As the leader said on Sunday, Senate Republicans believe that any legislation we pass this week is only the beginning of Congress's response to the virus.

As this outbreak continues to unfold, other issues will need to be addressed, and Senate Republicans are already planning for legislation to address future priorities, whether they be in the increased funding for medical facilities or measures to provide support for American families and businesses.

This is a challenging time for our country, but it is often in challenging times that we see the very best of America. We are seeing that already—in neighbors' ensuring that neighbors are supplied with necessities; in sports figures' donating to ensure that workers at their arenas are still paid even when games aren't being played; in restaurants' helping to feed their neighbors even though their businesses are currently suffering; in companies and arts organizations' acting to provide free resources to families who are hunkering down at home; in the millions of Americans who are providing the essential services we need during this outbreak—from the workers' stocking the shelves at our grocery stores and pharmacies to the truck drivers' delivering needed goods across our country; finally and especially, in

our healthcare professionals, from doctors and nurses to sanitation staff, who risk exposure every day to ensure that Americans receive the care they need.

When we have come through this outbreak, all of us will want to be able to look back and say that we did everything we could to help keep our fellow Americans safe and slow the spread of this disease. The best way to do that is by following the guidelines that we have been given—washing our hands frequently and thoroughly, practicing social distancing, avoiding large gatherings, and staying home when advised. Some of these measures may be inconvenient, but they are a small price to pay to flatten the curve and limit the disease's spread.

While anyone can be hit hard by the coronavirus, there are a lot of people who are especially vulnerable to complications—from elderly Americans to the many individuals who have pre-existing conditions. Let's do everything we can to protect our fellow Americans and prevent our hospitals and our healthcare professionals from being overwhelmed with cases.

I am confident that, if we pull together and look out for each other, our Nation will emerge from this challenge stronger. I look forward to working with my colleagues here in Congress to ensure that our Nation has the resources it needs to combat and defeat this disease.

I was encouraged to hear our Senate Democratic leader speak about his willingness to work with the Republicans. Obviously, to do anything here in the Senate requires 60 votes, which means we have to have bipartisan cooperation. We have a legislative vehicle, as I mentioned, that contains a number of features that are helpful, I think, in terms of addressing the crisis that we are experiencing, not only on the healthcare front but on the economic front with regard to the hardships that are being experienced by millions of Americans.

There is more that we need to do, and those discussions, as I mentioned, are underway, and I am hopeful that we will be able to come to a conclusion, to a resolution, that would be good not only for those Americans who have been hurting economically and who, perhaps, are not working and are not able to get to work, but for those businesses that have shut down—our small businesses that create the majority of jobs in this country—and for, certainly, the healthcare professionals, who, as I said, are on the frontlines every single day. We need to take every step we possibly can to ensure that we protect people from the spread of the disease and ensure that they continue to sustain their economic livelihoods in the midst of this crisis.

Many of the things that are being discussed and worked on that will require collaboration with the Democrats and the House of Representatives will need to be approached in a bipartisan way. We need to recognize that the

need is great and that the absolute necessity of cooperation is greater than ever. I look forward to working with our colleagues here this week as we move forward in a way that will, hopefully, lead to some very positive results and will address the very critical needs being felt by families all across this country as a result of this coronavirus disease.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today at a pivotal time for our Nation. It is quiet today in Big Sky Country. Over the last 36 hours, we have seen schools, restaurants, bars, gyms, ski resorts, and churches close. Thousands of children are home from school, many unsure where their next meal will come from, and parents are without childcare.

There are no test kits to test for coronavirus to speak of—a few, but not nearly enough, and inadequate medical supplies in Indian Country.

Thousands are concerned about what it means for their paychecks. Seniors are worried about their health. Businesses are forced to make very, very tough choices.

Millions of Americans are depending on us here in Washington, DC, to act and to act quickly. The House jumped into action and began negotiating with the administration on a bill to address some of the most pressing and immediate concerns of the coronavirus. A deal was struck, and the House passed the bill with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

And what happened in the Senate? Well, last Thursday, the majority leader sent us home. Business as usual.

What we should have done—we should have stuck around and done the people's work. But, instead, my friends in the majority decided we should operate as business as usual and take off Friday, take off the weekend, and go home.

Well, this is not business as usual. If the majority leader would have listened to the CDC, he would have heard that what he did last Thursday was contrary to the recommendations they have made to avoid groups, to avoid airports. We did just the opposite.

Millions of Americans are waiting for the Senate to act. What we are here to consider today, which we should have considered last Saturday, is an important start toward providing needed relief. It provides free testing, sick leave, unemployment insurance for those los-

ing their jobs through no fault of their own.

We could have done this several days ago, but, instead, we continue to wait. We continue to wait as we have watched athletics shut down—the NCAA, baseball, hockey, basketball, NBA—restaurants, Broadway, schools close. The list goes on and on, and we continue to languish here in the U.S. Senate, supposedly the greatest deliberative body in the world. We do this while 4 in 10 Americans struggle to cover an unanticipated expense of \$400. Let me say that again: 4 in 10 families are \$400 away from financial crisis.

This bill ensures that a hotel employee in Billings can stay home if she is feeling ill without sacrificing that \$400 for rent, groceries, or childcare.

A quarter of a million Americans go without medical care for fear of the cost. This bill ensures that no one is going without healthcare or coronavirus tests for fear of the expense. More than that, the bill would increase the amount of funding for Montana's Medicaid Program to cover additional Medicaid expenses.

Many kids in Montana rely on lunch that they get at their schools as the primary source of nutrition for the day. This bill will allow those students to continue to get lunch even if the schools are closed.

Seniors who are homebound rely on meal delivery services such as Meals on Wheels. Missoula Aging Services is already preparing to use its allotment of millions of dollars in additional revenue for senior nutrition, for providing more meals for seniors who are following recommendations to stay home.

This pandemic is already causing significant impacts to our economy. We know that all too well. This is why this bill addresses unexpected unemployment and helps small businesses cover paid sick leave for those who need it.

Under this bill, low-income pregnant women and mothers with young children who lose their jobs due to COVID-19 will be able to access food assistance. All of these are commonsense, bipartisan solutions that the Senate has delayed for no good reason.

On the farm, when there is work to be done, especially when it is time-sensitive work, you don't take a break. You get the job done. I call on my colleagues not to waste another moment—to hold a vote and get the job done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, across our country, we are seeing cities, schools, businesses, and other organizations take the necessary and serious precautions to keep the American people safe from the spread of the coronavirus. School districts, colleges, and universities are canceling in-person classes, churches are moving services online, professional sports teams are hitting pause on their regular season, airlines are canceling flights, and many Main Street businesses are closing their doors.

I know that all of this is a little disorienting and certainly alarming. But while these measures aren't normal, it is a sign that we are heeding advice from the experts, people like Dr. Fauci and organizations like the Centers for Disease Control. It is a sign that we are doing what we can to prevent or at least slow down community spread. It is a sign that we are standing together and making progress, ultimately expecting that we will get through this together. The difficult decisions that need to be made by elected officials, business owners, and community leaders when they decide to shut down normal parts of our daily lives—these are not easy decisions for them to make.

Despite the public health benefits these closures will provide, we are also expecting other serious—mainly economic—consequences. Our economic engine is being brought to a halt as people are staying home rather than producing, and small businesses and their employees in particular are feeling the impact.

Jason Phillips is a manager at Zoli's Pizza in Fort Worth, TX, and he has been in the service industry for more than 20 years. Still, he said he has never been in a situation quite like this one. He said this past Saturday that Zoli's Pizza had about half the number of customers they have come to expect.

Steven Startz has experienced a similar struggle. Last November, he opened a new restaurant in New Braunfels, TX, just north of San Antonio, called Le Citron European Cafe and Bistro. The first year for any new restaurant is bound to be tough. As luck would have it, a week after they opened, an oven broke, and it had to be replaced. But nothing has prepared Steven for the months of February and March, what they would bring. He was hoping, as you might imagine, for an uptick in tourists, which would mean more business, but instead a pandemic has kept everybody at home. Rather than a positive bump in the business, revenue for his young restaurant is down 60 percent. As a result, he has had to cut staff, and he hasn't hired replacements for the employees he has recently lost.

This is an all-too-familiar struggle for millions of Americans who are unable to go to work during this pandemic and are facing serious economic uncertainty about their future. Those in the service industry—especially

those who rely on tips—are among the hardest hit.

I am glad to say that soon the Senate will take action to provide additional relief. As the Presiding Officer knows, we passed an \$8.3 billion emergency package to help fast-track discovery of a vaccine and to make sure that our healthcare sector is prepared for what is coming at it, or at least better prepared.

The House has now passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which we are in the process of taking up and will hopefully finish this week, and then I expect there will be a third installment—a stimulus package that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin will be up here on the Hill talking about today to try to help employees and employers and entire industries survive this economic trauma.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act will help protect both the physical and financial health of our country by supporting workers and their families impacted by the virus. It will remove financial barriers for Texans who need access to coronavirus testing, regardless of income or insurance coverage.

This is one of the things I talked to Governor Abbott about in particular. He said that there are two things that Texas needs. He said it is more testing and it is more protective equipment, personal protective equipment—PPEs, as they are called—in order for this testing to take place.

While it is still true—according to the Centers for Disease Control—that you should not be tested unless you are experiencing symptoms and referred by a healthcare provider, it is clear that more testing is going to be needed, and indeed we have heard from the President and the Vice President and the administration in general that we expect a huge ramping up of the capacity to test people so they can know whether they are positive and they need to stay in isolation or possibly need healthcare treatment or whether, like the President and one of our colleagues here, Senator GRAHAM, they are negative, and obviously the peace of mind that comes with that. This legislation removes all financial barriers for that testing.

For those who have private insurance, it requires that all plans cover the cost of testing, including the cost of a provider, an urgent care center, and emergency room visits in order to get tested. As I said, right now, CDC protocol calls for a healthcare provider to make a diagnosis based on symptoms that would then lead to a test.

Those are the same zero-cost measures that would apply to those covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE.

It also requires the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse the cost of testing for patients who are uninsured.

In short, the bottom line is, no one will have to pay to be tested for the coronavirus, period.

This legislation also includes a range of provisions to provide financial security for those who are unable to work, and that is because they are protecting the public health. It will create a new Federal emergency paid sick leave program for those impacted by the coronavirus. That means that any Texan—any American who is diagnosed, quarantining, or caring for a dependent who was impacted by this virus will be able to take 14 days of paid sick leave. And many Texas workers will be able to access 12 weeks of paid leave for virus-related long-term absences. These protections include workers who stay home to care for their loved ones, including staying home with their kids due to school closures.

This bill also makes changes to unemployment insurance. It will temporarily waive requirements for workers to prove they are actively searching for work during the public health emergency response, and it will provide \$1 billion in emergency grants for States to support processing and paying unemployment insurance benefits. In other words, we know that people are staying home because their employers have told them their businesses have been shut down. Even though they are not sick, they are suffering financial loss. The purpose of this is to make sure that through the vehicle of unemployment insurance, they do get some money so that they can take care of their necessities and keep putting food on the table.

This bill also takes serious steps to strengthen food security for those who are struggling with reliable access to healthy meals. This is one of the things I heard from a friend of mine out in West Texas just today concerned about the food banks that provide a safety net for people without access to regular, healthy food. This bill actually will send \$400 million to local food banks, which are supporting those low-income families across the country, including in places like West Texas.

We know that older Americans are the most vulnerable when it comes to the coronavirus, and many are afraid to leave their homes at the risk of getting sick. This legislation provides a quarter of a billion dollars for the senior nutrition program to provide home-delivered meals to low-income seniors. It also provides half a billion dollars for Federal food stamps. It provides flexibility on work requirements, so those who lose their jobs or aren't able to work can receive assistance when they need it the most.

I mentioned the food banks and the school lunch program. Last week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved a request from Texas with regard to school lunches. Millions of Texas students are currently eligible for free lunch programs, but, obviously, when the schools close, they don't get access to that nutrition. But thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Texas schools can continue to serve



free meals to low-income students, even when their schools are closed.

This legislation also includes a range of measures to support healthcare workers, veterans, small businesses, and countless Texans who are struggling financially as a result of this pandemic.

Of course, we know we are all racing against the clock to respond to this virus, and it is important for Congress to act promptly to demonstrate to the American people that we understand the problem and that we are using every tool in our toolbox to respond to this crisis on their behalf.

In any major event—whether it is a natural disaster or a pandemic—we need an all-of-government response. All of us need to be cooperating and working on the same page, moving as efficiently as we possibly can.

As I said, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act builds on the \$8.3 billion emergency spending bill that was signed into law by President Trump earlier this month. It also complements the national emergency declaration made by President Trump last week and Governor Abbott's disaster declaration for the State of Texas. That is why I plan to support this bill when a vote is scheduled.

I know there are other Senators who have said they have good ideas. Many of them are intriguing and I think would make a positive addition to this legislation, but I think in times like this, the thing we need to do is to work together and function expeditiously to get this legislation passed. And because we know there is going to be another installment—a third installment—to respond to the coronavirus, perhaps those other good ideas can be included in that additional legislation, which we will pass before we recess.

I was interested to hear the majority leader say that we will not recess until we take up and pass that third installment. I think his sense of urgency and his sense of determination and focus is well justified, and I congratulate him for that. I think we need to all pull together in a similar spirit of unity.

I thank the Trump administration, especially Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, for working so quickly with Speaker PELOSI to build this package so that we can provide relief for American workers and families as soon as possible.

This is not the first bill to strengthen our response to the coronavirus, and it will not be our last. As I said, there is a bipartisan commitment to passing the third phase to strengthen our economy and support the industries and businesses that have been hit the hardest by this pandemic.

Leader MCCONNELL has made clear his commitment to finding a bold, bipartisan solution to the economic challenges we are facing and will continue to face in the months ahead, and I am proud to support this effort.

While conversations continue regarding the next phase of our coronavirus

response and what that may look like, I believe it is time to pass the Families First Coronavirus Response Act so that we provide this needed relief to the American people as soon as possible.

(Mr. SULLIVAN assumed the Chair.)

#### RECESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:03 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from New Jersey.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, first of all, I want to thank the staff here in the Senate. Even in these difficult times, they answer the call of doing the work of the American people, and I want to appreciate their being here so that the Senate can conduct its work. They are essential to being able to do that. So I want to acknowledge that.

I come to the floor today as our country grapples with a global pandemic that, tragically, has claimed the lives of thousands of people around the world, including dozens throughout the United States and three in my home State of New Jersey.

I come to the floor because I hope that people understand the fierce urgency of "now"—the fierce urgency of "now." This is a public health crisis, and we can't wait to act.

The rapid spread of COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus, has disrupted our daily lives. It has destabilized our economy and has imposed an enormous strain on our healthcare system.

I think many failed to grasp the scope of this threat—the lack of a national response just as the virus began to reach America's shores. But I am not here to talk today about where the administration went wrong; I am here to talk about how it can start making things right.

If there is anything we have learned in recent weeks, it is that you have to be proactive. In the past week, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases here in the United States jumped from around 1,000 to well over 4,000. While other countries were testing thousands of people, the United States was testing mere dozens. While other countries were staging makeshift hospitals, we were overloading ours. While other countries implemented aggressive social distancing measures to limit the spread of COVID-19, our government sent mixed signals to the American people about the sacrifices they must make in order to save, maybe, their lives and, if not, the lives of others.

State leaders like my own Governor, Phil Murphy, stepped in to fill the

leadership void. Earlier this week, he, along with the Governors of New York and Connecticut, imposed new restrictions on restaurants, shops, and other public gathering spaces. These are tough, unquestionably, but we need every New Jerseyan, as well as every American, to take Federal and State recommendations about social distancing seriously, avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people, washing your hands frequently, and if you feel sick, staying home and calling your healthcare provider immediately.

We all need to be part of the solution or we can become part of the statistics. We all need to be part of the solution. This is one time in which we all must come together as Americans and be part of the solution so that we are not part of the statistics.

Already families are feeling the impact, whether in lost wages, smaller paychecks, school closures, restaurant curfews, or outright job losses. That is why I am calling on the Senate to act today—today—on legislation that will provide paid leave and unemployment assistance to impacted workers, food assistance to children and seniors, more funding for Medicaid. We cannot leave families alone to weather the storm.

We also need to do more to help restaurants and shops and other businesses struggling with the economic fallout of the coronavirus from mandatory curfews to supply chain shortages, to decreased demand for their services. They need help. At the end of the day, we want them to be able to survive the crisis in order to offer the employment that will be necessary to revive the economy.

But we must remember that this is first and foremost a public health crisis. The wealth of our Nation will ultimately depend on the health of our Nation. Nothing economically will be solved without dealing with the health of the American people, and we cannot ignore the demands that COVID-19 will make on our healthcare sector and, especially, hospitals in the days and weeks to come.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC, has projected that between 160 million and 214 million people could contract COVID-19 in the United States and that between 2.4 million and 21 million of those infected could require hospitalization. As a means of comparison, our hospital system has less than 1 million staffed beds, which would be inadequate even under the CDC's most optimistic projections.

Hospitals must also have the resources and equipment available to treat the expected influx of patients. There is a significant concern that the Nation's supply of mechanical respirators and ventilators is inadequate to meet the exponential need we will likely experience in the coming weeks and months. The latest data indicates that there may be only 62,000 hospital ventilators in the entire nation. Even



if only half of those hospitalized require ventilation, our supply would be wholly inadequate to fill the demand.

Healthcare workers also need protective gear to do their lifesaving work without risking infection to themselves. Unfortunately, there have been multiple reports of shortages of personal protective equipment even during the opening days of this outbreak. Failure to protect our healthcare workers and support staff would cause a cascading effect that would cause our entire response to collapse.

Simply put, we need the Federal Government to step in and provide real leadership. In the midst of a pandemic, State and local governments should not be left on their own, scrambling to find or purchase ventilators for patients, personal protective gear for healthcare workers, and other critical medical supplies. The Federal Government has a tremendous obligation and an opportunity to help save lives by assisting State and local governments in locating resources, using existing authorities to increase manufacturing of ventilators and other critical equipment, and preparing for the staging of temporary hospitals and beds, and more.

Let's look at military facilities that have been closed. There is one in my State. Let's open them up. Let's construct MASH units. Let's not wait. Let's rent out hotels that are closing. These are some of the many actions that can be taken if we are decisive in our work. That is why I am calling on the President to immediately exercise the powers authorized by the Defense Production Act to defend the health and safety of the American people in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

While the administration's response has so far lacked the energy this crisis calls for, invoking the powers vested in the Defense Production Act will enable the Federal Government to step up and take the types of aggressive steps needed in this time of uncertainty. It is that act that can give the Federal Government the power to say: We are going to become your partner. We want to infuse massive amounts of money to create the ventilators that we need, the personal protective gear that we need, and if we can't get you to produce it, we are going to produce it.

We need to use the power of the Federal Government to have the type of response that this moment calls for, that this crisis calls for. That is what government in its most significant moment is supposed to be all about. That is really what the Federal Government is supposed to be all about. What States cannot individually do or individual communities cannot do, it is the power of the Federal Government that can do it. We must be willing to mobilize that power.

It is time the United States of America live up to its history of defeating extraordinary challenges and prevailing in the face of great uncertainty. It is time to harness the inge-

nuity of our people, the might of our manufacturing base, and the wisdom of our healthcare experts to confront COVID-19 to protect our families and our communities, to slow the spread of the virus so we don't overwhelm our hospitals so that we can save lives.

I have seen some of the projections. I hope, for God's sake, they are wrong. But we will lose many people unless we all take this seriously and unless we act. This is a moment for action and to show the world once again that there is no challenge too great for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. JONES. Madam President, today I want to talk just briefly about all that we can do. I know we are facing an emergency in this country. We are facing a healthcare crisis.

Instead of talking about all that is going on here in Congress—and there is a lot going on that the people of America need to understand. You see empty Chambers right now, but the fact is, we are trying to do those things necessary to stop the spread of this virus as well.

I want to talk a little bit about what we can do as Americans to protect ourselves and our country. In doing so, I am thinking back to an old friend of mine from my younger days.

Back when I was a kid, the National Park Service and others were concerned about the forest fires around the country, and they came up with what is now an old friend of mine: Smokey Bear. Everybody remembers Smokey Bear. You still see Smokey on occasion because only you can prevent forest fires.

Well, folks, we have forest fires raging around this country right now in the form of COVID-19, and only you can prevent the spread of that forest fire, the COVID-19 virus—only you. We have healthcare responders out there. We have emergency responders, people who are doing amazing work right now responding to this virus. But it is up to us. It is up to you. Only you can prevent the spread by doing those things necessary to try to protect your communities. The social distancing that people are talking about, the hand washing—all of those things are so important that we have to do as individuals to make sure we flatten that curve.

You don't need to be going on spring break or vacation right now—none of this. With shutting down these businesses and things and people being at home, this is not vacation time. You can use it, but it is not a time to go out on vacation, to do those kinds of things. It is a time to try to protect yourself and your communities.

Don't go out and try to get tested unless you have symptoms and have talked to your healthcare provider. In Alabama right now, we are seeing long

lines of folks who are lined up at a private testing facility to try to get tested. I don't know all the protocols that they have, but I know my friends at the University of Alabama in Birmingham—in the infectious disease center—with whom I have met and talked on a regular basis, say that the odds are that a number of those people in those lines don't need to test right now. They are concerned. Everybody is worried. Everybody wants to know. But the fact is, there are not enough tests out there for everyone just yet. We are getting there. More and more tests are coming online.

We also have to be concerned about the equipment—the swabs that are used, the test tubes that have to be used. Those are the things we are running in short supply of as well.

So unless you have those symptoms, unless you see that you are getting sick, stay home. Stay with your families. We are going to be inconvenienced for some time, but I think we need to do all we can to make those inconveniences as short-lived as possible. The short-term pain will mean long-term gain for all of us, but only if we follow the best practices that the CDC and all our departments of public health are talking about right now.

We have legislative packages that are coming over from the House. We have more. I can tell you, for my folks in Alabama and the folks across the United States, your U.S. Senators on both sides of the aisle are working very hard to try to minimize this impact. There are things we can do now, and we are trying to get those done. There are things we can do to take care of small businesses and families, and we are working very hard to make sure those things get done now.

Also, keep this in mind: This is going to be a work in progress. This is not something we know the long-term implications of just yet. Our goal is to blunt that curve, as you have seen Dr. Fauci and others talking about, to try to stem the tide of this virus, to make it to where it is going to be manageable in our healthcare systems. If we can do that, we can better assess how we can protect small businesses and how we can protect working families and make sure they have the income they need to get by on a daily basis, knowing that when this crisis does subside, they can get back to work and we can get this economy popping, as the President said earlier today. That is our goal. That is what we are trying to do.

We also have to take a deep look at ourselves, I believe. Folks across the country need to take a deep look and see what we can do as States, as Members of Congress, and as American people to do better on our healthcare system, which right now is under increasing strain and stresses with this pandemic virus. We need to see, structurally, those kinds of things that can help stem the tide of this virus but also put in place things that are going to

help our healthcare delivery system that we have in this country. Those are the kinds of things I hope we will take a look at as we go forward and we better understand the problems we are facing in the United States.

For me, ever since I started running for this office, I have talked about the need to expand Medicaid in Alabama. Right now, I am concerned about all Alabamans, but there are some 326,000 people below the poverty line who do not qualify for Medicaid and are wondering right now: What is going to happen to me? What is going to happen because I don't have health insurance? I can't go get in that line in Birmingham that requires a Medicaid or a Medicare card or an insurance card. I don't know what to do.

We are working on things to try to help to do that, but I think expanding Medicaid is an important part of this. Those Alabamans who are at most risk from the COVID-19 virus are those in rural areas where hospitals are closing and who cannot get to a doctor—the community health centers are sparsely situated throughout the State—our seniors and people of all ages who have preexisting conditions.

I want folks in Alabama to really think about this. We have now heard for a month or so that it is not just the elderly but it is people with certain preexisting conditions who are at most risk for the COVID-19 virus and significant complications from the virus. Those are people who are diabetic; people with cardiovascular disease; people with kidney disease; people who are, in fact, so much of the demographics of the State of Alabama.

I have said it so many times: We are a relatively poor State. We are an unhealthy State. We have more people at risk for this virus than probably most because of the preexisting conditions that exist among the populace in the State of Alabama. Those are the ones about whom we are concerned.

There are consequences to Alabama's not expanding Medicaid, and there are going to be consequences if we don't do things in the future to try to make sure we get relief to all people.

There are going to be consequences if the administration continues to fight in court to eliminate the Affordable Care Act and all of its protections for those with preexisting conditions. Why in the world, in this time of healthcare crisis, would the administration continue to do this just now? Now is the time that we need to be putting lawsuits aside, taking those lawsuits and putting them away and working together to try to do those things within the ACA to get coverage for so many more people. We can do that. We are seeing people rallying now here on the Hill and with the administration. That is what we need to be doing, not trying to work through lawsuits to get rid of the ACA.

Now is the time that we need to be working together to make sure everyone in this country gets the healthcare

they need. We need to expand Medicaid, work together to keep rural hospitals open, and not dismantle the ACA but improve the flaws in the existing ACA, making sure that everyone with a preexisting condition is protected.

So I am once again calling on this administration, calling on the 20 attorneys general from around the country—including my own in the State of Alabama—let's get rid of this, and let's work together to try to figure out how we can get healthcare into all ZIP Codes in America, including all the ZIP Codes in the State of Alabama.

Folks, we have amazing opportunities here. It is a challenging time, but challenges also give us opportunities. We need to take those opportunities. We have that opportunity here in the Senate and the Congress and the Government of the United States, but we have these opportunities as a country. We have these opportunities for individuals.

We have to act quickly and without regard to politics or party. The American people are looking to us—they are looking to this Congress, they are looking to the administration—to do those things necessary, to take the steps necessary to protect their families, their communities, their livelihoods, and our economy. We can do this, but we need to rise to the occasion. We need to work quickly. We need to put the American people first. It is the American people's interests who have to come first.

As individuals, we have to review the responses to the COVID crisis as an act of citizenship. Every response has to be seen, in my view, as an act of citizenship, not only for this country but for citizens of the world, to do the things that need to be done for yourself, for your family, but also for each other in the greater beloved community. We have to recognize that we all must make sacrifices. We are in this together.

Our doctors, our nurses, and our healthcare professionals are already doing that. They are fighting with everything they have to minimize the suffering and to save as many as they can, often putting themselves in jeopardy. One of the things we have to do is give them more tools to do their jobs. We are working on that. But these folks are those frontline folks.

It is just like the first responders of 9/11, who were running toward the danger to try to help others flee from it. That is what our healthcare professionals and our first responders are doing today. They are running toward the danger to try to minimize the suffering and to save lives.

Folks, everybody in America needs to hear all of this. We need to be thanking those people. We need to be thanking the folks who are still putting food on the shelves at the grocery stores, the people who are still stocking the sanitizer at the drug stores, the people who are still doing those routine things to help all Americans.

We need to hear this as well: Staying at home for the next few weeks may be a hardship, but it is the right thing to do. It is the right thing to do not just for the obvious reasons of protecting yourself. You do it for your neighbors. You do it for your fellow citizens in your community. You do it for your grandparents. You do it for all of those close to you. That is how we stop this virus. That is how Smokey puts out the forest fires. It is each one of us. Only you can do this, and none of it will be easy.

Financial hardships will be faced by far too many Americans already living on the edge. It is in our local communities that we have to respond to the heroic efforts to bridge these hardships for as many as possible and to make this period of disruption as short as possible.

The truth is, it is you, Mr. and Mrs. America. It is you, the American people, who are the best defense now. You are the frontline. You are the foot soldiers of trying to stem this crisis. Don't shake hands as some sign of strength. Stopping that simple contact is not only going to keep you safer but it is going to strengthen the fight to stop these fires. Do those little things.

The American people have to rally to this challenge not just for themselves but for each other, for the sick and the elderly and the most vulnerable in our society, for the doctors and the nurses who are on the frontlines, for the children who will need those school lunch programs they can't get because schools are out all across this country. We do it for those who can't afford 1 day—let alone 1 week or 2 weeks or a couple of months—of lost wages. That is who we have to do this for.

Let me mention something. I want to talk a little bit directly to the younger folks in Alabama and the younger folks in our country. You are perhaps the most powerful voices and examples in this fight. You know that it is not likely that you are going to personally suffer the hardest of these hardships in the sense of getting this virus. It is not going to cause the incredible complications of so many others, but that makes you the most powerful weapon that we have in this fight. You can lead this country's war against this disease. You can lead the State of Alabama and all of your States and your communities, and you do so by example, just like young people have done in the history of this country. Whether it was with the Vietnam war, whether it was through civil rights, whether it was through little things like buckling seatbelts, it is the younger folks in this country who have led the way and shown the examples. You are the most connected generation or couple of generations in the history of the world.

By having those connections to each other, you have connections to your communities and to your grandparents and to your parents and your aunts and your uncles and those living down the street who might be shut in at this

point—sick and shut in—whom you can help and get the word out to.

This is the moment in time where we can come together as a people. We can come together, and you as young people, who get so maligned in so many different ways—and I see that—you are the prime examples, and you can lead this country at a time when we desperately need all people in this country to lead by example and by information. I know you will step up to do it. I know you will make sure that your kids are protected, but I know you will also make sure that you do those things and do what Smokey the Bear says, because it is only you that can prevent the forest fire of this virus from spreading.

So that is our challenge today. That is the challenge for America and the individuals.

As a body, I can assure folks that the Senate and the Congress are going to do everything we can to do our part to minimize the damage that this is inflicting, to help repair the damage, to make sure that we get back on our feet at the right time when this fire is stemmed. What we know and what is demanded of us as a U.S. Senate, what is demanded of us as a government, is nothing short of the same kind of government response—overwhelming response—the same kind of commitment and response worthy of the sacrifices we are asking all American citizens to make in this fight. I believe that this Senate, I believe that the House, and I believe that the administration are up to that challenge, but we have to remember whom we are fighting for, and that is each of you—the American people.

We will do our part. We will make sure what we do as a response to this is worthy of the sacrifices that we are asking each one of you to make every day for an unknown foreseeable time.

I yield the floor.

(Ms. MCSALLY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SASSE assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Nebraska.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SASSE. Madam President, we are in the midst of two crises at once—one health-related and one economic. I tend to think that the prudent path forward on the health front is that even as we hope for the best, we should continue planning for the worst. If this nasty disease continues to ramp in roughly the same proportions as it has in Italy and Spain, it will overwhelm our hospitals. So I think the social distancing recommendations from the President and from the CDC over the last 4 days are a prudent action.

At the same time, we are also in the midst of a genuine economic crisis. Lots of moms and dads are worried that they might be laid off, and lots of businesses are evaluating whether they are going to make payroll and whether they are still going to be in business

months down the line. They are scared, and DC needs to act more urgently than we usually do, but just saying we need to act urgently is not a substitute for actually having good ideas and actually advancing good policies.

There is a herd mentality around this building right now where a lot of normally smart people are literally saying things like: The most important thing is to be fast, even if the ideas that are being advocated for are not really ready for prime time and can't really withstand the scrutiny of debate. That is a really dumb idea. It is a ready-fire-aim approach. We do indeed need to work fast, but working fast is no substitute for working smart.

Again, I agree that this virus and the strategies necessary to contain it are producing some of the worst economic upheavals we have seen in a generation.

Further, we need to be preparing for these unexpected economic hardships to last for 6 months or even longer. But that fact is a reason to prepare; it is not a reason to panic. That fact is a reason to debate hard and fast but still to debate what good policy looks like; it is not a reason to allow garbage policies to get by because someone simply says: No, no, no, we have to go faster. You can't ask questions about the policy.

Over the next 48 to 72 hours, this body will be making some crucial decisions about somewhere between one and four spending packages. I agree with the President that this is an unprecedented economic situation and that the Federal Government, at the health level, obviously has a fundamentally crucial role to play in helping us get through this pandemic, which recognizes no borders or boundaries; thus, the Federal Government has to spend real money. As the third or fourth most conservative Member of the Senate by voting record, that is not language I use a lot, saying that we are going to have to spend real, significant amounts of money, but that is clearly true in this moment. But saying we should spend real money is not the same as saying we should spend like idiots.

Unfortunately, Washington, DC, so far has been handling our responsibilities exactly as a lot of voters fear. Right now, the proposal on the table, which just came over from the House of Representatives, is for Washington, DC, to pull out its checkbook—which is really your checkbook—and just start firing. If you are an industry with a good lobbying team, you are told to line up at the door of the Treasury Department and get in line because bailout after bailout is probably in the offing.

Right now, the plan around here is basically just to start shoveling money out of a helicopter, and the most important debate is whether Democrats or Republicans get to shovel the money first. This is a bad idea, and Washington should know better because 12

years ago something just like this was tried, and the consequences were really significant and lasting. They are still with us.

I want to be clear. I am not talking primarily about the total price tag. The price tag matters, but the point I am trying to debate today is whether we are going to spend the American people's money wisely or foolishly, and we are not having a lot of debate about that. We are hearing a lot of people saying that the only important question is whether we can act fast enough. If you act fast but you spend money that is ineffective, you didn't effectively act fast.

The Congress 12 years ago shoveled lots and lots of money into supposedly shovel-ready projects which still can't be found today. One trillion dollars in spending, and you can go to your Governor and you can go to your State legislature and go to your business roundtables and you try to find people who know where the \$1 trillion of shovel-ready money went—I challenge you, that is not an easy thing to achieve.

More than just the spending and the debt, though, it also produced serious backlashes of national political movements on both the right and the left. The Occupy Wall Street movement, some of which became the Bernie Sanders constituency, and the tea party were both spawned out of 2008 and 2009 and are still with us in lots of ways that are not ultimately constructive for our body politic.

We don't need a policy where Washington, DC, handpicks winners and losers. There is no one here in this Chamber who is actually competent to do that. We are indeed in a period of extraordinary uncertainty, but no politician actually knows what happens next week, let alone 6 months from now, and humility would require us to admit that a bit more.

The proposal currently on the table from Speaker NANCY PELOSI is to blow through a massive amount of money on a policy core that isn't actually well thought out. When you ask hard questions about the bill that has come over from the House, there is nobody who actually defends it as really good, well-thought-out policy. That is why the first version of their bill, which passed so urgently last week at 120 pages, last night required over 90 pages—we are right at 90 pages—of technical corrections. Think about that. Imagine your kid does homework and—you say you wrote a 12-page essay, and after you turn it in, you say that 9 of the 12 pages actually have to be thrown away and rewritten. That is what happened last night in the House of Representatives. They tried to pass a 90-page fix to a 120-page bill that was supposedly really urgent last week.

By the way, when you talk to the architects of that legislation in private, when the cameras aren't rolling, and you ask them hard questions about how their policy actually works, everyone starts pointing at everyone else,

and a lot of people admit that the bill might actually accelerate layoffs from small businesses. Think about that.

The reason this first bill—if it ends up remaining independent rather than being bundled with the other ideas that are coming down the road in the form of industry-specific bailouts—this first bill, which is supposed to slow the pace of layoffs from small business, when you ask questions about it, the architects of the bill will admit to you in private that it might actually accelerate the pace of layoffs from small business. Nonetheless, despite admitting that today's version of the Rube Goldberg policy might have the opposite of its intended effect, the main answer you get is "We have to go very, very fast." This is wildly irresponsible, what is happening here.

Once the first couple hundred billion dollars of money is gone, that means there is less money left for the next round of stimulus and action and recovery and relief that are required. But besides money, it also means that there is less public trust left. There are gonna be more rainy days ahead in the coming weeks and months, and there is not a lot of grassroots American trust in the wisdom or the work ethic of this institution. Simply screaming that we should go faster is not a substitute for debating and advocating for the actual policy.

We have many politicians pretending right now that they know how to centrally plan rifle-shot bailouts industry by industry. It is not true, and even they don't believe it. This is a game of pretend: Hurry up and look busy. If you are not sure what to do, just spend more of the people's money, but do it faster.

That is not good policy. That is not good stewardship of our responsibility. The Senate is supposed to exist to calm down the passions that lead the House to move fast and write policy that is bad enough that a 120-page bill requires 90 pages of technical fixes. The Senate's actual job in our bicameral constitutional structure is to ask hard questions of legislation just like this.

Here is the good news: We don't have to mindlessly go down this path again. We can do better than this. We can affirm the policy goal that we do need to help get resources to the people who need them, but we can also make smarter, more responsible, less risky decisions right now that will provide a lifeline to people in need but will also leave room for further action in the future, hopefully, as we know more in the coming days and weeks.

So here is an alternate idea: Instead of DC pretending it is omniscient, let's admit that a complex situation like what is actually happening in the small business environment in all 50 of our States will actually require differentiated solutions. Let's be sure we are accurately naming the problem here, because I am not talking now about the public health issues, like speeding the development of a

coronavirus vaccine, where DC obviously needs to maintain a leading role, but I am talking precisely about the economic problem of the next 90 days.

What is that economic problem? The question before us is, How do we minimize the number of layoffs, and how do we minimize the number of small business bankruptcies that are looming across our country? How do we make sure that more families can keep putting bread on the table rather than becoming long-term dependencies on the State? We should be laser-focused on what the question is that we are actually debating in this Chamber this week. That is the question. Over the next 90 days, are there policy steps we can take to minimize the number of bankruptcies and layoffs that are going to affect American families so painfully?

Here are some needed truths: The feds don't know the precise answer because there isn't a single precise answer. The answers—plural—are going to vary across our continent-sized Nation of 325 million souls. If we pretend that we have a one-size-fits-all solution for this problem or if we pretend that DC can be fair, going industry by industry with rifle-targeted bailouts, we are going to screw up badly. The lobbyists are going to dominate the day, not the public interests.

Again, I am open to spending in this moment, but that is not an excuse for failing to spend well. We need to spend the people's money well, we need to steward our callings with humility, and we need to spend much better than this current House bill does.

Let's take the money that is being proposed and let's direct more than half of it to our Governors so they may distribute it to families and small businesses.

I trust Pete Ricketts, who is my Governor. I trust Pete Ricketts a heck of a lot more than I trust NANCY PELOSI. Part of it is that Pete and I have more aligned political philosophies, but that is not really the point. The real reason I trust Pete Ricketts at this moment is the same reason why Senator FEINSTEIN would trust Gavin Newsom at the moment, and that is because my Governor is on the ground with his 1.9 million people. He is not in DC looking across a 325-million-person nation as if our problems are undifferentiated and as if the solutions can be one-size-fits-all. That is not going to work. That is going to waste the vast majority of the people's resources. We have 50 different States with 50 different circumstances and needs. Californians have needs that Nebraskans don't in this moment and vice versa. We can get money to the Governors quickly, and they can distribute it in ways that will best help their people.

The House's one-size-fits-all approach, this nationalized leave policy in this first bundled bill, is going to cause a lot of people to fall through the cracks. Why is it that different industries and different-sized firms are being

treated so radically different? It is because of who was last in the Speaker's office lobbying about the bill as they cobbled together the first 120 pages that needed 90 pages of corrections.

The Rube Goldberg bill is going to create a handful of political winners, but it is going to create a whole lot more economic losers.

Parts of these relief packages will need to come from DC in targeted ways; I admit that. Part of this is going to need to come from DC, but the idea that all of it can or that all of it should be arrogant. It is wrong, and it will be ineffective.

Our Governors know their States and their people. Our Governors know how to build public-private partnerships. Congress doesn't. Our Governors know so much better than we do what their workforce needs were before the coronavirus struck and what their workforce needs are going to be in late Q3 or in Q4 when, hopefully, the economy is humming again. Simply put, our Governors know how to target this money much more efficiently than we do so that much more of that money will make its way to Main Street.

Lots of Governors have led well in the past 3 weeks. I mentioned my Governor, Pete Ricketts, and how his strong leadership has been laying the groundwork to help shield our State from some of the worst ravages of this virus. Likewise, I would recognize Governor DeWine from Ohio, who is showing strong leadership on what it looks like to put facts front and center.

What we need right now at the State, at the local, and at the Federal levels is not just any action. We need responsible, effective, defensible action. This is not a time for Washington to go on an "anything goes" spending spree. It is not an opportunity for Washington's connected insiders to exploit personal relationships to put their pet projects first on things that they wouldn't have been able to get passed if it weren't a time of crisis. We don't have to go down that path.

Instead, we can more efficiently and more wisely spend the people's resources. We can give our States and our Governors the lead in making sure that the majority of the money and the majority of the resources get where they are most needed. We can help families and businesses keep afloat during this storm by admitting that 50 laboratories of democracy are going to be more effective than a rifle shot approach from Washington. We can create room for further action, but we can also acknowledge that the particular needs are going to evolve in the coming weeks.

We need less instant certainty and more humility in this building. We should not pretend that the only government is the Federal Government. Congress should eat more humble pie. There is a reason why even the least popular Governor in America is more popular than almost everyone who works in this Chamber. There is a reason for that, and the main reason is

that while Members of Congress spend lots of our time playing pundit, sadly, Governors actually lead. They manage budgets; they make decisions; they lead departments; and they engage their community in the actual private sector, not just hire lobbyists who work for the private sector. They are physically on the ground with the people they serve. That means they know a thing or two about the businesses in their community. It means they know a thing or two about the industries that are rising and falling in their cities and in their rural areas. They have a kind of decentralized knowledge about this crisis and what is needed at this moment that people in Washington, DC, lack.

Cable news is focused on Wall Street, but here is the deal: Main Street is going to be the place where lots of the pain is ultimately shouldered from this crisis, and when Wall Street needs something, Wall Street hires K Street, and Congress is told by K Street what they want, and that is usually what ends up in the bill.

When Main Street needs something, they drive to Lincoln; they drive to Indianapolis and Nashville and Columbus and Albany and Sacramento; and the granular understanding of their particular problems is almost always more nuanced than is understood here.

That is why, as long as Congress is debating this spending this week, I am going to be fighting to make sure that we give more than half of all this money to our Governors to distribute. They know how to spend this money better than this DC-centric House of Representatives bill. That is the way we can actually get this done and help our people grit through this time of unprecedented economic uncertainty.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:51 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 9:13 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. MCSALLY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 18; further that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceeding be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators per-

mitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6201. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4290. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyazofamid; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10005-85-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4291. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Decreased Assessment Rate" ((7 CFR Part 930) (Docket No. AMS-SC-19-0091; SC19-930-3 FR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4292. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Management Division, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Servicing of Telecommunications Programs Loans for Financially Distressed Borrowers" (RIN0572-AC41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4293. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Darrell K. Williams, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4294. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TRICARE; Addition of Physical Therapist Assistants and Occupational Therapy Assistants as TRICARE - Authorized Providers" (RIN0720-AB72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4295. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4296. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Af-

fairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4297. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Y and LL: Control and Divestiture Proceedings" (RIN7100-AF49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4298. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule - Securitization Safe Harbor Rule" (RIN3064-AF09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4299. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4300. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Stress Testing of Regulated Entities" (RIN2590-AB05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4301. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the threat of foreign interference in United States elections that was declared in Executive Order 13848 of September 12, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4302. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security Annual Report for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4303. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alabama; Revisions to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule" (FRL No. 10006-31-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4304. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alabama; 2010 1-Hour SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS Transport" (FRL No. 10006-25-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4305. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia and North Carolina; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 10006-32-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4306. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Revisions to Aerospace VOC Rule" (FRL No.

10006-21-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4307. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; Open Burning and Definitions Revisions for Chattanooga" (FRL No. 10006-33-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4308. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 10006-19-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4309. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Boat Manufacturing and Reinforced Plastic Composites Production Residual Risk and Technology Review" (FRL No. 10006-04-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4310. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Municipal Solid Waste Landfills Residual Risk and Technology Review" (FRL No. 10006-05-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4311. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Revisions to the Refrigerant Management Program's Extension to Substitutes" (FRL No. 10006-10-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4312. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "West Virginia State Implementation Plan Revision for Clean Air Act Section 110(a) (2) (A)-(M) Requirements for 2015 9-Hour Ozone NAAQS - Request for Approval" (FRL No. 10006-20-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4313. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Microorganisms; General Exemptions from Reporting Requirements; Revisions to Recipient Organisms Eligible for Tier I and Tier II Exemptions" (FRL No. 9991-60-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4314. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regu-

latory Guide (RG) 1.167, 'Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Shut Down by an Earthquake'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4315. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.166, 'Pre-Earthquake Planning, Shutdown, and Restart of a Nuclear Power Plant Following an Earthquake'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4316. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits and Exemptions" (FRL No. 10005-66-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4317. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Asphalt Processing and Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review" (FRL No. 10005-06-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4318. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Business Practices and Communication Protocols for Public Utilities (RM05-5-025, et al.)" ((RIN1902-AF65) (Docket Nos. RM05-5-025, RM05-5-026, and RM05-5-027)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4319. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2020 Cumulative List of Changes in Plan Qualification Requirements for Pre-Approved Defined Benefit Plans" (Notice 2020-14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4320. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "(RP-121424-19) Revenue Procedure" (Rev. Proc. 2020-03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4321. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2020 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4322. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Medicare and Medicaid Integrity Programs for Fiscal Year 2018"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4323. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4324. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0038 - 2020-0042); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4325. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agency for International Development Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR): Designations of Personal Services Contractors (PSCs) as Contracting Officers and Agreement Officers" (RIN0412-AA94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4326. A communication from the Division Director for Policy, Legislation, and Regulation, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Apprenticeship Programs, Labor Standards for Registration, Amendment of Regulations" (RIN1205-AB85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4327. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Banned Devices; Electrical Stimulation Devices for Self-Injurious or Aggressive Behavior" (RIN0910-AI22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4328. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Chromium Propionate" ((21 CFR Part 573) (Docket No. FDA-2018-F-3347)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 16, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4329. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2008 Clean Energy Law Spurs Progress But District Can Do More to Cut Emissions"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4330. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Federal Housing Administration's fiscal year 2019 Annual Management Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4331. A communication from the Director, Office of Information Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "DNA-Sample Collection From Immigration Detainees" (RIN1105-AB56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4332. A joint communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee



Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3504. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend, until not earlier than September 30, 2021, the requirement that State-issued identification must be compliant with the REAL ID Act of 2005 to be accepted by Federal agencies for certain purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 3505. A bill to require private health insurance to rapidly cover preventive services and vaccines related to the coronavirus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD:

S. 3506. A bill to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 3507. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to make testing for the coronavirus disease 19 available to all members of the Armed Forces deployed to an area in which the United States Central Command has responsibility; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3508. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to provide for disaster protection for workers' credit; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3509. A bill to provide borrowers the right to request forbearance on mortgage loan payments due to a declared disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 3510. A bill to transfer all border wall funding to the Department of Health and Human Services and USAID to combat coronavirus; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3511. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for nutrition and supportive services for older Native Americans under the Older Americans Act of 1965; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3512. A bill to clarify the authority for regulating laboratory-developed testing procedures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3513. A bill to provide Americans with paid sick time and paid leave so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3514. A bill to ensure that facilities of the Indian Health Service, facilities operated by an Indian tribe, tribal organization, or inter-tribal consortium, and facilities operated by an urban Indian organization receive items from the strategic national stockpile and qualified pandemic or epidemic products directly from the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 545. A resolution commemorating March 17, 2020, as the 40th anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980, including the amendments made by that Act, at a time when the need for bipartisan support of the refugee resettlement program of the United States is critical to the survival of the program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2446

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2446, a bill to provide certain coverage of audiologist services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2661

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name and the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2661, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to designate 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for the purpose of the national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline system operating through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and through the Veterans Crisis Line, and for other purposes.

S. 3486

At the request of Ms. SMITH, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to improve State, local, and tribal public health security.

S. 3497

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3497, a bill to provide unemployment assistance to individuals affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 3499

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3499, a bill to amend coverage requirements to ensure that no person incurs cost-sharing when receiving a test to confirm a COVID-19 infection.

S. 3503

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

3503, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 545—COMMEMORATING MARCH 17, 2020, AS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980, INCLUDING THE AMENDMENTS MADE BY THAT ACT, AT A TIME WHEN THE NEED FOR BIPARTISAN SUPPORT OF THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES IS CRITICAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF THE PROGRAM

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 545

Whereas, after receiving bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the Refugee Act of 1980, S. 643 (96th Congress), including the amendments made by that Act, was signed into law on March 17, 1980, to provide a domestic framework for the United States to align with the international obligations of the United States, including under—

(1) the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (as made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 U.S.T. 6223), to which the United States is a party);

(2) the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, to which the United States is a party;

(3) the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, done at New York September 28, 1954; and

(4) the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, done at New York August 30, 1961;

Whereas the humanitarian protection provided by the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212; 94 Stat. 102), including the amendments made by that Act, is consistent with the best values of the United States, such as judging people not "by the color of their skin but by the content of their character", championing religious liberty, standing up for one's beliefs, standing up for those who are being mistreated, championing democracy, and upholding the rights and practices of self-governance and free speech regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality;

Whereas refugees are courageous, hard-working people of conviction and values, defenders of democracy and faith, and people who face persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, and in some cases, face persecution because they allied with the United States in crucial missions, such as in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Iraq, and Afghanistan;

Whereas the refugee resettlement program of the United States authorized under the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212; 94 Stat. 102), including the amendments made



by that Act, is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts that—

- (1) strengthens global security;
- (2) advances the foreign policy goals and national security interests of the United States;
- (3) supports countries that host hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of refugees;
- (4) collaborates with and supports the efforts of the international community to support and resettle vulnerable populations;
- (5) stabilizes sensitive conflicts and regions around the globe; and
- (6) encourages other countries to contribute through humanitarian support, resettlement, and finding strategies to address existing conflict and prevent future conflict;

Whereas the refugee resettlement program provides protection and resettlement opportunities to individuals from Iraq and Afghanistan who worked side by side with members of the United States Armed Forces and peace builders;

Whereas the Department of State acknowledged the partnership between the admission of refugees and the protection of inherent human rights in the 2018 Report on International Religious Freedom and the 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices;

Whereas refugees are major contributors to local economies, pay an average of \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits, and revitalize cities and towns by offsetting population decline and boosting economic growth throughout the United States by opening businesses, paying taxes, and buying homes;

Whereas several industries rely heavily on refugee workers to support the economic stability of those industries, and low rates of arrivals of refugees, especially in towns that rely on refugee populations to revitalize the industries in those towns, have had serious effects on economic growth;

Whereas, through the refugee resettlement program, the United States has proudly pursued strategic and humanitarian interests, resettling more than 3,000,000 refugees in 49 States over more than 40 years, and the program has received support from Republican and Democratic Presidential administrations and bipartisan congressional support, as Presidents have set, through Presidential

determinations, an average annual refugee admissions goal of 95,000 refugees;

Whereas, in collaboration with the Department of State and through the Office of Refugee Resettlement, faith communities, civic leaders, local social service agencies, employers, and refugee resettlement agencies provide essential services and welcome refugees who bring new life and vitality to local communities;

Whereas, in 2020, the world is in the midst of the worst global displacement crisis in history, with more than 70,800,000 forcibly displaced persons, including more than 25,900,000 refugees worldwide, more than ½ of whom are children, according to estimates from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

Whereas, in 2018, global resettlement needs were not met despite the high number of refugees in need of third-country resettlement;

Whereas a decline in refugee resettlements has had adverse impacts on the infrastructure of refugee resettlement in the United States, creating challenges for future increases in resettlement;

Whereas many Presidents have made changes and improvements to the refugee resettlement program while continuing to support and nurture its crucial role in humanitarian protection and in promoting the national security and strategic interests of the United States;

Whereas refugees are the most thoroughly vetted class of foreign nationals to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks, including in-person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency checks; and

Whereas, as the major global humanitarian and strategic leader, the United States should operate its refugee resettlement program in a manner consistent with global refugee resettlement need, the historical commitment of the United States to refugee resettlement since the enactment of the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212; 94 Stat. 102), and the critical humanitarian leadership role of the United States on the world stage: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its bipartisan commitment—

(A) to abide by the cherished domestic and international legal obligations of the United

States to protect refugees who flee war, persecution, or torture in search of religious liberty, democracy, peace, hope, and freedom; and

(B) to recognize the importance of the refugee resettlement program of the United States as a critical tool for saving lives and as a critical function of United States global leadership—

(i) to leverage foreign policy;

(ii) to strengthen national and regional security;

(iii) to support allies of the United States; and

(iv) to demonstrate international support of refugees; and

(2) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to provide robust funding for refugee protection overseas and resettlement in the United States;

(B) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations;

(C) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts and prevent new conflicts from beginning; and

(D) to ensure the refugee resettlement program of the United States is equipped to protect and support refugees, especially allies who need the support of the United States, as well as the international refugee assistance community that needs United States leadership, and local communities across the United States who want to welcome refugees and continue together to build the American dream.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:15 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at 10 a.m.