



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2020

No. 50

## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Eternal God, as our Nation faces this national state of emergency, we pause to thank You with our whole hearts for the gift of this day. In spite of challenges that often seem insurmountable, You remain our hope for the years to come. As our Senators strive to meet the challenge of the coronavirus, validate their efforts with Your Divine blessings.

You are the righteous judge who knows even the motives of our hearts. May Your providential purposes be fulfilled in our Nation and world. Touch this land we love with Your healing hands.

We pray in Your powerful 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 (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Friday, President Trump declared a national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease outbreak. This proclamation frees up additional resources to further efforts to contain and combat the virus.

Over the weekend, my Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds, confirmed Iowa's first case of community-spread COVID-19, which was in Dallas County, Iowa.

It is very important to continue to take commonsense precautions. Stay home if you are sick, wash your hands, avoid large gatherings, and heed the advice of health officials. Extra caution now will save lives later.

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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the new coronavirus has spread from China throughout the world, and it is challenging our Nation in new ways. Across our country, daily routines are being disrupted, families are grappling with school closings and changes to childcare, major American companies and institutions are literally modifying how they do business, and a growing number of Main Street small businesses face the possibility of significant disruptions as more and more communities begin to "hunker down," as Dr. Fauci put it, on the advice of public health experts and local leaders.

As an aside, I have noticed that a lot of the discussion in the media has focused on individuals who may be temporarily transitioning from office work to working from home. So I want to especially acknowledge the many other

hard-working Americans for whom telework is not an option. Now, more than ever, we are reminded who really keeps this country running: the hard-working men and women who grow things, who make things, who drive trucks and move goods across the country, who mine coal or otherwise produce domestic energy and, literally, power our communities, who run the stores and shops we rely on, who serve our communities as police and first responders, and, of course, especially the dedicated frontline healthcare professionals, who work tirelessly to heal and protect all the rest of us.

To all Americans—but, most especially, to those hard-working people whose efforts are going to get our country through this challenge—I have one message: The Senate stands with you. We stand with American workers and families, we stand with American businesses, and we stand with the public health experts and the heroic frontline medical professionals whom our Nation seems poised to lean on as heavily as we have at any point in recent memory.

The Senate is committed to meeting these uncertain times with bold and bipartisan solutions. That is what we did a little more than a week ago, when the Senate passed billions of dollars in emergency funding for health and small businesses with an overwhelming bipartisan vote and put it on the President's desk. That is what we are going to keep doing this week, particularly if the House of Representatives can actually complete its work and transmit a finished product of its relief over to us. And it is what we are going to keep doing in the days and weeks ahead.

With respect to the House-passed legislation, I understand the House chose to proceed with their planned 1-week recess, despite not having finished processing their bill. As of this afternoon, we are still waiting for the House to reach a decision on possible technical corrections and to submit a final

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S1747

product to us here in the Senate. We cannot consider the legislation until we get it, but I know that Senators on both sides have spent the last several days carefully studying the House proposal, and I know that all of us are eager to act quickly to support American workers, families, and small businesses.

Even more broadly, Senate Republicans are absolutely convinced that the House's bill can only be the beginning—just the beginning—of Congress's efforts to secure our economy and support American families. This is a unique challenge—a unique challenge. Unlike in any other tough circumstances, our short-term goal is not simply to bring economic activity right back to normal starting tomorrow. Instead, our task is to secure the historically strong foundation of our Nation's economy and support Americans during this period when public health may require that some normal activities simply be scaled back.

I have spoken with countless colleagues and committee chairmen over the last several days. We agree there are three major areas where the Senate must continue to develop bold and bipartisan action:

No. 1, we will need to take further steps to assist individual Americans and families with financial challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

No. 2, we will need to further significant actions to secure our Nation's economy—particularly Main Street small businesses—and safeguard our historically strong economic foundation through this period.

No. 3, we will need further steps to ready our healthcare system and support our Nation's medical professionals.

The Senate majority is already working toward next steps on all three of those fronts. I hope further bold action can be just as bipartisan and collaborative as the process by which we passed the first set of additional funds. We must work with each other in the bipartisan spirit this moment demands—and with the administration and the House—to deliver results for our country.

#### USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on one other important matter, late last night, several critical authorities that law enforcement uses to keep Americans safe lapsed into expiration. Barring Senate action, these important tools, which help protect the homeland from terrorists and counter foreign intelligence activities on U.S. soil, will remain offline.

Fortunately, in the weeks leading up to this deadline, the Attorney General engaged in extensive bipartisan talks with Members of the House—of both parties—to try to reach a solution. The resulting legislation, which the House passed last week by large margins

within each party, strikes a key balance. It reauthorizes the tools which our national security requires, while also imposing a number of new reforms which basic accountability demands.

We can't let the relative success of these tools at preserving the safety and security of our country mislead us to believe they are unnecessary. It is just the opposite. Terrorist organizations still search constantly for opportunities to strike on American soil. Hostile foreign intelligence services—whether Chinese, Russian, or Iranian—still seek to conduct operations within our borders, to recruit assets and agents among our population.

These threats will not wait around if the United States delays restocking our toolbox, so the Senate should not wait to act. I sincerely hope that even our colleagues who may wish to vote against the House bill will not make us prolong this brief lapse in authorities and that we will be able to get these tools back online this week.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6172, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me thank the staff who are here today under these difficult circumstances—here at the desk, the Sergeant at Arms, the doorkeepers, the police officers, and the many others who are here today. We thank them, as always. They are the unsung heroes of the Senate.

Now, as the Senate returns this week in a time of extraordinary challenge for our country, COVID-19, known as the coronavirus, continues to spread rapidly. In less than a week, the number of confirmed cases in the United States has grown from around 1,000 to well over 4,000. The actual number of cases is probably higher.

Here in the Capitol, public tours are suspended, and much of our staff is working from home. In a further effort to limit interactions, Senate Democrats will not be holding our regular caucus lunch, which will instead be conducted by conference call.

In my home State of New York alone, there are nearly 1,000 confirmed cases. The State is doing everything in its power to treat those afflicted, to prepare for future cases, and to limit the spread of the virus. Residents in the tristate area—New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut—are now under new restrictions on gatherings at bars, restaurants, and other public places.

I urge everyone to stay safe and to listen to the advice of public health experts. Practice good hygiene, follow the recommendations issued by State and Federal governments about public gatherings, and please—please—stay home if you feel sick.

As these important safeguards go into effect, there will be economic consequences. Businesses will face shortfalls. Employees will not be able to work. Families will bear the responsibility of childcare as school closures mount. For millions of families who live paycheck to paycheck, for parents who have to choose between keeping their jobs or taking care of their kids, and for so many others—the small business owner who has no liquidity even though it was a healthy business a few weeks ago—these are all very, very difficult times. The Congress and the Federal Government as a whole must take steps immediately to provide relief to those American workers, families, and businesses.

Last Friday, the House of Representatives passed legislation to provide for free coronavirus testing, extensions of paid sick leave, food assistance for schoolkids and the elderly, and assistance to States overburdened by Medicaid costs and expanded unemployment insurance. The Senate should take up this bill and pass it immediately by consent—today. We cannot wait.

It was my preference to keep the Senate in session over the weekend so that we could have passed this bill already, but Leader MCCONNELL—regrettably and almost inexplicably—decided to send everyone home and then call them back today. Many Members on my side of the aisle were extremely upset by Leader MCCONNELL's decision. There should be no further delay in passage of this legislation because, surely, we must move on to other necessary measures to address the coronavirus and its widening impact on the medical, economic, and social fabric of this country.

Testing capacity and public health infrastructure like hospital beds, masks, ventilators, and more remain a very urgent priority. Economic assistance for working families and small businesses must continue to be a focus of our efforts, as well as broader macroeconomic policies. Families will be without salaries, small businesses without liquidity, and they will need help immediately.

As early as tomorrow, I will present a series of proposals to congressional appropriators that Senate Democrats believe should be part of the next bill to address the coronavirus. In consultation with the ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction, we are proposing an immediate and initial infusion of at least \$750 billion to wage war against COVID-19 and the economic crisis it is now causing. The proposal will get money directly into the hands of the American people and, among other priorities, include Federal funding to address hospital and treatment capacity issues; expand unemployment insurance and increase Medicaid funding; ensure that everyone can afford treatment for coronavirus; provide immediate loan payment forbearance for all Federal loans—student loans, mortgages, small business loans, and others—and moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures; deliver immediate help to small businesses; fund emergency childcare, especially for healthcare workers and first responders; help schools with remote learning; provide assistance to keep public transportation running; address public health and economic needs in Indian Country; and utilize the Defense Department to provide personnel, equipment, supplies, and critical response capabilities to support the nationwide response.

There will be other proposals that will be needed, and we will talk about these as well, but, in sum, we need big, bold, immediate Federal action to deal with the crisis. The kinds of targeted measures we are putting together will mainline money into the economy and directly into the hands of families who need it most.

Importantly, this proposal will ensure that our medical professionals have the resources—including physical space and equipment—they need to provide treatment and keep Americans safe. Our proposal does not include every possible measure, nor must it. There will be multiple legislative vehicles to respond to the coronavirus. But in the near term, our proposal takes a comprehensive approach to dealing with the issues that workers, families, and the health of America face today.

I strongly urge my House and Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to review our proposal and incorporate our ideas into the next bill we will consider here in Congress. Now, the road ahead will be difficult. The disease will continue to spread and test our capacity—as a Congress and as a country—to respond with the necessary urgency, foresight, and cooperation.

Leaders in public office, from the President of the United States on down, must communicate clearly and honestly and set aside politics on behalf of the public good. Leaders in Congress must work together and with uncommon speed to respond to a set of national challenges unlike any we have faced in the recent past. Public health officials and researchers and doctors on the frontlines must continue to do the difficult and noble work they are now engaged in. We are all in their debt for their courage, their dedication, their duty.

The American people must hunker down and follow the guidance of experts until the cloud of this disease has passed. And it will pass. But until skies clear, we must all pull in the same direction and do what is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and security of the American people—today and in the weeks and months to come.

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.

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

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, right now, across New York State, the country, and the world, we are facing a crisis not seen in a century. It risks the health of our families and the health of our fellow Americans as well as our economic present and future. We are at the edge of a precipice, and lives are on the line. It poses a deep challenge to our collective psyche. How do we defend against such an overwhelming danger? How do we overcome our fear?

If you are a person who looks to history, you may turn to great leaders of the past. If you are a veteran or serving in our military today, you might look to your training. We are at war with this invisible threat. How do we create the right strategy, tactics, and assault plans?

If you are a person of faith, you might turn to scripture. The book of Ephesians tells us how to fight against such fears: “Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.” It calls us to take up our “shield of faith,” to wear our “belt of truth,” and to stand firmly with our feet “fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

Regardless of where your inspiration comes from, in times like these, we are afraid, and we need to be brave. We need to be selfless, and we need to be courageous. We have to look inward to find our inner strength, our resilience. We have to use our God-given common sense, and we need to fight—fight far harder than we could ever imagine.

Our enemy is clear—a novel coronavirus that is at our doorstep and

taking lives. Our mission is to stop the spread, protect the vulnerable, and ultimately prevent future outbreaks. Every blocked transmission is a victory.

Our frontline defenders are our doctors, our nurses, our first responders. Our National Guard is rightfully being called in to support these actions. To defeat this enemy, though, we need far more support. Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and all caregivers are going to be essential in limiting the spread of this virus. We need them added to the frontlines today—all of them.

The House passed a bill last week that takes a first step in beginning to address these needs. It provides mandatory emergency sick days and up to 3 months of coronavirus-related paid leave for some workers. This puts us closer to helping those on the frontlines of this crisis so they no longer have to face the impossible choice of whether to stay home to care for themselves, for a child who is home from school, for a loved one who is sick, or to risk public health to put food on the table for their families.

Unfortunately, the bill falls short. First, over half of the private sector workforce was left out of the paid sick and family leave provisions. Let me say that again. Of the over 100 million private sector workers in this country, over half will not be helped by this bill. Companies with more than 500 workers are not required to provide any paid sick leave, and the administration can give exemptions to companies with fewer than 50 employees. Taken together, this could amount to exemptions for about 75 percent of workers. Worse, it fails to take care of many of those who are most at risk—low-wage workers. These are the workers who are the least able to afford to take a day off, let alone weeks to self-quarantine.

In order to fight this crisis, we must slow the spread of this virus and ultimately stop its transmission. We must provide paid sick days and paid family and medical leave to every American worker now. There can be no exceptions or carve-outs, especially not for the wealthiest companies in the world.

For those who say this can't be done, they could not be more wrong. We should never send Armed Forces into battle without a plan, the right equipment, and the resources they need to win. If we don't equip all of our frontline defenders, including our parents and caregivers, we will fail to limit this spread.

Second, it is clear that, in a matter of days, most public school children in America will be out of school. The stress this puts on working parents is truly hard to articulate with or without there being guaranteed paid leave. Many low-income children rely on school meals for the best meal of the day. A school lunch can often make the difference between being healthy and being malnourished. Therefore, we need

a surge in food stamps, food distribution, and emergency meal delivery programs.

Third, we need a surge of testing. Without this critical information, we cannot reopen schools or businesses. To ensure universal free testing, we must authorize testing by all labs and hospitals and remove burdensome restrictions.

From the start of this crisis, public health officials have uniformly highlighted the importance of there being widely available testing and have decried our lack of it. As we have more fully grasped the magnitude of this crisis, States have developed their own tests, and their labs and hospitals are ready to conduct them. However, the approval process is still lagging. We are testing below our capacity because the FDA and CDC have yet to approve testing methods.

This is not the time to let redtape stand in our way. The administration must authorize States to utilize their own testing methods in their own facilities in order to try to keep up with the spread of this virus. Again, fighting a war without facts on the ground, without critical intelligence, cannot prevail. We need this information—yes—today.

Fourth, I support Governor Cuomo's call to deploy the Army Corps of Engineers to build temporary medical facilities so that when hospitals are overwhelmed, we can move people into those temporary facilities. The Federal Government must work aggressively to help our States increase hospital capacity.

Finally—and I can't emphasize this enough—every future policy that we debate here must put families and workers first—no half measures. These are the people on the frontlines of this crisis. They deserve our unwavering support. Just like we give the troops the resources they need, we have to have the same war footing today.

The very next piece of legislation before this Chamber must extend full-paid sick and family leave to every American worker. It must deal with the strain caused by the shuttering of our public schools, and it must increase our testing capacity and build more capacity for urgently needed care. We must pass it without further delay. Anything less will be a failure of government in this time of need. Anything less is defeat before the battle has even begun. This is how we fight. Every person we protect is a victory. This is our shared duty.

God bless America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I sat at this very desk 2 months ago during

the impeachment trial, where I read news, oftentimes from East Asian sources, about a viral pneumonia from an unknown virus emerging from central China. From those earliest days, I began calling for drastic measures to prevent this virus from reaching our shores and to prepare for its potential arrival. I cannot claim any special expertise. I am not a doctor. I am not a scientist. I am not an epidemiologist. But I could tell from the very beginning that the Chinese Communist Party was lying about everything related to this virus, and that we had to be prepared for the worst.

That is why in January I called for a travel ban from mainland China. That is why in February I began to call for crash approvals of laboratory-developed testing kits or the use of the kind of testing kits the World Health Organization approved or that South Korea has been using. That is why I urged a Manhattan Project level of investment in rapid testing and approval for therapeutic products and vaccines.

That travel ban and some other measures taken has bought us some time, but our hour of great national testing has arrived. The moment of decision is upon us. The time has come for extraordinary measures.

Look at what has happened to Italy just over the last 2 weeks. Two weeks ago, Italians were enjoying early spring weather, sipping coffee and wine in restaurants and bars—just 2 weeks ago. Today, elderly Italians are being denied care and instead administered last rites because their healthcare system is totally overloaded. It is time to take extraordinary measures to avoid that fate. What seems extreme today will seem obvious tomorrow.

Here are a few of the measures whose time has come, regrettably. First, we need to stop all nonessential business activity in this country. You can call it a shutdown. You can call it quarantine. You can call it curfew. You can call it whatever you want, but no one should be going to work in this country unless they are involved in essential activities—groceries, pharmacies, delivering goods to those places, electricity, water, sanitation, public safety. Anything else poses too great a risk to public health.

Second, it is time for nonessential government services to shut down, as well, at the Federal, State, and local levels. Anyone who is involved in trying to arrest the spread of this virus or to mitigate its economic impact or provide other essential services, like food aid to the needy or care for other kinds of patients in a VA hospital, must come to work, and we must be prepared to work extremely long hours. But anyone else in government at any level should be telecommuting, if they can, and staying home, in any case.

Third, it is time for our military to prepare to provide advanced support of civilian authorities. This is a mission the military long plans for. They are rarely called upon to do so, but an ur-

gent hour is approaching, especially at our hospitals and our nursing homes and other healthcare facilities, when our young men and women in uniform could be called upon to support our great doctors and our nurses to provide additional capacity to treat patients, not just with this coronavirus but with other urgent needs as well. That planning is in its infancy. It needs to accelerate immediately.

Again, I know these are extraordinary measures, and they will impose hardship and pain and dislocation, but the faster we arrest the spread of this virus, the faster things can get back to normal and our economy will heal. We will protect ourselves, and we will protect our well-being.

In the meantime, this Congress will be called upon for some pretty drastic measures, as well, to ensure that all those persons affected by steps taken on this day and the steps I am calling for can make ends meet, can put food on the table, and keep a roof over their head and pay their bills.

The House, over the weekend, passed a bill that has many important provisions that I support and I suspect will pass unanimously from this Chamber: free virus testing; provisions for school lunches for those whose schools have closed, like the children all across Arkansas; liability protection for the manufacturers of respirator masks, which need it so we can get millions of more masks out to doctors and nurses.

But the House bill doesn't go far enough, and it doesn't go fast enough. The centerpiece of the House bill providing aid to affected workers is a new kind of tax credit for paid sick leave. Unfortunately, that is wrongheaded on both counts. First, a tax credit—even a refundable one, even one on which you can get an advance from the IRS—will not do much good if a business has no revenue whatsoever. Imagine all those restaurants, all those bars, all those gyms that are going to come to a screeching halt today or tomorrow. They will have no cash to pay their dislocated workers. They will not be sending anything to the Treasury every 3 days in the form of payroll taxes, from which they can get an advance. They will have nothing. They will go bankrupt if we force them to advance sick leave with no revenue whatsoever.

But, also, it doesn't go far enough on the sick leave front. That is a misguided category error. Yes, we should take care of those who are sick with this virus. But there are so many others, as well—those who are quarantined but are not sick, as some of those in the Senate have done; those whose businesses are shuttered but are perfectly healthy, if they work in a bar or restaurant or theater or gym; those who have children whose schools have closed and have no means to provide for childcare so they can get to work. They all have bills to pay as well. They all have mouths to feed. So the House approach simply doesn't go far enough or fast enough to create a complicated

new system that doesn't cover enough of America's workers and families.

So I would suggest a better approach. We simply need to use existing systems to get cash in the hands of workers and their families as quickly as possible. One approach is instant tax refunds or rebates—call them what you will—to anyone who filed taxes last year, especially those in the lower tax brackets, who are most likely to struggle to make ends meet if they are not bringing home a paycheck. That can be done almost instantly.

A second approach is to use existing social welfare agency programs to get cash out the door and into the hands of displaced workers and their families. Take unemployment insurance, for instance. The whole point of unemployment insurance is to get checks quickly in the hands of those who need it.

I consulted this weekend with our State officials. I consulted today with Federal officials. We don't have to redesign the unemployment system. We don't have to set new parameters and criteria in 50 different information technology systems in our States. All we simply do is treat someone who is sick with this virus or quarantined because of potential exposure or who is furloughed from a job or who is caring for a child as if they were unemployed.

The cash stipend may not be their full wage, but it will be enough, and it will be in their hands immediately so they can feed their kids and so they can pay their bills. That can be done right now—immediately. We don't have to use employers and tax credits as a middleman or a conduit.

Third, we have to think about all those businesses that are essentially going into a self-protective shutdown—all those restaurants and bars and gyms and theaters and I suspect many more in the days ahead. They are not making payroll. They are probably cutting supplies. They still have other debts to pay, though. We should help them get through this short period of testing, whether with loans or loan guarantees or grants—what have you.

We have to remember, though, that when small businesses and medium-sized businesses run out of cash, they go into chapter 7 bankruptcy. They liquidate. Those jobs don't come back. When giant businesses have a cash crunch, they go into chapter 11. Sure, the owners may change, but they come back into business.

Those are just a few of the steps we have to take to mitigate the economic harm this virus is inflicting on our people and to ensure that no one, not a single person in this country, has any financial incentive to go to work when they are sick or when they even may be feeling sick or to go out to try to find another job because their workplace is shut down and they can't get any support from the government.

Again, I know these are extraordinary measures, but these are also extraordinary times, and the faster we act, the more aggressively we act, the

shorter these times will last. We will stop the spread of this virus; we will get our people back to work; our markets will come back; and we will be stronger on the back end of this crisis than we were coming into it.

Nothing I have said here is a Republican idea or Democratic idea. I don't have partisan objections to what the House has proposed. I simply want to make sure that the action we take will work and will get relief to all of those displaced workers and their families in a timely fashion, when they need it, to put food on the table and keep a roof over their kids' heads and pay for medicine and make car payments. That is why the Senate is here today. That should be our focus in the days ahead, and that is something we can accomplish together this week.

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

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

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, families across the country are facing an unprecedented challenge, and we must act, and act now, on solutions that put families and the American people first. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act takes a substantial step toward providing the relief and assurance communities need as we face this public health crisis.

Families should not be forced to choose between a paycheck and their own health and safety, or the health and safety of their community. A restaurant worker in Vermont cannot afford to stay home from work for several days or several weeks and still afford to pay her rent or feed her family, but staying home is exactly what we are asking waitresses, store clerks, gas station attendants, hourly workers, and many other employees to do. To contain this virus, we must address this reality.

Today, I am strongly urging Republicans and Democrats to drop their labels and support this emergency relief package, and pass it now. The American people need leadership, not political battles. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act creates two weeks of emergency paid sick leave so that people who work for small businesses are able to stay home from work if they are sick or must quarantine due to coronavirus. It creates up to 12 weeks of job protection under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and allows an employee to stay home for a longer period of time to recover from illness, or take care of a sick family member, or care for a child who must be at home because of school and daycare closures. These are commonsense solutions. Not only is it the right thing to do, it is a critical step if we want to

contain and defeat this public health crisis. It means employees won't have to choose between going to work when they are sick and potentially spreading the virus and missing a paycheck. This bill also makes important changes to the unemployment insurance program to help those that lose their job during this crisis. I hope, as Congress considers further steps to help address this crisis, we further support the small businesses that are supporting these employees and are the backbone of our local economies.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act would inject \$500 million into the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and contains legislative changes to free up funding to help children who would go without breakfast or lunch if their schools closed. It would provide \$400 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program to ensure that food banks have the resources they need to serve their communities and provide \$250 million for senior nutrition programs. These are common sense proposals to help families where they are in their communities.

Importantly, this bill will provide \$1 billion to help cover the cost of testing for people who are uninsured. This virus does not discriminate between the rich or the poor, or between those who have insurance and those who do not. Our approach to address this crisis cannot discriminate either. Nothing can help our country make up the ground we have lost because of the failed policies and poor execution of this administration of testing for the coronavirus. Because of the delays in getting the tests to State and local governments where they are needed, we do not fully understand the scope or spread of this disease in our country. We cannot compound these mistakes by denying the coronavirus test to those who can least afford it. Cost cannot be a barrier to seeking medical treatment during a public health crisis.

This bill is not perfect. As currently drafted, the paid sick leave benefits and Family Medical Leave Act policies extend only to companies with 500 employees or fewer. That leaves many workers in this country without these important protections. I understand this was the price of securing White House support for this bill. I would like the White House to explain why it thinks hourly workers at Target, Walmart, or McDonald's are less deserving of these protections. If we had the luxury of time, I would join other Senate Democrats in offering an amendment to close this gap, but we do not have that luxury. This bill was a product of compromise, and any change risks a threat of delay at a time when delay is our greatest enemy.

To my friends across the aisle who also want changes in this bill, I urge you to stand down. We need to pass this bill today, without delay. We do not have time for a lengthy debate.

The American people are looking to us for leadership and swift action; let's provide it.

This bill is the first step toward meeting American families where they are as they confront this crisis. In my more than 40 years in the United States Senate, few moments have demanded our bipartisan leadership more than this crisis. We must provide the protections in this bill—paid sick leave, unemployment insurance, nutrition assistance, and affordable testing for the American people—and we must do it now.

I this time of uncertainty, concern, and fear, I want to remind my fellow Vermonters and all Americans: We are all in this together. We can be smart about how we conduct our lives, while being good neighbors. We can support our communities, our first responders, healthcare workers, store clerks, and shelf stockers, and all those providing essential services. I am confident that our country will emerge from this crisis stronger than we were before, as we always have. I strongly encourage Republicans and Democrats to support this bill.

I see nobody else seeking recognition. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

H.R. 6172

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I entered the Senate in the wake of Watergate in 1975. The very first vote I cast was in favor of creating the Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans—that is, the Church Committee. Through that Committee's work, the American public soon learned of years of abuses that had occurred at the hands of the executive branch's intelligence agencies. In response, the Senate passed sweeping reforms to rein in this overreach.

Since then, more flaws and occasional abuses have been documented within our surveillance authorities, but the Senate rarely has had an opportunity to debate and improve them. We did so in 2015, when Senator LEE and I led the effort in the Senate to pass the USA FREEDOM Act. Senator LEE and I strongly believe the Senate should do the same now. We should strengthen the amicus program, ensure that all exculpatory information is provided to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and make other basic changes to better protect the civil liberties of all Americans.

I am thankful that Majority Leader MCCONNELL today has agreed to what Senator LEE and I requested last week—that we pass a short extension

of the expiring FISA authorities to give us an opportunity to both review and improve the House bill with a limited number of amendments. Critically, this will give us time to take up this issue after the Senate responds to the coronavirus.

I am particularly thankful to Senator LEE, who has tirelessly worked to reform surveillance authorities since he came to the Senate. With today's agreement, we will have the next 2 months to build consensus around important reforms, and I hope all of you will join us in this effort. That is what the Senate did when confronted with abuses documented by the Church Committee, and that is what the Senate must do now.

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

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to receive permission to complete my remarks before any vote is conducted.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I came to the floor several days ago in connection with the expiring national security provisions. We have three provisions of our national security system of laws that are set to expire and have been set to expire for a long time. In fact, they expired yesterday, the 15th of March.

We have known that this was going to happen for a long time. When the USA FREEDOM Act was passed in 2015—a bill that I authored, along with my distinguished friend and colleague Senator LEAHY from Vermont—we knew those three provisions known as lone wolf, 215, and roving wire taps would expire at the end of 2019.

We got to the end of 2019, and we found ourselves up against a spending cliff, and the Senate decided, with the concurrence of the House of Representatives and the President, that we should postpone until March 15 the expiration of those three provisions that I just mentioned.

I came to the floor on Thursday to raise concerns that we needed to be able to amend and reform these provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, for a number of reasons. Among other reasons, I noted that the President of the United States found that his own rights as an American citizen were abused, as this law was manipulated, was abused in an unholy alliance of partisan political interests against him.

For that reason, the President of the United States has, quite thankfully, made this point clear to the American people. Even though the abuses that we know of that occurred with respect to

the President of the United States were not themselves one of these expiring provisions, we note the law itself as a whole is subject to abuse and that at moments like these, when these provisions are expiring, it is appropriate for us to take a broader look at the overall legal framework in which FISA operates and to bring about reforms.

I came to the floor on Thursday, and I asked that we simply reauthorize these three expiring provisions for a period of a few weeks—that we reauthorize them cleanly and without any modification to give us a few weeks to deal with the immediate crisis surrounding the coronavirus. I asked that, at the end of that period, we proceed with the understanding that the Senate be allowed to vote on a small handful of amendments—proposed reforms—to FISA.

This, unfortunately, drew an objection, resulting in the expiration of these three provisions over the weekend. This was unnecessary. As I pointed out at the time, I and my bipartisan group of colleagues, who have been concerned about these and other foreign intelligence surveillance provisions, didn't necessarily want it to expire. In fact, we believed that this was an unnecessary step. It was unnecessary to allow the law to go through the uncertainty of an expiration without having something to put in its place.

We could have and would have and should have done it differently. Fortunately, we were able to reach a deal—a deal that is still unfolding but a deal that is about to be announced on the Senate floor, whereby we will be extending for a few weeks these three expiring provisions, and, at the end of that time, we will be able to vote on a small handful of provisions, amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act framework.

This is necessary. We ought not wait until the President of the United States himself becomes a victim of this. When he has been a victim, we should assume that there are other victims—people whose rights have been invaded, violated as the law has been abused. We know that to be the case.

For that reason, we have negotiated this agreement, whereby we will be able to receive votes on amendments to improve and reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

I want to thank President Trump for bringing this issue to the attention of the American people and for reminding them of the importance of reforming this law. I want to thank the lead cosponsor of the legislation that I have filed in connection with this and of the amendments that we will be considering.

PAT LEAHY from Vermont and I have worked on FISA-related issues for basically the entirety of the 9 years I have spent in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful to him for working with me on this.

I also want to point out that it shouldn't have to come to this. We

shouldn't have to wait until the moment when we are on the eve of the expiration of some important legislation and where we have to wait for the President of the United States to weigh in and lean in and exercise as much leadership as he has to tell us that we ought to reconsider laws that we ourselves have enacted. From time to time, laws require revision, review, and reform. That always, necessarily, requires amendments, and we ought to be ready, able, and willing to vote on amendments as necessary.

Finally, this has become all too symptomatic of a Senate in which amendment votes, while once the norm, have now become the exception. This is unacceptable. It is not a partisan issue. It is neither Republican nor Democratic. It is neither liberal nor conservative. It is simply an American issue. The American people, including each of our constituents from each of the 50 States that we represent, deserve and expect for us to be more than a rubberstamp.

We can't justify our pattern of waiting for legislation to come over from the House of Representatives and then accepting the highly flawed proposition that the House must have gotten it right and we, therefore, must accept as a binary choice the entirety of what they have done, without considering or voting on amendments. This isn't acceptable. We can do better. I am encouraged that in this instance we have chosen to do better. I hope and expect and will continue to demand that we vote on more amendments and that this become the norm once again rather than the exception.

Finally, I am grateful that Senate leadership—Republican and Democratic alike—has chosen to allow us to consider amendments here. We are doing the right thing, and I look forward to more of precisely this kind of activity, not just voting on amendments pivotal to FISA but also broader issues. This isn't just about FISA. This is about everything we do. The minute any of us ever hears an argument suggesting that we have to accept whatever a handful of Senators or a committee or the other House of Congress has proposed and we ought to accept it or deny it—lock, stock, and barrel—without amendments, that is almost always an injurious and a dangerous argument, one that runs contrary to the very purpose for which this body exists.

I am grateful for this opportunity we will have to vote on these amendments. 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. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 6172 be withdrawn.

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

The cloture motion was withdrawn.

#### PROVIDING A 77-DAY EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3501, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3501) to provide a 77-day extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3501) was passed, as follows:

#### S. 3501

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACCESS CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS AND FOR ROVING SURVEILLANCE.

Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

#### SEC. 2. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS TO BE TREATED AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

#### SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on March 14, 2020.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time

to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6172. I further ask that there be 10 hours of debate, equally divided between the proponents and the opponents of the bill, with an hour of debate under the control of the sponsors of each amendment, or their designees, and with Senators LEAHY and WYDEN controlling 1 hour each. I further ask that the only amendments in order be three amendments to be proposed by the following Senators or their designees: LEE, on amicus reforms and exculpatory evidence; PAUL, on rights of Americans; DAINES, on section 215 web browser/search history data collection prohibition; and three side-by-sides to be proposed by Senator McCONNELL, or his designee, on the same topics, with all amendments and the bill subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold for passage; finally, that upon the use or yielding back of that time and upon disposition of the amendments in the order listed, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are at an extraordinary moment in our Nation's history. The President of the United States has declared a national emergency. One has to go back to the early 1900s to the Spanish influenza to find a similar public health threat to the United States of America. We are in the midst of not just a threat in our own country but a global coronavirus pandemic. There are more than 173,000 cases nationwide, and more than 7,300 people have died.

What you see today on the floor of the Senate is exactly the opposite of what we are being advised as a nation we need to do. What you see today on the floor of the Senate are staff people—thank you for being here—protective forces outside the Chamber, and others who are invisible to those coming and going who are part of the ordinary business of the Senate. You see, we did today what the President has told America we should not do, what medical experts have told us we should not do. We have taken unnecessary airline flights to come here to Washington, DC. I was on a plane this morning from Springfield, IL, to Chicago. There were six passengers on the plane. Most people are listening to the advice of the medical experts and avoiding unnecessary travel.

Unfortunately, we were required to come back today from across the United States. Some Members stayed over the weekend because their homes are too far away. Some decided to drive this morning just to be extremely safe. But the fact is, we were asked to take unnecessary airline flights to come



back here today and this week and, frankly, expose ourselves to the possibility of some public health risk and ask our staff to do the same.

In addition to that, we have been counseled by the leaders—both at the State and the Federal levels—not to gather in groups of more than 10. It looks like we are breaking that rule right here on the floor of the Senate. The obvious question is why: Why would we put ourselves at risk? Why would we put our staff at risk and their families to come back here?

There are two issues. The first issue is the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which was brought up on the floor of the Senate last Thursday, and Senator LEE and Senator LEAHY offered the extension of this act for a period of time in return for a few amendments to be debated on the floor. That was rejected.

Just minutes ago, what was rejected last Thursday was accepted. We made this trip back here, and it was not necessary. You have to ask yourselves: Are we being respectful of ourselves, our family, our staff? Are we being respectful of our responsibility as setting a model for the rest of America? I am afraid not.

Now there is this bill remaining that just passed the House of Representatives, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The coronavirus act was one that was negotiated by speaker NANCY PELOSI and the President of the United States through Mr. Mnuchin. That went on for a week, and the bill was agreed to and supported by both. The President even tweeted his support for it. That shows his level of commitment, I suppose. Speaker PELOSI supported it as well. It was a measure that should have passed by a voice vote here in the Senate over the weekend. Instead, we are still talking about it today.

There are measures included in it that are critical for public health. May I give you one example? When the State of Illinois and the city of Chicago asked for protective masks for healthcare workers so that they can avoid infection, they sent us an allotment of 25,000 masks. A State of 12.5 million people was sent 25,000 masks. Those would protect the people working at one major hospital in Chicago for a month. It is totally inadequate.

The last time we faced any kind of epidemic threat like this, we received 1.5 million masks from the stockpile. What is holding up the masks? What is holding up the test kits? Those are legitimate questions.

One of the provisions in this bill that is still sitting here somewhere in Senate limbo would authorize new masks to be released across the United States to my State and others. So while we talk, the masks are not being delivered.

Why, then, aren't we taking up this bill tonight? The coronavirus bill should be taken up at this moment by unanimous consent. Let those who ob-

ject to it come to the floor if they wish and object and explain why. If they have an amendment to offer, so be it. But if it is just to let the ordinary course of things work their way through and maybe we will get around to this by Wednesday or Thursday, shame on us. This is a matter of national emergency and a public health crisis in this country.

What kind of example are we setting by coming back to this Chamber at risk to our staff and the people and ourselves and our families? We have Members of the Senate going in and out of quarantine. They are self-quarantining themselves, and we are acting like it is business as usual. We will get around to it later this week.

What are we waiting for? This is a healthcare emergency. It is time for both political parties to come to the floor—not this empty Chamber—and do our job tonight. There is no excuse for it. If someone has a substantive objection to the bill, state it on the floor. You have plenty of chance to do it. Offer an amendment, if you wish, or just vote no, but for goodness' sake, the American people expect us to do our work.

We are here at risk to ourselves and others. We should do our work, and do it quickly. If this is going to end up in some voice vote that is quietly registered tomorrow, a number of us are going to be very upset because we made this trip here because we had to represent our people who elected us and sent us here thinking we would have to vote.

If we can do this without a vote, so be it. But couldn't this have been done without exposing all of the staff people and all of the protective forces and everyone else to the obvious pandemic that we think is threatening our country in a massive way?

I take this very seriously because I love my family and friends. I wouldn't want any of them to be hurt because of something I have picked up—some virus I have picked up. I have increased my exposure today to be here on this floor, and, tonight, we are going to quietly sneak away and maybe come back tomorrow and actually do some work. We should do it tonight.

This coronavirus emergency should be taken seriously by both parties and taken seriously by the U.S. Senate. It is time for us to act. That is what we were sent here to do. Let's do it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, will the Senator from Illinois yield to an inquiry?

Mr. DURBIN. I am happy to yield.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I am told that Speaker PELOSI has not sent a bill to the Senate yet. Is that your understanding?

Mr. DURBIN. I understand the bill has been sent.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

Has the bill been sent by Speaker PELOSI to the Senate yet?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair is unaware that the bill has arrived.

Mr. RISCH. It is probably tough for us to vote on a bill that hasn't arrived yet.

Mr. DURBIN. Let me defer to the Senator from Idaho.

I have just had this explained by my staff. There is an enrollment correction that was supposed to be taken up on the floor of the House today and sent over with the bill.

Mr. RISCH. I don't disagree with you that we should take it up.

Mr. DURBIN. I understand a Republican Member of the House is objecting to the enrollment correction at this point, and it is being held up there because of his objection.

Mr. RISCH. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I think you just watched what is wrong with this place.

Senator DURBIN comes here and talks about the importance of doing something. Last Thursday, when Speaker PELOSI and Secretary Mnuchin were close to coming up with a deal about what we have to do to stop this virus—keep in mind, the President of the United States first mentioned this in an answer to a question with all the elites in Davos, Switzerland. He first answered a question saying: Oh, this virus is nothing. It will mean nothing.

I think it took him 8 weeks before he declared an emergency. Then, last Thursday, we were supposed to start working on this. We should have. I asked Senator MCCONNELL on this floor—I opened this door, and I pointed down the hall. I said: Senator MCCONNELL should come back here, and let's work on this bill.

Whether they were actually finished doing it in the House down the hall or not, we should be working on this.

Now we have had 4 more days. Senator MCCONNELL had to go back to Kentucky. I don't know what he went back for. We asked him to stay and finish this, to negotiate and do it to take care of stopping this virus, to take care of all the people in my State in Illinois and Senator MARKEY's State and Senator COONS' State and Senator BOOZMAN's State, to take care of all these people who are losing their jobs and don't know what to do.

Senator MCCONNELL went back to Kentucky and wasted 3 days—make that 4 days since today is another day we are wasting. Again, I don't know why he went back. It is 3 more days of people being worried. It is 3 more days of people self-quarantining. It is 3 more days of businesses in Columbus and Dayton shutting down. It is the anguish you feel if you think one of your loved ones is sick. All of this—empty airplanes and all the things that are happening—and we are wasting another day.

I always appreciate the Senator from Idaho bringing up a parliamentary



technical question, but why aren't we doing this? Why aren't we listening to what Senator DURBIN said?

It has been 3 days since the House passed the comprehensive package. It is 3 days and counting for people worried about how they are going to take time off from work if they get sick.

Think about this. The Presiding Officer knows all kinds of service workers in Arkansas; Senator DURBIN knows them in Illinois; Senator MARKEY, in Massachusetts. I know all kinds of workers who are feeling sick. They are making \$12 an hour. They don't have any sick days. They think: Do I go to work and maybe I will get sick and maybe infect my neighbor? Or do I stay home and give up that \$12 an hour—that \$100 I need to make my rent—and then, tomorrow, face the same question and the day after? That is what we are forcing on people. Instead, we are just playing games. We wasted 3 days, and now we are wasting another day.

When a situation changes this quickly, people are scared at home. People are looking for leadership. Leader MCCONNELL and President Trump have failed the people they serve. We need to get help to people today. Let's immediately get to work on the next round of support.

Let me tell you what that next round of support is. We should pass the bill today to help people with unemployment insurance, to help people with sick days, to help people with Medicaid. We should do all that. It means putting our workers first. We shouldn't be bailing out Wall Street. That will be next. You can bet Senator MCCONNELL will hurry when the airlines come for their bailout package and hurry when the banks come for their bailout package and hurry when the big hotel chains come for their bailout package.

We have to put money in the pockets of individuals first. The IRS needs to send an initial check of at least \$2,000 directly to every single working-class, low-income, and middle-class family who can use it so they won't get evicted or won't get foreclosed on. We don't need a corporate middleman to do that. We need to make sure every worker who needs unemployment insurance can get it.

I have spoken to my Governor, who has done a good job on this. He served here with Senator DURBIN. He is Mike DeWine, a Republican. I talked to him three times this week. He will help us speed up the unemployment checks so that they get to workers. We need to make sure that all workers are eligible for unemployment insurance, including independent contractors and people who are self-employed.

Second, we need a temporary expansion of the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit for the next several years.

Third, we need to hold any company accountable that is getting taxpayer dollars. If we are going to help the airlines—and I think we should—it means the airlines can do no stock buybacks.

It means no sending of jobs overseas. It means no outsourcing of jobs to independent and usually low-paid contract workers—food service, custodial, security workers. It means no golden parachutes for executives. It means no using of taxpayer dollars, with which we are bailing them out, to bust unions that are trying to organize in the workplaces. If they want taxpayer money, you commit to using it to help people who make this country work.

Fourth, we need to prevent evictions and foreclosures and provide emergency rental and mortgage assistance to make up for lost wages. Millions of Americans are one lost paycheck away from eviction or foreclosure. You all know the number. Forty percent of Americans don't have \$400 extra to fix their cars. Also, if they lose their paychecks, they can't pay their rent. We need to look at canceling some amount of student loan debt. Through no fault of their own, we know millions of Americans aren't going to be able to make student loan payments. Canceling debt will allow people to get back on their feet.

Since January 22, President Trump has had chance, after chance, after chance to get ahead of this public health crisis. In fact, 2 years ago, I sent him a letter, writing: Why did you fire Admiral Ziemer? Why did you eliminate the office of 40 people in the White House that was in charge of surveilling the world to look for potential pandemics? Why did you fire them? Please reinstate them.

He ignored the letter. He hasn't explained why he eliminated that office. He would have known way before January about this potential pandemic, and if it had still existed, he might have done something about it at the urging of that office. The President has failed in this. Congress can't make the same mistakes. We need to get ahead of the crisis facing family budgets before it is too late.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. BROWN. I yield to the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I ask a question of the Senator from Ohio.

The Senator from Idaho, who is a friend, raised a parliamentary issue, and you have gotten to the heart of the matter with the question of how families are going to survive in the midst of the pandemic and what we are going to do about it. The Senator from Idaho raised a parliamentary issue, and we are guided by rules around here.

To the knowledge of the Senator from Ohio, in the past, has the Senate entered into agreement on bills posted in the House before the papers actually arrived in the Senate?

Mr. BROWN. I thank the Senator from Illinois.

Yes. Sure, we have. If we want to get something done, we get something done. We find a way, through unanimous consent, for all of us to agree.

Who can say that this is anything but a national crisis? Are we going to make our unwillingness to do anything contingent on some parliamentary trick? No. We are paid to do this job. Just because Senator MCCONNELL has taken 4 days and not done it doesn't mean that we shouldn't. We should work.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Senator.

Mr. BROWN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I echo what the Senator from Illinois has said and what the Senator from Ohio has said.

We have a national emergency. We should have already finished this phase of dealing with this crisis, for there are many more phases to deal with. As part of this debate, we should ensure that there is sick leave for every single worker in our country. That is not in this package that is coming through right now. We have to make sure everyone is covered. We need unemployment insurance, and we need to ensure that it extends to workers in the gig economy—tip workers, domestic workers, and contractors. We have to cover people so they stay home. We have to let them know that unemployment insurance is going to extend to them during this crisis.

We cannot allow our inaction—our thinking through of what we have to do—to shut down any potential for this crisis' not growing to a level which we are seeing in other countries. We can do it, but it is the Senate that has to deliberate on these issues, find the solutions, and deliver them to the American people. They are desperate for answers right now. They are being told to go home right now. Waiters, bartenders, and contractors are being told to just go home.

What is going to happen to them if they don't have sick time? What is going to happen to them if they don't have unemployment insurance? What are they going to be doing in terms of caring for their families?

We should be here this week, taking care of the package that has already been agreed to and beginning the debate immediately on everything else we have to do. I will give you an example.

Let's just take the hospitals of our country. For most of the major cities in America, a high percentage of the revenue for those hospitals comes from foreign patients who fly in from around the world and into our major cities. That revenue stream is going to be cut off for an indefinite period of time. Hospitals depend upon elective surgeries. That is going to be cut off for an indefinite period of time. That is the revenue flow that goes into hospitals that then allows them to take care of the poorer people in each and every one of our communities. If they don't have that revenue stream, it is going to place enormous pressure on

them to lay off doctors, to lay off nurses, and to lay off other key personnel because the revenue stream will not be there.

We are the ones who are going to have to provide the revenue stream. At this time, we cannot have a hospital system in crisis in our country. We should be here, deciding whether we are going to provide a fund of \$100 billion or \$200 billion or \$300 billion to ensure our healthcare system stays robust at this time of all times in our history.

We are heading into issue after issue that this Senate has to deal with. If we are here—if we are back—we should deal with it. We should deal with it this week. We should deal with it on the emergency basis that we are telling every family to with regard to this crisis, but every other family is dependent upon us to provide the answers for them and their families.

So I agree with the Senators. This is something that requires our attention. We are here, and we are the answers for them. If we don't give them, then there will be no answers. We know that the first bill—the \$8 billion bill—was three times larger than the White House wanted, but we made sure that the extra funding was going into each and every one of our States. We know that this bill that was just negotiated with the Speaker and the President last week is just being held up by a Republican with regard to a procedural obstacle. That is why.

We have to deal with this on a war footing. We are at war with an invisible enemy that is moving into every single city and town and into every single part of our economy as we speak right now. If we don't provide the defense for our families, then we are going to be looked at as being those who failed the American people.

We should already have robust testing, but we don't. We should have the protective gear in the hands of every doctor and nurse all across our country, but our doctors and nurses are being told to reuse their masks—to reuse them. The Senator from Illinois was already talking about how hard it is to get that extra protective gear for his hospitals, and the same thing is true all across our country.

We know there is a crisis. We know there is a shortage. We know there is a huge gap that exists between what we have and what we are going to need, but we don't have any more time. We didn't use the time in December. We didn't use it in January, and we didn't use it for most of February. There were warnings that were coming, but we now know it is real. We know it is in every community already and in every State already in our Nation.

We should stay here, and we should do this work. We should make sure that our hospitals know for sure that they are going to have the help they need, especially the community hospitals because they are going to be very fragile—very, very fragile—in

terms of the revenue stream going in while great expectations will be expected from them in terms of what they are going to do for their local communities.

So let's stay. Let's debate this. Let's make sure that the frontline workers have the protective gear they need, have the testing equipment they need, and have the guarantee that their salaries are going to be paid and that they are going to be taken care of, because we are going to need them to be putting themselves in harm's way in our country for, potentially, months. This is the time for us to stand up and to stay here in order to get these issues resolved this week. We shouldn't do it next week. We should do it this week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I agree with everything that has been said. I agree that, basically, we should never have left here Thursday night. So many of us could, maybe, drive home. I was able to drive home and was able to drive back. Yet so many people were put in harm's way when they went home on airplanes. As you might know, we don't have the youngest crowd—I think our average age is about 62 here—so it is putting them and their families and, basically, the people they work with in danger also.

Let me tell you what we are talking about here. If we are going to come to the aid of the economy of this country, I have no doubt that Democrats and Republicans will come together to take care and help people. I hope they realize the people who really need help are the people who cannot make it from one week to the next, let alone from one paycheck to the next.

I was out last week just in DC, and I talked to a young waiter—a very, very nice, young man.

I asked: What happens if you have to go home for 2 weeks?

He said: I am finished. I can't make it. I can't make my payments. I can't make my house payment. I can't make my rent payment. I can't make my grocery payment.

He was done. That is how worried he was. He said no one had asked him that question. These are the people we have to worry about.

I want to bring to your attention one more thing. As of 2:30 this afternoon, my State didn't have one reported case. Now, that is great. That is wonderful. I pray to the good Lord that this is the case that we have none, but let me tell you the thing that scares me. I have the most at-risk population base in the Nation. The Kaiser report that came out showed the State of West Virginia as being the most in danger of all of the States with its having the most vulnerable people.

I have over 720,000 elderly. I have over 220,000 who are critically ill under 60 years of age. If you put all of this together, of the over 1.8 million people, I have over 1 million who could be abso-

lutely, totally devastated by this virus if it hits, and we haven't shown one case yet. Of the 1.8 million people I have told you about and of the 1 million who are in vulnerable situations, we have had only 84 tests in my State as of 2:30. Now, 80 have come back negative, and as of 2:30, 4 are unknown.

I am surrounded by five States in this wonderful, little State of mine, West Virginia. These are the most beautiful people in the world, and they have worked hard. A lot of them have respiratory illnesses, and they will be the first to be attacked. If it hits my State and if we are not prepared for it because, basically, we won't even have the tests to identify who will be ill and who will need these treatments and will need the healthcare, the hospital care, what will we do? I don't have the ventilators, and I don't have the respirators. I don't have anything available to that many people who are that vulnerable. What do we do?

I know of all of the financial aid we are talking about and of all of the help that we are going to need. We had better concentrate on how we find a cure—on how we basically take care of the people who are the most vulnerable—and that would, first and foremost, protect the people of America. They are scared to death. I am scared. I am concerned. I am afraid that my State of West Virginia is falling into a lapse to where the people of West Virginia might think: Oh, we are protected. No cases have been reported, so we are in good shape.

I pray to the good Lord that this is the case, but my gut tells me that it is not. We just don't know.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question through the Chair?

Mr. MANCHIN. I yield to the Senator.

Mr. DURBIN. We have the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that passed the House of Representatives early on Saturday morning, which we could consider—and have in the past on a parliamentary basis—and which I have called for, and others have joined me. We should move on this and move on it quickly. The Senator from Massachusetts has expanded it to other areas that we should be considering. While we are here, let's get some work done.

Among the things included in this is the testing. The Senator said there have been 84 tests in the entire State?

Mr. MANCHIN. This is out of 1.8 million people in the most vulnerable State in America.

Mr. DURBIN. It is obvious that you cannot measure the actual rate of infection until you have enough tests of those who are suspicious—who have a fever or a cough.

Mr. MANCHIN. Senator, if you have seen the map of the United States, West Virginia stands out and doesn't show anything. I think, how could that happen?

Mr. DURBIN. We have faced the same thing with 12.5 million people. We have tested 360 a day for the entire State. It is ridiculous.

Mr. MANCHIN. We have tested 84 total.

Mr. DURBIN. I know.

The Governor has told me that we really don't know how many people are infected. We don't know the rate—whether it is going up and at what rate—and whether it is in certain areas of our State and not in others. So, if you don't have testing, you don't have knowledge, and you can't fight a pandemic.

I would just say to the Senator that this was the highest priority in this bill that passed the House of Representatives on Saturday.

Mr. MANCHIN. We should have been here on Saturday.

Mr. DURBIN. We should have been here on Saturday. We should take it up today. What are we waiting for? For goodness' sakes, we ought to do it.

Mr. DURBIN. The other thing is food assistance, and I know your State struggles. There are many people, as you said. It is not paycheck to paycheck; it is week to week. Some of them qualify for food stamps, the SNAP program.

Mr. MANCHIN. I will tell you what we were able to do on that. I sent a letter last week immediately to Sonny Perdue, and he answered immediately. We were able to get all of the kids—because we have so many children in West Virginia who rely on their breakfast and their lunch from the schools for nutrition, we are going to be delivering. The school is doing that.

The State is taking some steps to shut things down. Schools have been shut down. They have said no more community gatherings whatsoever. They have done all of the things they were told to do. We just don't know where the virus may be, if it is there, and how it is going to affect us.

Mr. DURBIN. It starts with testing. It is food assistance, and it is also additional Medicaid money coming back to the State. I am sure the State of West Virginia, like Illinois, desperately needs it.

I was surprised to learn today that the capacity of hospitals in the United States is less than 1 million patients, fewer than 1 million patients. In a nation of 350 million people, we have hospital capacity of less than 1 million, and when it comes to the intensive care units, it is a much, much smaller number than that. So that is our fear. If this goes rampant, it could overwhelm our hospital system.

Certainly Medicaid money back to your State and mine in this bill that passed the House should be authorized tonight. We should vote on this tonight.

Mr. MANCHIN. The economics of this whole thing right now is, first of all, we should know who is infected, where the infection is going, and how rampant this will be. We don't know yet.

Next of all, who is the most vulnerable economically? The people who work day to day, paycheck to paycheck, and week to week. That is where the relief—

Mr. DURBIN. Medical leave.

Mr. MANCHIN. Exactly. We have to do some things and do them quickly. And if this thing doesn't come up, we should sit here and protest until it does come up. There is no reason we can't do it tonight.

Mr. DURBIN. There is no reason. And if the President was credible—and I believe he was when he called this a national healthcare emergency—we ought to act like it.

Mr. MANCHIN. Well, today he recognized it and came forth and basically said today in that press release that I listened to—he basically acknowledged the threat of what we are dealing with and the enormity of what we are dealing with. It was the first time I have heard basically the concern that we have that this thing is bigger than any of us, but all of us together can fight this.

But I would ask the majority leader: Mr. Majority Leader, we should have stayed here. Yet we are here now. Let's do it.

Mr. DURBIN. Let's do it.

Mr. MANCHIN. Let's do it. No blame. No blame. Let's just do it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly about hard decisions. There are hard decisions that have been made all over our country in recent days and weeks—decisions by superintendents of school districts on whether to shut down their schools and send their children home; hard decisions made by mayors about how to provide for first responders, for those who run the paramedic and ambulance and police services, and the 9/11 centers and the public hospitals; decisions by Governors about where and when and whether to declare states of emergency. We have seen decisions made by faith leaders, by sports leaders, by school leaders—leaders of all types at all levels.

But the most important decisions that are being made tonight are around America's kitchen tables, where folks are looking at each other and saying: How much longer will I have a job? How much longer will we be able to put food on the table? How will we care for our kids who are unexpectedly home from school or college or overseas for days or weeks? How much longer can we stay in our home before we have to go see our mom, our grandmom, our uncle, our father, who is in a skilled nursing facility, who is scared and alone?

Just this afternoon, seven counties in California announced a shelter-in-place order. We have seen counties, cities, and communities all over our country gradually move from a very relaxed and casual attitude, to a very concerned attitude, to being on high alert, to now, in half a dozen communities around our country, looking more like Italy than they do like America of a month ago.

It has been a slow-rolling response, and we should have been here this

weekend to make sure that the Senate of the United States stepped forward and did our job and made our hard decisions.

I take some encouragement from the fact that the first round of support—\$8.3 billion—got crafted, taken up, passed, and signed into law in just a matter of 2 weeks—long overdue, but \$8.3 billion that went out for vaccine development, for test kits, for personal protective equipment, to put a floor underneath this burgeoning public health crisis that is COVID-19 as it has spread now to every State in our country.

The next package that has already been passed by the House—that should be considered by this body—we must take up and pass immediately, and it directly speaks to those hard decisions at homes all over our country. It speaks to folks who are concerned that they don't have health insurance. It speaks to folks who are concerned that they don't have unemployment insurance. It speaks to folks who don't know where their kids—who used to get school lunches—are going to get their next good meal. It speaks to some of the challenges of the most vulnerable in our country.

I don't know about my colleagues, but I took a lot of phone calls this weekend from constituents who are concerned, who are anxious, who are angry, who want to know what we are doing at the Federal level to provide backup; folks who run nonprofits that are struggling to keep their services available and to stay open under great pressure; folks who run faith services in our community who canceled their services, closed their buildings, but now have half a dozen organizations communities rely on, whether it is a food pantry, a clothes closet, or a job-training service; folks who are anxious about what will happen to their staff and their students at their schools; in particular, folks who are anxious about what will happen to the seniors in their skilled nursing facilities or in their hospitals.

As you have heard my colleagues speak to, our hospital system does not have the capacity for thousands and thousands of newly diagnosed folks to present themselves at emergency rooms, seeking hospitalization around our country.

We should act immediately to deliver the sorts of mobilized Federal resources that the Army Corps of Engineers, the Veterans' Administration, the Department of Defense, and State and local FEMA affiliates and agencies can deliver to scale up our response in a prompt and appropriate way.

We should not leave this building and session until we have taken up and put together a package that will provide an appropriate stimulus for working families all over our country, provide a floor for small businesses and for working families who will be gravely concerned tonight about what will happen tomorrow.

We have hard choices to make, but that is why people hire us. Instead of being here in a largely empty Chamber with nothing on our agenda tonight, we should be taking up, debating, passing, and sending to the President for signature bold strokes that will give confidence to the American people and address the concerns that families all over our Nation are facing tonight, and then, for our health and the health of our staff and our families, we should go into recess. But we should not do so, as we just did for a long weekend, until we take up and pass these pressing measures of national interest.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, let me associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Delaware and others who spoke before him.

We are here. We are all in town. We came back for an expected vote tonight that did not occur. There is no excuse for us not to be voting at this moment on an assistance package that is going to be dispositive on some of the toughest decisions that many American families will make over the course of this year or next.

Let me drill down on what those decisions are. Right now, there are parents in my State of Connecticut who have to go to work tomorrow but have a child who is home from school, and they have to make a decision as to whether they are going to forgo tomorrow's paycheck and stay home from work, possibly face termination or discipline, or leave their child at home alone or in an unsafe environment.

There are thousands and thousands of families in my State who cannot afford to miss a paycheck—a paycheck—that is the difference between being able to put food on the table or not, whether or not their kids have diapers, whether the lights stay on. That is the decision many families are making tomorrow in Connecticut.

Here is another decision that many individuals are making in my State: Tonight there are a lot of moms and dads who have a cough, who are starting to feel a little fever coming on, but they have work tomorrow, and they have a paycheck they need for their family, and they don't have paid sick leave as part of their compensation package. That is not part of their contractual deal with their employer. So they are making that decision. Do I forgo a paycheck? Do I risk getting fired or disciplined, or do I go to work even though I am not feeling well, even though I have symptoms that I know are problematic?

They are facing those decisions tonight because we weren't here this weekend, because a bill passed the House that had in it an answer for many of those families—not all of those families—had guaranteed paid sick leave for thousands and thousands of workers all across this country who were waiting for that assurance that if they stayed home with their child who

is home from school or they decided to stay home with the beginnings of symptoms that look like COVID-19, they would be protected financially. That bill was ready for action here in the Senate, and had we passed it on Saturday or Sunday, there would have been thousands of parents, thousands of workers, who would have stayed home today. But they didn't. They didn't.

I know this to be true. I know this to be true—that there were many, many workers who went to work today even though they might not have been feeling well, didn't stay home with their kids because they didn't feel they could go without that paycheck. So this is about real-life, minute-by-minute decisions that are being made by families in this country.

I know sometimes it doesn't feel that important if we wait a day. I know sometimes it feels like a bummer if we have to miss out on a weekend. But not this weekend. Not today. These decisions that families are making are fundamentally different if we do it a day ahead of time.

The epidemic has less of a chance at winning if we pass this legislation tonight rather than tomorrow or Wednesday or Thursday. And I worry about that because I have listened to some of my Republican colleagues suggest over the last 24 hours that we are not going to pass this bill, that we are going to change the bill, that we are going to amend it and we are going to send it back to the House.

This bill is ready. It has bipartisan support. The President announced on Friday night that he was for it. No reason to wait in order to give our constituents some assurances, in order to make sure they are making the right decisions for their family and for their health and for all of our health rather than decisions necessary in order to guarantee that next paycheck comes, which is essential—essential—for their family's financial health.

Lastly, I just don't want to let the President of the United States off the hook here. I watched yet another one of these press conferences yesterday in which he once again sort of glossed over the gravity of the moment, in which he hinted that young people didn't have as much to worry about as older people, in which he once again savaged the press, attacking them right at the moment when Americans are relying on the media to give them information that is going to keep them safe.

I talked to several of my hospital leaders today, and they talked about the fact that not only do they need personal protective equipment—they are running out—not only do they need more ventilators, but some of my hospitals don't even have the swabs necessary to do the tests. That is not an issue today because they can't get the tests processed, but once we get the testing capacity ramped up, they are not sure they will have the swabs necessary to do the tests.

It is just inexcusable that we got caught this unready. It is inexcusable that many of us were sitting in a meeting with the President's representatives in early February, begging for a supplemental bill to be sent to the Senate and House then so that we would be ready when the disease ramped up and were told by the administration that they didn't need it, that they had enough resources.

It is unacceptable that to this day, this President doesn't understand the urgency of this crisis. This is a crisis of a pandemic sweeping the country, but it is also a crisis of leadership. It is also a crisis of leadership. And at the very least, we need to keep the heat on this President to be accurate in his portrayal of the scope and the danger of this national public health emergency, and on a daily basis, he is failing even to just be honest with the American people.

I really hope that we get this done tomorrow. It doesn't look like we are coming in tonight. For my constituents in Connecticut, they can't wait another 24 hours, they can't wait another 48 hours to know whether they are going to have at least some modicum of protection if they choose to do the right thing by their family, do the right thing by their health. We need to provide them that assurance, and we need to do it immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to conclude for the sake of the staff and yourself and others who are here, who, as I mentioned earlier, are at risk. We are all at risk with this pandemic.

But just to summarize as quickly as I can, we returned this week when we were supposed to be back in our States. We returned this week because there was pressing legislative business. One of the items before us, raised by Senator McCONNELL, the Republican leader, was the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act reauthorization. There are some Senators who have questions and objections to the bill that passed the House. Those Senators on the Republican side and on the Democratic side came to the floor last Thursday and said: We will agree to an extension of this law if you will give us a chance to actually debate our concerns on the floor of the Senate. That request was rejected last week by Senator McCONNELL.

So tonight we were going to have the showdown vote to see whether or not we move forward on this, and, lo and behold, moments before that vote, Senator McCONNELL agreed to what he refused to agree to last Thursday. Yes, we will have a temporary extension, and we will have debate and amendments before that extension expires.

So one of the reasons that we were drawn back to Washington, when we were counseled by all the medical experts not to take unnecessary airline flights, was for a matter that was resolved without a vote tonight.

I came to the floor after that and said: If that is the case, then, for goodness sakes, the only other remaining matter pending before us is the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, passed by the House of Representatives in the early hours of Saturday: free testing for coronavirus, strengthening food assistance, safeguarding Medicaid benefits, enhancing unemployment assistance, and establishing paid leave. My request then was and still is, Why don't we pass that by voice vote? Let's do it.

This was a measure agreed to on a bipartisan basis by Speaker NANCY PELOSI and by the President of the United States, Donald Trump. If the two of them can come together and agree on it, are you telling me we can't agree on it in the Senate? And if someone wants to vote no, so be it. Place your vote on the record. But for some reason we are not going to do that. We are going to sit around tonight and come back tomorrow.

Will we do it tomorrow? I don't know. But there is no sense of urgency in the Senate, as there should be—first, for the people in this country who are facing this virus and the disruption in their own personal lives. Some of those people are losing jobs, and some are sick and should stay away from their jobs. They want to know what this bill says that passed the House of Representatives—that there is medical leave for them if they are sick and can't work, and then, if they lose their jobs, if there is going to be some assistance for their families in this time of trouble. Those are reasonable requests by every family. That is the highest priority. Why would we wait to take that up? Why would we delay that decision and leave more uncertainty among the people of Illinois and across America? There is no reason or excuse for it. Let's get that done.

Secondly, this measure also says that we are going to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to solve this problem. Let's take this up tomorrow morning.

As was noted before, we raised, in the initial bill to deal with this pandemic, the President's ask from \$2 billion to \$8 billion and did it on a bipartisan basis to put the medical and healthcare resources to work across America. We should and we did, and we did it with a minimum of debate on a bipartisan basis.

This bill, the second bill in the package, should have been treated exactly the same way. It should have moved through the Senate without asking all the Senators to return, the staff to come here, the Capitol Hill Police and others to protect us, and all the staff support that we have. We didn't have to go through this. We should have done this.

If Senator MCCONNELL and the Republican leadership would have reached out, he would have found there was a lot of cooperation available on our side of the aisle—again, on a bipartisan basis.

I don't disagree with what the Senator from Massachusetts said. There is more to be done—a lot more to be done. We will discover it, and we should move on it quickly. But for the time being, pass this bill. Tell the American people we heard you and we know what we are up against, and we are in it together, on a bipartisan basis.

Let's not dream up some way in the Senate rules to drag this out day after weary day and expose one another to the virus that has been rampantly crossing this country and threatening us every single day. We need to do this work, get it done, and get it done quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I came here today from Connecticut, where I have been to hospitals and local public health departments, small and large businesses, places where healthcare is provided and where the backbone of our economy is done. And I came here to vote. I came here to vote on a package passed by an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives.

That overwhelming bipartisan spirit should be what animates us as we seek to save lives and livelihoods. We are literally on the cusp of an existential crisis in this country that will transform the lives of almost every American of almost every age and background and religious creed. Yet, in the face of that crisis, we will have no vote tonight. That is disgraceful. It is shameful.

In the course of traveling around Connecticut, I have visited hospitals in Milford, Hartford, and in other places around the State and local health departments and with local officials who have said to me that there is still inadequate testing because the Federal Government has still failed to fulfill its promise to provide that testing.

There are fears that the surge of health cases as a result of coronavirus will deplete the resources of hospitals and other healthcare facilities because there are deficient numbers of ICUs and ventilators, and still the Federal Government has failed to provide them.

There is fear and anxiety about the future of our economy when parents have to make decisions about whether to stay home now to take care of their children because they are out of school or because their family has one person who is ill from this virus, and they are all quarantined.

Will they be able to pay their mortgages and put food on the table? They are literally living from paycheck to paycheck. They are trying to make it in real time, right now.

Likewise, I met this morning with small business owners and managers who are fearful they will literally become insolvent, they will go bankrupt, they will go under because they have insufficient resources to weather this

financial storm. They are receiving no revenue, but they still have overhead expenses. If they are restaurants, they are now, in effect, closed. If they are retail establishments, most people are staying home. If they are small businesses, the backbone of the economy in providing jobs, they are challenged and they have to make real decisions in real time, right now.

The package that is available for us to vote on would provide relief to those families and those businesses, to people who are anxious about the future of their lives and livelihoods, who have to make those hard decisions right now, tonight, about what they will do. It would provide paid sick leave and emergency medical and family leave and strengthen unemployment compensation, as well as tax credits. For our States, it would provide a kind of expanded Medicaid support—\$440 million for Connecticut alone and hundreds of millions for other States around the country.

We need to embark on that program of massive support and sweeping international cooperation and unsparing truth telling about the dimension of this crisis—no more magical thinking or happy talk. We are about to see numbers soar, and, as Anthony Fauci said, we are about to see Americans hunker down, as they must do, and, in that period, what we have before us in legislation will mean, potentially, life and death decisions. Time matters. Hours and days are profoundly significant when families have to make these decisions. We can delay, but it is to the ultimate profound damage of those lives, and we can make a difference if we act now.

We could have acted by unanimous consent over the weekend. I am sorry that the Senate went home and that there was no action. But we need to act now—if not tonight, tomorrow morning. It should have been this afternoon because the loss of time is a loss of opportunity that we cannot afford.

The small business people who met with me this morning, the health directors in New London and in other cities, such as Hartford, the hospital administrators in Hartford and Milford, the local officials, the mayors around the State of Connecticut, and the small business community who were hosted today by the MetroHartford Alliance said to me: We need action.

We have an obligation to act. We cannot allow time to pass without action. We owe it to the people of Connecticut and the American people that there be action to meet that surge and challenge for the hospitals, to provide that assistance in grants, not just loans, in this package and then in a next package.

There must be additional steps. I support the initiative that I understand may be coming from Senator SCHUMER and others and join in that initiative for hundreds of billions of dollars in aid to meet this crisis on the homefront as well as in the economic arena.

Truth telling to the American people means recognizing the extraordinary, unprecedented, historic magnitude of the challenge before us. The scope and scale of potential suffering can be reduced. We owe it to the American people to act. There is no excuse for delay. The failure to act is unconscionable and inconceivable, given the magnitude of the challenge but also given the resolute and resilient spirit that I have seen across Connecticut. Whether it is with Americans donating to people who need it—supplies and other kinds of necessities—or the spirit of giving that I have seen among faith leaders and public officials, the courage of police and firefighters and emergency responders, and the dedication of healthcare providers, whether it is in hospitals or clinics like Charter Oak in Hartford and across Connecticut, everywhere that I have visited, I have seen that American spirit coming forward—the great, positive spirit of America and the ingenuity. That was the word that one of the small business people this morning used to myself and David Griggs at the MetroHartford Alliance. The ingenuity of meeting this challenge, whether it is in research for new vaccines or devising new ways to deliver the tests or providing for more ventilators and intensive care units—that ingenuity is truly American. The dedication of those healthcare givers, first responders, small business people, local officials, and others around the State and around the country ought to inspire us to do better and to take this vote and do our job.

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

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE OUTBREAK OF CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) THAT INVOKES SECTION 1135 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, TO ALLOW THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO EXERCISE AUTHORITY UNDER THAT SECTION TO TEMPORARILY WAIVE OR MODIFY CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT PRIVACY RULE THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 13, 2020—PM 53

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 201 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1621), I hereby report that I have exercised my authority to declare that the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the United States constitutes a national emergency. This declaration invokes section 1135 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. 1320b-5, to allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to exercise the authority under that section to temporarily waive or modify certain requirements of the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance programs and of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Rule throughout the duration of the public health emergency declared in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I am enclosing a copy of the proclamation I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 2020.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 760. An act to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 893. An act to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications

systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems, infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.

S. 1678. An act to express United States support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world.

H.R. 1365. An act to make technical corrections to the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

H.R. 4334. An act to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4803. An act to facilitate the automatic acquisition of citizenship for lawful permanent resident children of military and Federal Government personnel residing abroad, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6160. An act to extend the chemical facility anti-terrorism standards program of the Department of Homeland Security.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, Mr. KILMER of Washington, Mr. GOMEZ of California, and Mr. CROW of Colorado.

The message further announced that pursuant to Executive Order No. 12131, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the President's Export Council: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, and Mr. GOMEZ of California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. DEFAZIO of Oregon, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELBENE of Washington, and Mr. MORELLE of New York.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 16, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 760. An act to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 893. An act to require the President to develop a strategy to ensure the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems and infrastructure in the United States and to assist allies and strategic partners in maximizing the security of next generation mobile telecommunications systems,



infrastructure, and software, and for other purposes.

S. 1678. An act to express United States support for Taiwan's diplomatic alliances around the world.

### 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. MCCONNELL:

S. 3501. A bill to provide a 77-day extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3502. A bill to delay the implementation date of the current expected credit losses methodology for estimating allowances for credit losses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

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; considered and passed.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 544. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2020 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3129

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3129, a bill to provide for certain reforms with respect to the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 3501. A bill to provide a 77-day extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3501

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACCESS CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS AND FOR ROVING SURVEILLANCE.

Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

#### SEC. 2. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS TO BE TREATED AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.

Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

#### SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on March 14, 2020.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. LOEFFLER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. DURBIN):

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; considered and passed.

S. 3503

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARNING BY REASON OF EMERGENCIES AND HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a program of education approved by a State approving agency, or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs when acting in the role of a State approving agency, that is converted from being offered on-site at an educational institution to being offered by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may continue to provide educational assist-

ance under the laws administered by the Secretary without regard to such conversion, including with respect to paying any—

(1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code; or

(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chapters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) APPLICABILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a) shall apply during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term "educational institution" has the meaning given that term in section 3452 of title 38, United States Code, and includes an institution of higher learning (as defined in such section).

(2) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The term "program of education" has the meaning given that term in section 3002 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) STATE APPROVING AGENCY.—The term "State approving agency" has the meaning given that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

#### SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 544—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2020 AS "NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 544

Whereas colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States;

Whereas it is estimated that, in 2020, 147,950 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 53,200 individuals will die from the disease;

Whereas colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer because screening tests can allow for the discovery and removal of polyps before the polyps become cancerous;

Whereas screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early, which is when the disease is most treatable;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services estimates that if every individual 50 years of age or older had regular screening tests, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is 90 percent, but only 39 percent of all diagnoses occur at this stage;

Whereas screening tests can reduce the incidence of colorectal cancer and mortality, but approximately 1 in 3 adults between 50 and 75 years of age are not current with recommended colorectal cancer screening;



Whereas educational efforts can help inform the public on methods to prevent and screen for, as well as detect early symptoms of, colorectal cancer; and

Whereas public awareness and educational campaigns on colorectal cancer prevention, screening, and symptoms are held during the month of March each year: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of March 2020 as “National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month”; and

(B) the goals and ideals of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

# AUTHORIZING 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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. 3503, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3503) 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3503) was passed as follows:

S. 3503

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## SECTION 1. CONTINUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION CONVERTED TO DISTANCE LEARNING BY REASON OF EMERGENCIES AND HEALTH-RELATED SITUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a program of education approved by a State approving

agency, or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs when acting in the role of a State approving agency, that is converted from being offered on-site at an educational institution to being offered by distance learning by reason of an emergency or health-related situation, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary may continue to provide educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary without regard to such conversion, including with respect to paying any—

(1) monthly housing stipends under chapter 33 of title 38, United States Code; or

(2) payments or subsistence allowances under chapters 30, 31, 32, and 35 of such title and chapters 1606 and 1607 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) APPLICABILITY PERIOD.—Subsection (a) shall apply during the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—The term “educational institution” has the meaning given that term in section 3452 of title 38, United States Code, and includes an institution of higher learning (as defined in such section).

(2) PROGRAM OF EDUCATION.—The term “program of education” has the meaning given that term in section 3002 of title 38, United States Code.

(3) STATE APPROVING AGENCY.—The term “State approving agency” has the meaning given that term in section 3671 of title 38, United States Code.

## SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

## ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, March 17; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous con-

sent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:19 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

RODNEY K. BROWN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 13, 2024, VICE JEFFREY S. HALL, TERM EXPIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JAMES H. ANDERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE DAVID JOEL TRACHTENBERG, RESIGNED.

### CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NANCY B. BECK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018, VICE ANN MARIE BUERKLE, TERM EXPIRED.

NANCY B. BECK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE.

### NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ROBERT JOSEPH KRUCKEMEYER, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE DOROTHY KOSINSKI, TERM EXPIRED.

### FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

RICHARD GIACOLONE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR, VICE ALLISON BECK, RESIGNED.

### NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

MARVIN KAPLAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2025. (REAPPOINTMENT)

### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

ANDREA R. LUCAS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2025, VICE VICTORIA A. LIPNIC, TERM EXPIRING.

### NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

LAUREN MCGARITY MCFERRAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

JOCELYN SAMUELS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2021, VICE CONSTANCE SMITH BARKER, TERM EXPIRED.

KEITH E. SONDERLING, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024, VICE CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, TERM EXPIRED.

### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. EUGENE H. BLACK III

#### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

#### To be colonel

WILLIAM A. FORBES

#### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be lieutenant commander

JAMES G. BUCKLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL G. MATSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

KEVAN M. MELLENDICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

ANDREW S. MORRIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

ANDREW D. CORDREY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

NICHOLAS R. LEINWEBER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be captain*

SEAN A. MCKAY

## FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

MICHAEL J. ADLER, OF MARYLAND  
ARUNA S. G. AMIRTHANAYAGAM, OF NEW YORK  
ASSIYA ASHRAF-MILLER, OF VIRGINIA  
AMBER MICHELE BASKETTE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MARK J. BIEDLINGMAIER, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH BOOKBINDER, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT DOUGLAS BOSWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW GORDON BOYSE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
NATALIE E. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK JOSEPH CASSAYRE, OF VIRGINIA  
CAROL-ANNE CHANG, OF VIRGINIA  
KAREN K. W. CHOE-FICHTE, OF WASHINGTON  
ERIC SCOTT COHAN, OF FLORIDA  
ROBIN LISA DUNNIGAN, OF VIRGINIA  
JEWELL ELIZABETH EVANS, OF MISSISSIPPI  
STEVEN H. FAGIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ERIC A. FICHTE, OF WASHINGTON  
KAREN A. FINER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JONATHAN FRITZ, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSHUA D. GLAZEROFF, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD HARRIS GLENN, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN T. GODFREY, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER HALL GODFREY, OF VIRGINIA  
RALPH A. HAMILTON, OF TEXAS  
MICHAEL P. HANKEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MICHAEL G. HEATH, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT B. HILTON, OF MICHIGAN  
COLLEEN ANNE HOEY, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL D. HOROWITZ, OF VIRGINIA  
EDGARD DANIEL KAGAN, OF VIRGINIA  
KRISTIN M. KANE, OF CALIFORNIA  
LISA S. KENNA, OF MARYLAND  
GEORGE P. KENT, OF VIRGINIA  
YURI KIM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ADAM DUANE LAMOREAUX, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHLEEN G. LIVELY, OF VIRGINIA  
THEODORE J. LYNG, OF VIRGINIA  
MEREDITH CLARE MCEVOY, OF VIRGINIA  
ALAN D. MELTZER, OF VIRGINIA  
MANUEL P. MICALLER, OF CALIFORNIA  
MITCHELL R. MOSS, OF TEXAS  
VIRGINIA E. MURRAY, OF MARYLAND  
COURTNEY ROBIN NEMROFF, OF NEW YORK  
ROBERT W. OGBURN, OF MARYLAND  
KEVIN M. O'REILLY, OF VIRGINIA  
SANDRA SPRINGER OUDKIRK, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW A. PALMER, OF VIRGINIA

WOODWARD C. PRICE, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID JEREMY RANZ, OF MARYLAND  
JOEL RICHARD REIFMAN, OF FLORIDA  
DAVID DALE REIMER, OF VIRGINIA  
HUGO F. RODRIGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA  
DOMINIC A. SABRUNO, OF VIRGINIA  
MICAELA A. SCHWEITZER-BLUHM, OF CALIFORNIA  
BEHZAD SHAHBAZIAN, OF MARYLAND  
GREG ALAN SHERMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFERSON D. SMITH, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES BROWARD STORY, OF FLORIDA  
RONALD W. STUART, OF VIRGINIA  
GAVIN A. SUNDWALL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
TRACY JO THOMAS, OF VIRGINIA  
GREGORY DEAN THOME, OF VIRGINIA  
JENNIFER S. TSENG, OF COLORADO  
HEATHER CATHERINE VARIAVA, OF VIRGINIA  
STEVEN CRAIG WALKER, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT PATRICK WALLER, OF MARYLAND  
JAN LIAM WASLEY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW ALAN WEILLER, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT WEINHOLD, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIC PAUL WHITAKER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
EDWARD ANTHONY WHITE, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS KAVON YAZDGERDI, OF VIRGINIA  
HUGO YUE YON, OF MARYLAND  
AZIZ Y. YOUNES, OF TEXAS  
JOSEPH MICHAEL YOUNG, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

ELIZA F. AL-LAHAM, OF VIRGINIA  
JEFFREY J. ANDERSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SUMERA ASHRUF, OF MARYLAND  
NATALIE A. BAKER, OF TEXAS  
STEPHEN B. BANKS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SARAH M. BERAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DAVID M. BIRDSEY, OF MARYLAND  
DANIEL R. BISCHOF, OF MARYLAND  
STEPHANIE L. BOWERS, OF VIRGINIA  
JOHN DANIEL BOYLL, OF TEXAS  
CLINTON S. BROWN, OF NEW YORK  
RAVI S. CANDADAI, OF TEXAS  
ANGELA M. CERVETTI, OF VIRGINIA  
JEREMY A. CORNFORTH, OF CONNECTICUT  
KEVIN T. COVERT, OF MARYLAND  
SARA M. CRAIG, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK W. CULLINANE, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD R. CUSTIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MARTIN A. DALE, OF VIRGINIA  
TIMMY T. DAVIS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
NATHANIEL P. DEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ISABELLA DETWILER, OF MARYLAND  
MATTHEW STEVEN DOLBOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
KAREN L. ENSTROM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
SUSAN K. FALATKO, OF VIRGINIA  
CHERYL L. FERNANDES, OF VIRGINIA  
VERNELLE T. FITZPATRICK, OF VIRGINIA  
KATHRYN L. FLACHSBART, OF VIRGINIA  
AARON P. FORSBERG, OF MARYLAND  
NATASHA S. FRANCESCHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DAVID J. GAINER, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN P. GARRO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JEFFREY G. GIAUQUE, OF VIRGINIA  
NIKOLAS E. GRANGER, OF WASHINGTON  
ROBERT J. GREENAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
RAGINI GUPTA, OF MARYLAND  
TIMOTHY MICHAEL HANWAY, OF MARYLAND  
JOSHUA M. HARRIS, OF VIRGINIA  
LESLIE M. HAYDEN, OF FLORIDA  
JAMES DENVER HERREN, OF VIRGINIA  
IRVIN HICKS, OF MARYLAND  
JOHN J. HILL, OF VIRGINIA  
PATRICIA L. HOFFMAN, OF VIRGINIA  
NEIL W. HOP, OF WASHINGTON  
JAYNE A. HOWELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MATTHEW C. HURLEY, OF VIRGINIA  
BELINDA JACKSON FARRIER, OF VIRGINIA  
RAHIMA KANDAHARI, OF VIRGINIA  
JON C. KARBBER, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW E. KEENE, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS A. KELSEY, OF MARYLAND  
DANIEL B. KING, OF DELAWARE  
ROBERT T. KOEPCKE, OF VIRGINIA

RACHNA S. KORHONEN, OF NEW JERSEY  
JUDY H. KUO, OF MARYLAND  
DEBORAH Y. LARSON, OF VIRGINIA  
JOANN M. LOCKARD, OF VIRGINIA  
PETER W. LORD, OF FLORIDA  
MARGARET R. MACCALLUM, OF VIRGINIA  
DENISE M. MARSH, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLES KENT MAY, OF CALIFORNIA  
GRAHAM D. MAYER, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIN CATHLEEN MCCONAHA, OF NEW YORK  
KARA C. McDONALD, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH B. MELLOTT, OF FLORIDA  
DAVID JOSE MICO, OF VIRGINIA  
JENIFER HEATHER MOORE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DAVID MUNIZ, OF VIRGINIA  
MATTHEW MURRAY, OF MARYLAND  
SHANE I. MYERS, OF VIRGINIA  
MARGARET H. NARDI, OF VIRGINIA  
REBECCA HOISINGTON NEFF, OF VIRGINIA  
JEREMMY M. NEITZKE, OF VIRGINIA  
ROHIT S. NEPAL, OF MARYLAND  
GEORGE A. NOLL, OF MARYLAND  
JOHN D. NYLIN, OF VIRGINIA  
ERIKA A. OLSON, OF WASHINGTON  
PAUL EVANS POLETES, OF VIRGINIA  
MUSTAFA M. POPAL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ELIZABETH CARUSO POWER, OF VIRGINIA  
GAUTAM A. RANA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JUDITH RAVIN, OF VIRGINIA  
JASON P. REBHOLZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ANNELIESE L. REINEMEYER, OF VIRGINIA  
WENDY CROOK RYDE, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK A. SCHAPIRO, OF NEW YORK  
JOHN PAUL SCHUTTE, OF VIRGINIA  
ALICE FUGATE SEDDON, OF TEXAS  
MARC L. SHAW, OF FLORIDA  
ANDREW K. SHERR, OF COLORADO  
ALISON SHORTER-LAWRENCE, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN A. SHOTT, OF VIRGINIA  
LONNIE REECE SMYTH, OF TEXAS  
VINCENT D. SPERA, OF VIRGINIA  
TERRY STEERS-GONZALEZ, OF ALABAMA  
MARK E. STROH, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL A. SULLIVAN, OF TENNESSEE  
SHERRY Z. SYKES, OF FLORIDA  
SARAH OLIVIA TAKATS, OF VIRGINIA  
VICTORIA J. TAYLOR, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ELIA E. TELLO, OF NORTH DAKOTA  
NICOLE DAWN THERIOT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ROBERT W. THOMAS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
ELIZABETH K. TRUDEAU, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SCOTT C. WALKER, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL S. WATZLAVICK, OF VIRGINIA  
RICHARD TSUTOMU YONEOKA, OF VIRGINIA  
EARL J. ZIMMERMAN, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MARK R. BRANDT, OF VIRGINIA  
STEVEN ROBERT BRDA, OF FLORIDA  
KELLY S. BRIDEN, OF FLORIDA  
BART L. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK J. DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA  
OTTO FREDERICK DICKMAN, OF UTAH  
WILLIAM B. GANNON, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
RALPH A. GASPARD, OF VIRGINIA  
CHRISTOPHER J. GILLIS, OF FLORIDA  
MISTY S. KNOTTS, OF VIRGINIA  
CHARLES J. LILLY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MICHAEL R. LOMBARDO, OF VIRGINIA  
JAMES G. MARTIN, OF FLORIDA  
SHANE C. PIERCE, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL J. REGAL, OF VIRGINIA  
THOMAS E. RICHARDSON, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL STUART ROSS, OF MARYLAND  
TANYA S. SEARS, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SEAN A. SIRKER, OF VIRGINIA  
ELAINE S. TIANG-CHU, OF VIRGINIA  
MARK VANELL, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
KEVIN L. WAGGANER, OF MISSOURI  
IVAN M. WATSON, OF VIRGINIA  
IVAN A. WRAY, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA