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Senate

The Senate met at 4 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 Lord God, we again thank You for the life and legacy of Representative John Robert Lewis.

Lord, accept our gratitude for his ethical congruence that motivated him to find a moral way to get in the way. We are grateful that his passion for freedom summoned our Nation to embrace our best hopes and not our worst fears. Inspired by his exemplary pilgrimage, may our lawmakers strive to live with such integrity that they will stand on the right side of history.

Lord, help our Senators to strive to see You more clearly, to love You more dearly, and to follow You more nearly day by day.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 (Ms. ERNST). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Former Vice President Biden and Minority Leader SCHUMER have indicated a willingness to end the so-called filibuster if Democrats gain a majority in the U.S. Senate after this year's election.

Meanwhile, Democrats used the same rule to prevent even taking up Senator SCOTT's very thoughtful police reform legislation. The rule in question is the cloture rule, which brings debate and amendments to a close so we can get to the finality of a bill. What Democrats blocked was ending debate on proceeding to police reform and starting to consider any amendments that wanted to be offered, but it would have taken yet another cloture vote to get to final passage.

The cloture rule ensures that no police reform bill could be passed by the U.S. Senate unless at least 60 Senators were satisfied with the outcome of the amendment process. In other words, it guarantees that the concerns of the minority party—whether that be Republican or Democrat—would have to be addressed. There was no excuse for preventing the Senate from even beginning the legislative process on this extremely important and timely issue of police reform.

There is also no excuse for Democrats who claimed to oppose the 60-vote requirement to cut off debate on principle when they were last in the majority, who then immediately began using cloture to block bills that had majority support when they lost their majority, and who still continue to use cloture to block progress on important issues today, but who now fully admit that they will change the Senate institution—the protection for the minority—if it suits their partisan purpose in the future.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. McCONNELL. Today, as we speak, the U.S. Congress confers a rare and high honor on a national hero who richly deserves it. Our distinguished late colleague, Congressman John Lewis, is lying in state in the Rotunda.

I had the honor to speak at this afternoon's ceremony—how amazing to reflect on John's incredible American life. It began deep in the segregated South, ran through lunch counters in Nashville, jail cells in Mississippi, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and brought him to the halls of Congress.

He made heroic contributions to our Nation's march toward racial justice. He also brought an unforgettable example of moral urgency, respect, and love to Washington that left an impact on everyone he met. His example will be missed here in the Capitol. He will be remembered forever by a grateful Nation because, as far as I am concerned, it is not really the rest of us in Congress who are conveying an honor upon John Lewis today, not this time. Rather, it is John who is bringing greater honor to us, to this Capitol, with his presence, one final time.

HEALS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, COVID-19 has killed nearly 150,000 Americans. It has caused massive layoffs on a historic scale and left 17 million people out of work. It has thrown the lives and the trajectories of our Nation's children and young adults into uncertainty.

Our Nation stands now at an important crossroads in this battle. American families' historic sacrifices brought our medical system through

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



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the springtime intact. The very early stages of our economic recovery have been promising and our Nation needs to continue to proceed with a smart and safe reopening.

At the same time, the virus is still with us. It is still spreading, and it does not care about our fragile economic progress or our frustration with restrictions, or anything else, besides infecting as many people as possible.

So we have one foot in the pandemic and one foot in the recovery. The American people need more help. They need it to be comprehensive, and they need it to be carefully tailored to these crossroads.

That is what this Senate majority has assembled, and that is what Chairmen ALEXANDER, BLUNT, COLLINS, GRAHAM, GRASSLEY, RUBIO, and SHELBY, and Senators CORNYN and ROMNEY are introducing today. They will be coming to the floor shortly to introduce their components.

Together, their bills make up the HEALS Act—health, economic assistance, liability protection, and schools—health, economic assistance, liability protection, and schools.

Just like in March, with the CARES Act, Senate Republicans have authored another bold framework to help our Nation. Now we need our Democratic colleagues to reprise their part as well. They need to put aside the partisan stonewalling we saw on police reform and rediscover the spirit of urgency that got the CARES Act across the finish line, and quickly join us around the negotiating table.

It will take bipartisan cooperation to make the HEALS Act into law for the American people. The Senate will not waste time with pointless partisanship. There is a reason why even Speaker PELOSI and Leader SCHUMER themselves have publicly downplayed the multitrillion-dollar socialist manifesto they published a few weeks back and have suggested the real, serious discussion would begin when Republicans released our outline.

We have produced a tailored and targeted draft that will cut right to the heart of three distinct crises facing our country—getting kids back in school, getting workers back to work, and winning the healthcare fight against the virus—kids, jobs, and healthcare.

First, our Nation's kids. Chairmen ALEXANDER, BLUNT, and SHELBY will be introducing a sweeping package to help schools and universities reopen safely. We are talking about more than \$100 billion—more for an education fund than House Democrats put aside in a bill that spent multiple trillions. There are policies to help childcare providers and schools have the flexibility they need to function.

Second, jobs. Since our Nation has one foot in the pandemic and one foot in the recovery, our economic policies have to acknowledge both sides of that coin. Chairman GRASSLEY will introduce another round of direct checks for households at the same amount as be-

fore, with even more support for families who care for vulnerable adult dependents.

Chairmen COLLINS and RUBIO have designed a sequel to their historic PPP to help prevent more layoffs of American workers.

Republicans want to continue a Federal supplement to State unemployment insurance. In fact, we will propose a weekly dollar amount that is eight times what Democrats put in place when they controlled the White House and Congress during the great recession. But we have to do it in a way that does not slow down reopening.

We are also going to help this country pivot into recovery. The American people don't just want relief; they want opportunity so long as the reopenings can be safe. So Chairman GRASSLEY will walk through strong economic incentives to boost worker retention, get Americans rehired, and help small businesses buy the PPE, testing, and supplies that will protect employees and customers alike.

Senator ROMNEY has legislation to help a future Congress ensure our critical national trust funds remain strong.

In looking to our long-term jobs future, there is no question this pandemic has America and our allies reexamining our degree of dependence on China. Chairman GRAHAM is introducing a package of legislation that will incentivize PPE manufacturing right here at home. It will ensure that our efforts to rebuild our national stockpile of protective gear actually benefit American workers instead of just stimulating China, and it will bring a heightened focus to other key concerns, such as high-tech semiconductor manufacturing, critical minerals, and intellectual property theft so that the lessons of this pandemic do not go unlearned.

Finally, healthcare. Chairmen ALEXANDER, GRASSLEY, and others I have already named have legislation to keep America on offense against this virus for diagnostics, treatments, vaccines, hospitals and healthcare workers, and protecting seniors who rely on Medicare from premium spikes. Our legislation supports all of it at continued historic levels.

In tying kids, jobs, and healthcare all together, Senator CORNYN has authored strong legal liability protections so that nurses, doctors, charities, school districts, colleges, and employers can spend their next months actually reopening rather than fighting for their lives against frivolous lawsuits. We will preserve accountability in the event of gross negligence or intentional misconduct, but we are not going to let trial lawyers throw a party on the backs of the frontline workers and institutions that have fought this new enemy on the frontlines.

Health, economic assistance, liability, and schools—another historic package for the next phase of this historic national fight.

To make a law, bipartisan talks need to come next. So there is one big question facing the country right now: Which version of our distinguished Democratic colleagues are the American people about to get? Are we going to get the Democratic Party we got in March, when our colleagues met us in good-faith negotiations and worked with us to turn our framework into a bipartisan product—the Democrats who helped us pass the largest rescue package in American history without one dissenting vote—or will the country get the Democratic Party we saw in June, when our colleagues refused to suggest amendments or improvements to Senator TIM SCOTT's police reform bill and chose to block the issue altogether?

Their actions last month left some observers wondering whether the Democrats had made this cynical choice to give up on bipartisan legislation altogether right through November, whether the Democrats had determined that strengthening our Nation with bipartisan action might hurt their political odds and, therefore, it might suit their fortunes better if pain and chaos simply continued. I hope that is completely off base. I know our Democratic colleagues know this crisis is still urgent. I know they know American families need more help.

I hope this strong proposal will occasion a real response, not partisan cheap shots, not the predictable, tired, old rhetoric as though these were ordinary times and the Nation could afford ordinary politics. We cannot have a Senate minority decide in June it is done legislating until November. The pandemic is not finished. The economic pain is not finished, so Congress cannot be finished either.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Scott Hardy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a short time ago, a ceremony honoring the life of the great Representative John Lewis was held in the Capitol Rotunda—the first time in our Nation's history that an African-American lawmaker had laid in state.

Last week, I shared my reflections on the life and legacy of John Lewis here on the floor. In the story of America, John was one of those special heroes whose moral clarity shown out like a beacon for others to follow, a North Star who inspired his fellow Americans to join him in the glorious work of perfecting our Union.

Today, as we honor his extraordinary life here in the Capitol, many of us—his friends, his colleagues—are filled with a deep sense of loss, but I want to share a short message of hope. It seems easy to forget that John Lewis was just a teenager when he started the work of “redeeming the soul of America,” as he put it. He was 18 years old when he first met Dr. King, 21 when he was arrested as a freedom fighter, 25 when he was beaten bloody on a Sunday in Selma.

The fight for civil rights has always been driven by the righteous indignation of our young people, and our time is no different. Once again, young people across the country are rising in a mighty movement for justice and equality, supported by the vast majority of Americans. The memory and legacy of John Lewis's life lives on in each and every one of them, and that fills me with hope.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, on a very different subject, over the past several months, Senate Democrats have been appalled that our Republican colleagues have refused to work with us in any significant way to help defeat COVID-19 or provide relief to Americans during these unprecedented times.

We do not understand how, faced with the greatest economic threat in 75 years and the greatest public health threat in a century, the Senate Republican majority was content to do almost nothing for 3 long months, as more people died, more were thrown out of work, more small businesses went under.

Last week, finally, our Republican colleagues said they were coming out with a plan, but even after all the delay, even after Leader MCCONNELL put the Senate on pause for 3 months, Senate Republicans and the White House were so unprepared and so divided, they couldn't even agree on a

proposal among themselves. Ten weeks—ten weeks after Democrats passed a comprehensive bill through the House, Senate Republicans couldn't even agree on what to throw on the wall.

Last week was a slow-motion train wreck on the Republican side. It couldn't have come at a worse time, and it will cause immense and, potentially, irrevocable damage to our country.

Protections against evictions expired last week, at a time when over 12 million persons lived in households that missed the rent payment last month. Enhanced unemployment benefits for 20 to 30 million Americans out of work expire this week, without a proper solution.

No matter what we do, States will not be able to quickly restart any enhanced unemployment benefits because Senate Republicans dithered for what seems like an eternity.

We are on the precipice of several cliffs—destructive cliffs—for one reason and one reason only: The White House and Senate Republicans couldn't get their act together and wasted precious time.

These issues could have been solved months ago, but the lack of any urgency and understanding and empathy for people who need help from Senate Republicans has led us to a very precarious moment.

Today, it seems, we may finally see the Republican proposal on the next phase of COVID relief. Who knows if we will see legislative text or just an outline. It also appears the Republican proposal will not be an actual, coherent bill but rather a series of small, piecemeal ideas. That is a metaphor for their first 100 days: lack of unity. They can't even put one bill together—they are so divided—so a few Senators put in this one, a few Senators put in that one, a few Senators put in another one.

Not only do we not know if the President supports any of these proposals, we don't even know if Senate Republicans fully support them.

Yesterday, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee said half of the Republican caucus will vote no on any additional stimulus.

The greatest crisis America has faced in close to a century on health, 75 years on the economy, and our Republican colleagues can't even agree among themselves about what to do and have put out a few piecemeal pieces that don't come close to doing the job.

We have waited months—months for the Republican COVID relief bill, and it turns out we will not even get a bill, and Republicans probably will not support it.

Worse still, based on reports and Leader MCCONNELL's speech just now, the Republican legislative response to COVID-19 is totally inadequate. It will not include food assistance for hungry kids—kids, whose parents can't feed them. They say no relief. How hard-

hearted. How cruel. Is it that those wealthy, rightwing people who don't want to pay any taxes say kids shouldn't eat? Because the private sector ain't doing it. You need the government.

Hazard pay for essential workers, risking their lives for us—what about funding for State and local and Tribal governments? Their budgets are in the tank. We are approaching a new month. Many, many, many essential workers will be laid off—busdrivers and sanitation workers and firefighters. The Republican proposal will ignore not one or two or three but scores of major crises in America right now.

In addition, based on what the leader has said, the Republican proposal will not go nearly far enough, even in the pieces they try to do something with—the small number, the disparate number, the unaggregated number—since each piece seems to be separate because they can't seem to get agreement among themselves.

When it comes to our schools, the Republican proposal does not provide enough resources for them to reopen safely.

Major League Baseball, an organization with vastly more resources than the average school district, has taken great pains to restart its season safely, and yet we learned today that 13 players and staff on 1 team alone have contracted the coronavirus.

How can Republicans ask our schools to protect the safety of our children without the necessary resources or guidance, when multibillion-dollar industries like baseball are having trouble doing it? And are they just afraid of President Trump, who wants the schools to open without any help, for whatever is in his own head, which isn't about the safety of America? The plan is totally inadequate.

It appears that Senate Republicans have finally come around to the fact that the Democratic position on extending the moratorium on evictions or it may be just the moratorium on foreclosures—we will see what is in the proposal. They have come around to that, but they don't support helping Americans actually afford the rent or their next mortgage payment. That makes no sense.

We can prevent landlords or banks from kicking Americans out of their homes for another 6 months, but what then? Those same Americans may be 6 months behind on their rent or mortgage. They will have no hope of making up the difference.

And what will the landlords do? Not all landlords are big companies. Some of them, just like in my neighborhood, are landlords of a two- or three-family house. If no one can pay the rent, that hurts them too. How are they going to pay for heat or electricity?

It is essential that we do what is in the Democratic Heroes Act and provide money to pay the rent or the mortgages for those thrown out of work, through no fault of their own, with no income.

The Heroes Act provides \$100 billion to help renters pay the rent; \$75 billion to help homeowners pay the mortgage. The Heroes Act would prevent another housing crisis in America. The Republican proposal, assuming they even address housing issues, would only delay a catastrophe a few months.

The greatest deficiency in the Republican proposal may be their plan for unemployment insurance. According to reports, the White House and Senate want to extend the enhanced unemployment benefits the Democrats secured in the CARES Act but only provide a percentage of a worker's former wage.

There are four reasons this is a terrible policy.

First, it would hurt the unemployed. If you lost your job through no fault of your own, Republicans want you to take a 30-percent pay cut. Can you believe that? You have lost your job; you can't get to work; the administration has bungled this crisis; and now they want to take \$1,600 out of your pocket every single month, blaming the victim—blaming the victim.

Maybe, again, some of those Republican, hard-right money people who don't want to pay taxes to help anybody, don't want the Federal Government to help anybody. Let me tell you, my Republican friends, you can't do this without the Federal Government and the Federal Government's resources. The private sector can't take care of this on their own. That is one reason.

Second, it would exacerbate poverty. A recent study showed the enhanced benefits have prevented 12 million Americans from slipping into poverty. It has probably been the greatest anti-poverty program that we have had in a very, very long time. Why on Earth would we slash and burn benefits keeping American families out of poverty?

Third, it will devastate our economy. One of the few things that has this economy not getting worse is that people have money in their pockets to buy goods. Consumer spending is going up. Do you know why, my Republican friends? In large part because of the generous benefit in the pandemic unemployment insurance. Mark Zandi and other great economists have said just that—just that.

Consumer purchases are helping the economy from getting worse. There is money in the pockets of consumers to help them pay the bills and shop in stores and more. What do our Republican friends want to do? Cut the benefits to Americans who are spending the money as soon as they get it, taking one of the few policies stimulating the economy off the table.

That is why an analysis from respected economic forecasters at Moody's—hardly a political organization—say that reducing these benefits or letting them expire could cost over a million jobs—a million more jobs this year.

And fourth and finally, the ideologues here get together and come

up with a plan, and it doesn't work. It is going to be impossible to implement.

Republicans, at the last minute, while they waited and waited and waited—3 weeks ago Speaker PELOSI and I wrote to Leader MCCONNELL and said: Sit down and talk to us now. We heard nothing.

So they waited and waited and waited until they are up to the cliff, and now they come up with an entirely new system, where States would have to calculate a different benefit for each individual worker. Well, the implementations will be a nightmare.

Let me read you—my office called some State unemployment offices about this Republican proposal.

A medium-size State on the west coast: It would take months. We don't even have a way of calculating the wages of individuals. We are not equipped to do anything but a flat amount. Need a serious transition period. Even changing the dollar amount would take 2 to 4 weeks—2 to 4 weeks where people have no money.

Another Southeastern State, medium size again: Very difficult. This State said: We need public statements from the Feds that people will not be able to get benefits for many weeks or months. Need to be realistic so our offices aren't overwhelmed. Even if you do a clean \$600, you have to reapply in our State.

From a small State in the Northeast—these are workers, people in the Governor's offices or the unemployment offices:

Even clean extensions of FPUC [that is pandemic unemployment insurance] will take weeks to implement. Can't even speculate how long it would take to do wage replacement. Will not have to reapply for a clean \$600, but it will take weeks to do retroactive payments.

From three States—a very big State in the West, a big State in the Midwest, and a smaller State in the West: It would take many months. This would cause chaos with our constituents.

From a Great Plains State: 2 months minimum to implement.

From a big State in the Northeast, smaller State in the West: 8 weeks or more to implement.

From a small State in the West:

We have turned off the \$600 FPUC effective benefit week ending July 25, per law. Any claims not decided prior to that date will still have benefit of [the] FPUC if found eligible. Any claims filed yesterday forward would not. As for options, another flat amount is best.

From a large State in the East:

Extension of \$600, could be seamless. Lower flat, will take time. Percentage of wages is impossible.

Chaos. Chaos. If you change the unemployment benefit, it is going to take weeks if not months for most people to get it. The economy crashes. People are hurt. They get kicked out of their homes, and they can't feed their kids. What are you doing?

The Republican proposal on unemployment benefits, simply put, is un-

workable. It will delay benefits for weeks, if not months, as we slide into a greater degree of recession.

By the way, the idea that we need to drastically reduce these benefits because workers will stay home otherwise is greatly exaggerated. Most Americans are not going to quit their jobs, forgo benefits and a steady salary in order to receive temporary unemployment benefits. That is what leading economists have said. These benefits are a lifeline to tens of millions who want to work, are ready to work, but can't find work because there aren't jobs for them. The vast majority of these people don't have a job to go to.

Let's face it, folks. Our country is in the middle of multiple crises. Tens of millions of Americans are jobless. American families are struggling to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads. Nearly 150,000 Americans have died—a stunning and heart-breaking loss of life—and, in response, Senate Republicans have presented us with a half-hearted, half-baked legislative proposal.

In short, the Republican plan is too little, too late. The Republican plan is weak tea when our problems need a much stronger brew.

I heard Leader MCCONNELL's "Alice in Wonderland" interpretation of what happened in the last 3 months. The first bill, he says, was the way we should go. Well, let's remember what happened. Republicans put their own bill on the floor; Democrats said no. Then, finally, you folks came to the table, negotiated with us, and the bill is far more a Democratic bill than a Republican bill. You know that, and we know that.

On the other hand, the other alternative, which the leader referred to as the Justice in Policing Act, was totally partisan.

Sometimes I am amazed at the words the Republican leader can use. He says that he wants to be nonpartisan, and our bill is a socialist manifesto. Well, which one is it? Which one is it?

Here is what we should do. Republicans should scrap their approach. We don't even know how many are for—and what pieces. They should use the Heroes Act—comprehensive, strong, and bold for negotiations—and start talking with Democrats in a serious way about the real problems our country is facing.

Again, this is a serious, serious crisis. It is the biggest health crisis in 100 years, the biggest economic crisis in 75. The Republican mantra to let the private sector do it is just not going to work. You have to understand that the times are different. The crisis is real. We need an active, bold series of government programs—not just cutting and cutting and eliminating and eliminating—to solve our health problems and get the economy out of the morass.

We Democrats have been waiting to negotiate with our Republican colleagues for more than 2 months. I am

bitterly disappointed and frustrated by their delay and now by the inadequacy of their product. We need to immediately enter into bipartisan, bicameral negotiations to develop a bill that actually matches the scale of the crisis and the needs of the American people.

Speaker PELOSI this morning called on Leader MCCONNELL and Leader MCCARTHY and representatives of the President to join me and her in the Speaker's office half an hour after the Republican bill is released. Republicans in the House and Senate must join us. We are running out of time. The Senate Republicans just ran down the clock and tossed an air ball.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. About half an hour ago, Leader MCCONNELL gave an outline of the bill that will be before the Senate in regard to carrying on where the CARES Act left off. Those of us who are chairmen of various committees or have input into this process would like to go into some detail—but not in-depth detail—of our parts of the bill. I am chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, and within our jurisdiction, our proposals take on several issues facing Americans during the crisis.

For unemployment insurance, we boost the Federal Government's reimbursement to local governments and nonprofits to 75 percent, up from 50 percent in the first CARES Act. We do that to prevent further layoffs from local governments and nonprofit organizations.

In the same legislation we maintain some of the current boosted benefits, but we must also responsibly hone those programs to target help where it is really needed.

Our bill transitions from a flat rate to a replacement of 70 percent of lost wages for people who have become unemployed. This is a much more responsible approach that we didn't have time to work out in the first CARES Act. Regardless, the boosted unemployment benefit is significantly more than Democratic Senate and Democratic Presidents approved in the 2009 economic crisis, which, by the way, was only an additional \$25 a month when we had the worst recession in this country since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

So I heard people cry just a few minutes ago about our not doing enough. It doesn't make sense to do what we knew we were doing wrong, but we had to do it to get help out to the people who were unemployed. For the last 4 months, we were paying out of the Federal Treasury \$600 a week, in addition to what each State would pay for those unemployed. In other words, we have learned what we knew at the time—that when you pay people more not to work than they would get working, what do you expect? People will not work.

What this country needs is more workers. If we are going to get this country turned around, it is not going to come from money from unemployment to individuals because government doesn't create wealth; it only consumes wealth. If you want to create a bigger economic pie for everybody, more workers are going to be necessary for a bigger economic pie.

Going to our tax provisions in this same bill, our tax provisions aim to help Americans get back to work and help businesses safely open. We expand access to the CARES Act employment tax credit for small and medium-sized businesses. We expand the work opportunity tax credit for larger employers hiring people currently receiving unemployment compensation. We also provide a new credit for expenses, like personal protective equipment and cleaning needed to maintain a safe and healthy workplace for employees and for customers. The Republican plan provides for another round of \$1,200 economic impact payments for most American adults, but we also include in the additional \$500 for each dependent—some people we didn't intend to leave out last time, but we did. So regardless of age, some of these dependents will now be helped.

For healthcare providers we relax the terms of loans received from Medicare. We ensure that Medicare telehealth options don't expire before Congress can determine what should be made permanent. We extend for 5 years the CARES Act provision that pays clinics and health centers for telehealth to provide a downpayment on meeting healthcare needs in rural America, and we help by freezing Medicare premiums at 2020 levels to head off a predicted spike next year that would otherwise happen to senior citizens. We also assist nursing home patients and workers.

State and local governments have also asked for Federal help. Our proposal extends the timeframe in which governments can utilize the \$150 billion in funding provided under the first CARES Act by also providing more flexibility and allowing some funds to be used to cover revenue shortfalls.

This proposal sets out a responsible, holistic approach to address the problems our country faces. I hope my Democratic colleagues are interested in compromise and solutions for the benefit of all of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we continue to work on supporting our country's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, one critical piece of the CARES 2 legislation is liability reform.

Across the country we are seeing lawsuits rolling in, targeting the very healthcare workers who are on the frontlines performing essential work for patients suffering from the COVID-19 virus. We are seeing lawsuits focusing on nursing homes, universities, nonprofit businesses—you name it.

Without action from Congress, the litigation epidemic will potentially sink the very businesses and enterprises that we hoped we could sustain through this crisis.

Today, Leader MCCONNELL and I introduced the Safe to Work Act, which will ensure that those operating in good faith and following all the relevant guidelines cannot be sued out of existence.

To be clear, this is not a blanket liability shield. It will not prevent bad actors from facing the consequences of their actions when they are intentional or reckless. It will not ban coronavirus lawsuits, and it will not give anyone a "get out of jail free" card.

What it will do, though, is put safeguards in place that will prevent opportunistic lawsuits from harming the workers and institutions we are depending on to see us through this crisis.

First and foremost are protections for our incredible healthcare heroes who made the tremendous physical and mental sacrifices over the last few months. This legislation sets a willful misconduct or gross negligence standard for coronavirus-related medical liability suits to ensure that only meritorious cases are brought against our healthcare workers.

I would add that the costs of litigation itself can be enough to put somebody out of business, even though you, in the end, "win" the lawsuit. The cost of defending a case that you ultimately win can be so big that it will put you out of business by itself.

In addition to protecting our healthcare heroes, we need to ensure that fear of lawsuits does not prevent our schools, nonprofits, small businesses, and a range of other organizations and institutions that are vital to our communities from opening their doors. This will spell out in black and white that these entities will be protected from COVID-19 exposure claims as long as they have made a good-faith effort to comply with mandatory public health guidelines.

By the way, a number of States have already provided similar protections, including the minority leader's State of New York, and it is time we extend these liability limitations to the rest in the country. This is not a red State or blue State issue. We are all in this together, and that is why red State and blue State legislators and Governors have already acted in a similar fashion to what I am describing here.

In order for our country to recover, the workers and institutions we depend on now need to know with confidence that if they are operating in good faith and obeying health guidelines, they are not going to become victims of a feeding frenzy. This legislation will provide that confidence, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in supporting these common-sense reforms.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as we continue our efforts to tackle the effects of COVID-19, both in terms of healthcare and the economic fallout, CARES 2 could be a critical piece to the puzzle.

Americans continue to mask up, social distance, and do what we can do as individuals to slow the spread of the virus. Here, in the Senate, we know that we must find additional ways to keep our people as healthy as possible while we reopen our economy as safely as we can.

We also know that low wage and service industry workers have taken the hardest economic hit from the virus. This stems, in part, from restaurants either being closed or operating at a limited capacity. In April, one out of four individuals to lose their jobs lost their jobs in the restaurant industry. That is 5.5 million Americans who lost their jobs in the restaurant business.

While those losses have certainly begun to recover, and even as our restaurants adjust and innovate to find new ways to serve customers, there is no doubt they need some additional help. That is why I worked on the provision in this legislation that will provide a 100-percent deduction for business meals—up from 50 percent.

We know that through outdoor dining, carryout, delivery, and, in some places around the country, limited indoor dining, we can keep folks safe. This incentive will lead to more orders that will translate into more take-home pay and more hours for wait staff and kitchen staff and more revenues for millions of small businesses. That is a great thing and an easy thing to accomplish with this simple provision.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Paycheck Protection Program of forgivable loans has been a lifeline to millions of our small businesses and their employees. According to a recent census survey, more than 76 percent of Maine's small businesses reported receiving a PPP loan. An estimated 240,000 Maine jobs have been supported by this critically important program, which has brought more than \$2.2 billion to our State. Nationwide, more than 5 million small employers have received PPP loans.

When Senators RUBIO, CARDIN, SHAHEEN, and I developed this program back in March, we had no idea how long economic closures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 would last. Many small businesses have made considerable investments in personal protective equipment and facility modifications to operate safely during the pandemic and yet are still only able to operate at a fraction of their previous capacity.

In fact, I talked to an innkeeper in Maine just this morning who told me that in normal times, at this point in

the summer, his inn would be nearly full every single night, but this July his business is down by 93 percent.

The bill that Senator RUBIO and I are introducing would allow the hardest hit small employers—those whose revenue has declined by 50 percent or even more—to receive a second PPP forgivable loan. And to ensure that we are targeting assistance to the employers that need help the most, we limit those second loans to small businesses with 300 or fewer employees.

Our bill would also expand forgivable PPP expenses to include investments needed to protect both employees and customers, such as masks, plexiglass shields, and improved HVAC systems. This could include, for example, the expense of expanding outdoor seating, which is especially important to restaurants that are still under dining restrictions.

We include a number of other important provisions, such as allowing seasonal businesses more flexibility in calculating their loan amounts and simplifying the loan forgiveness process for smaller borrowers.

I hope that our proposal will help advance bipartisan negotiations to extend this vital program before August 8, when applications will no longer be accepted. There are so many small employers and their employees who have been kept afloat by the first PPP loan they received but need a second one to survive this persistent pandemic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, to follow up on Senator COLLINS' outline of the second round of PPP, I think it is important, first, to remind everybody how we got to this place.

The goal, when we did it the first time, was to not only allow small businesses to survive what was then uncertain as to how long it would take but also to keep their workers attached to employment. We know how devastating it is to a family and to an individual when they get disconnected from employment, and, by and large, we believe the program has been incredibly successful. But it has room for improvement, and we have learned from those things along the way with some of the different changes that were made in providing more flexibility and the like.

This new program comes at a timely moment because we are now beginning to see that as the PPP funds are being exhausted, some companies are having to face, once again, the potential of having to lay off some of their workers. That is why it is time for a second round of PPP assistance.

A lot of the provisions will be very familiar. You have heard them already—the 2½ percent payroll and so forth—but some are new because we really wanted this to be more targeted. That is why there is the 300-employee-or-less standard, and you have to have 50 percent or more of revenue reduction.

We also understand that some communities have been harder hit, for a va-

riety of different reasons, and especially the sort of microbusinesses—the smaller ones. Some of these funds will be set aside for employers that have 10 employees or less, to make sure that the money doesn't run out without that group of small businesses getting the assistance they need.

In addition, we know that minority and underserved small businesses have been disproportionately impacted by the lockdowns that we have seen. Many of them, obviously, often lack significant cash reserves. They historically face challenges being able to get traditional means of capital. So, as part of this proposal, separate from PPP and in addition to it, we are proposing an additional type of loan that would be longer term, more targeted, and at low interest, designated for small businesses that are either seasonal employers or located in low-income communities and have 500 or fewer employees. It provides them flexible long-term working capital to help ensure that these most vulnerable and underserved small businesses don't go out of business because of the pandemic but allows them to borrow up to two times their annual revenues on a 20-year loan term at 1 percent interest.

Again, don't confuse that with PPP. This is a separate target product to try to help those who are in low-income neighborhoods, as defined by their census track. So, consider, for example, a small business with \$400,000. A 5-year loan at 7½ percent interest rate, that today would be equal to \$8,000 monthly payments. But if they are able to refinance that existing loan at 1 percent, the payments fall to \$1,840. So it is an additional amount of assistance.

The bottom line is that we all recognize the importance of small business. We should all recognize that this is not a bailout. These are viable businesses, and the only reason they are struggling is because the government has stepped in—like it does, for example, in eminent domain—and said: For the public good, it is important for us to infringe upon your right to make money and conduct business.

I think when government does that in the public good, just like in eminent domain, the government also has an obligation to step forward and help these companies from going out of business. Otherwise, we will lose not just the backbone of our economy but the millions of jobs that come with it, and the impact would be catastrophic.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

(The remarks of Mr. ROMNEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 4323 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. ROMNEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I introduced legislation that provides \$306 billion in additional resources to

fight the coronavirus and to mitigate its impact on American families, schools, and businesses. I want to briefly highlight some of the main provisions. They have probably been talked about already this afternoon.

First, \$6 billion goes for States to ramp up testing, with a particular emphasis on schools, employers, childcare facilities, and nursing homes.

Second, \$26 billion goes for the development and distribution of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. We have made meaningful progress on each of these fronts, but we haven't gotten there yet, as we all know.

Third, there is \$105 billion for the Education Stabilization Fund to help schools adapt to the circumstances they face, which are extraordinary. The CDC has emphasized the importance of getting kids back into school and has issued guidelines on how to do so safely. That is why this legislation provides additional funding for K-12 schools to get kids back into the classroom at least 50 percent of the time, which would be a big start. We recognize they will incur additional expense if they reopen safely, and we have to try to provide for that.

The fourth point I want to highlight briefly here is \$20 billion in additional assistance for our Nation's farmers and our ranchers.

The fifth and final point: nearly \$30 billion to bolster the U.S. defense industrial base, which is important to all of us. We must never take our eyes off the ball there. These resources will prevent furloughs of thousands of employees from across the country who help Americans stay safe.

I can go on and on, but time is moving on here this afternoon. We realize this is just the first step. We have to work together. We have to work in a bipartisan fashion here and put America first.

We know the House has some high numbers. We have good numbers, I believe. I look forward to some bipartisan help on this and moving these bills along.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank Senator WYDEN for his courtesy in allowing me to go next. I will be succinct.

The way to get back to work and back to school is to put politics aside and work together, as we have been doing, on the COVID-19 response and see whether we can get a result for the American people in the next couple of weeks.

The part of the Safely Back to Work and Back to School Act that I am introducing today does four things.

First, if you are one of 43 million Americans with a student loan, it helps you manage your debt. This is the way it does it: If you have no income, you have no monthly payment. If you remember, in March, we said to the 43 million Americans with student debt:

You can defer your payment until October 1. Well, that is just around the corner. What we would propose is, you don't have to pay it after October 1 if you have no income. If you do have income, your monthly payment will never be more than 10 percent of your income after deducting the necessities of life, such as rent, mortgage, or food.

No. 2, if you are a parent, this bill gives your child more choices of schools, provides scholarships so that your child can return to the private school he or she attended before the pandemic, and gives other students a new opportunity to attend private school. Senator TIM SCOTT introduced that legislation earlier. I am a cosponsor.

No. 3, if you are a working mom or dad, it helps you find childcare so you can go back to work. A lot of our childcare centers operate on a very thin margin. They have reduced revenue because they don't have as many clients these days. Senator BLUNT's bill and Senator SHELBY's appropriations bill will provide money so that they can stay open and provide safe environments to two-thirds of the children in the United States under age 6 who have parents in the workforce.

Finally, our bill—the part I am introducing—improves the Strategic National Stockpile so that we can maintain adequate supplies of masks, gloves, protective equipment, as well as onshore manufacturing capacity for tests, treatments, and vaccines that we are building now. We want to make sure that it doesn't go away and we have to rely on other countries in other parts of the world.

This legislation is about children, jobs, and healthcare.

As far as schools go, there are 100,000 public schools and 35,000 private schools in our country. There are about 5 million students in the private schools and 50 million in the public schools. Every one of those children is a treasure. I have worked with Senator BLUNT to help the country's 135,000 schools and 6,000 colleges have the money they need to open with as many students physically present as is consistent with safety.

The Safely Back to Work and Back to School Act poses making \$70 billion available for schools; another \$30 billion for colleges. That means roughly \$1,200 per student for public and private schools across the country. One-third of the money would be distributed automatically to all 135,000 schools. That is probably about \$400 a student—a significant amount of money. Two-thirds of the money would go to schools that are opening with students physically present to help pay for the extra costs of providing that instruction in a safe environment. If they are trying to open with students physically present, it makes logical sense to say that if they have to have more buses, if they have to hire more teachers, if they have to have more protective equipment, then those schools need more help paying for that.

There will be more funding, as Senator SHELBY mentioned, to help contain this sneaky, dangerous virus and give Americans more opportunity for access to healthcare. There is more funding in this overall legislation for testing, for the National Institutes of Health, community health centers, the distribution of vaccines, and to extend the expansion of teleservice activities that has happened during the pandemic.

This legislation reflects our Nation's priorities, which are safely back to school, safely back to childcare, and safely back to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of my Republican colleagues, Senators BROWN, MURPHY, and I be permitted to speak for up to 7 minutes each and that the previously scheduled votes occur following the remarks of those listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce the Restoring Critical Supply Chains and Intellectual Property Act.

China looms large in this debate about the coronavirus. That is where the virus originated. The lying and deceptive behavior of the Chinese Communist Party has brought this pandemic to the world. It is the third pandemic to come out of China. I think it is now time for us to get serious about our dependency on China.

What does this legislation do? It has four components.

The protective equipment that our nurses and doctors and all healthcare workers use to protect themselves on the frontlines—90 percent of it is made in China. We are going to try to bring it back home. We have a "Buy American" requirement in this bill—a \$7.5 billion tax credit to reenergize American production of PPE equipment.

We are trying to get PPE under the Berry amendment of the Defense bill. We require our uniforms for our military to be made in America to the extent possible. We are going to try to create PPE in the same category as a national security item.

There will be a \$7.5 billion tax credit to jump-start this industry. A lot of good jobs will come from this, and we will be less dependent on China when it comes to protective equipment.

I will discuss Senator PORTMAN's legislation, Safeguarding American Innovation Act, which is included, Senator CORNYN's CHIPS for America Act, and Senator MURKOWSKI's American Mineral Security Act very quickly.

Senator CORNYN's CHIPS for America Act creates tax incentives to return and grow a domestic semiconductor industry. A Taiwanese firm made a big

decision to come to America—I think in Texas—a Taiwanese semiconductor company. We are trying to incentivize their relocation into the United States and jump-start a semiconductor industry that has left the country. It is very important for the future of our economy.

Senator PORTMAN's Safeguarding American Innovation Act creates a Federal research council and institutes penalties for bad actors who come to the United States or are here to steal important intellectual property. I think we all know who we are talking about here. China leads the pack there, and you saw what happened in Houston.

Senator MURKOWSKI's American Mineral Security Act promotes secure and robust domestic supply chains of critical minerals by streamlining the permitting process for extraction and emphasizing R&D into critical mineral recycling and development.

These four things together will protect our supply chain. It will bring it back to the country at a time when we need to have more say about our destiny. The pandemic has been a wake-up call all over the board. There is nothing more important to me than relocating the medical supply chain and protecting the innovation that we are known for as a country.

With that, I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Senate Republicans and the White House have finally come forward with an unemployment insurance proposal. The Republican proposal is not just misguided; the Republican proposal is a punch in the gut and a slap in the face for the 30 million Americans relying on lifeline unemployment insurance benefits. It adds insult to infection.

Unemployment benefits—the ones we developed that ensure that people can pay the rent or buy groceries—are already expiring. The last payments went out Saturday. Senate Republicans and Donald Trump sat on their hands for months instead of working with Democrats, so now it appears that a lapse in benefits is inevitable.

Republicans apparently have a proposal that is just unworkable. You don't have to take my word for it; the nonpartisan experts who run the State workforce agencies have told the Finance Committee that any changes, even simple ones, can take months to implement. Now Republicans are talking about cutting those lifeline benefits—the ones that actually made it possible for folks to make rent and buy groceries and cover the cost of medicine and car insurance. They are talking about cutting those benefits by two-thirds. They want States to make complicated changes to the unemployment insurance program that could hold up benefits until 2021. Some States are indicating that it is almost impossible to manage this altogether.

The Republican proposal is cruel. In my view, it is legislative malpractice.

For the life of me, I don't know how anyone could possibly look at the state of our economy and decide that what is needed is even more economic pain for 30 million Americans. It is especially insulting to America's unemployed workers that Republicans want to cut their economic lifeline in the same bill that is going to give a taxpayer subsidy to power lunches for lobbyists.

My colleagues have been warned that State unemployment systems are already struggling to keep up. Some people who were laid off months ago are still waiting to receive benefits. I read about one today who is following all of this from their hospital bed, where they are suffering from COVID-19. There are news reports about people sleeping in their cars just to have a shot at being at the head of the line at the workforce agency.

Now Senate Republicans come forward with a proposal that throws even more sand in the gears. They have been warned that this kind of proposal will be a disaster to implement. I know because I was in the Senate Finance room when they were told about it.

My colleagues on the other side also are arguing that the biggest problem in America now is that there are all these lazy workers sitting at home collecting unemployment checks instead of going back to their jobs. There is no evidence—not a shred—that this is happening in large numbers around the country. Come to me with one single story about somebody turning down work, and I will tell you about a dozen out-of-work Oregonians I have spoken to, folks who cannot wait—cannot wait—to get back to work, Oregonians and Americans who believe in the dignity of work.

There was a nationwide townhall meeting on Thursday last, with people who were unemployed, and people who were unemployed volunteered that, if they were told in the evening that they could work the next day, they would be there at the crack of dawn. It is insulting to American workers to suggest they are a bunch of lazy freeloaders looking for a handout, but we have been hearing that time and again from those on the other side of the aisle who were simply unwilling to write any proposal at all.

I believe the Republican proposal is also a prescription for disaster for our economy. Supercharged unemployment benefits may be the single most impactful program that Congress passed in response to the pandemic. What does it mean to cut it? The Republican plan cuts unemployment benefits by more than \$10 billion per week. That opens up a terrible economic wound. It will be a huge setback right when the recovery seems to be stalling, even going in reverse.

One new analysis says cutting benefits down to \$200 per week is going to lead to a loss of 3.4 million jobs. And Senate Republicans want Americans to believe that it is unemployed workers holding back the economy.

I will close by saying it is long past time for my Republican colleagues to get serious about working with Democrats on a proposal that has a pathway to actually becoming law and to helping people. This Republican plan doesn't do that.

Just as I said on Thursday, we have been ready for months. The other body, the House of Representatives, passed a bill 2 months ago ensuring that Americans have those funds to make rent, pay groceries, and pay for essentials. Leader SCHUMER and I introduced our plan: the American Workforce Rescue Act.

So we were all set over here to go to work with Republicans before the majority leader sent everybody home on a 2-week recess, when we thought it was important to be here and to work on these crucial economic issues I have mentioned.

Benefits have lapsed. Tens of millions of Americans now walk an economic tightrope every single week, balancing the rent bill against the food bill, the food bill against healthcare costs.

There is no time to waste. Senate Republicans need to work with us now on a proposal that ensures that Americans do not face yet another economic hit, as I mentioned, with some of them actually sitting in hospitals suffering from COVID-19 and wondering how they are going to pay the bills.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, Senator WYDEN is so right here. He fought back in March for \$600 a week for unemployed workers, which kept our economy going, which kept us from going into a worse recession, which made all the difference in the world for all these workers.

Think about this. If we were to adopt their proposal—I think they have a proposal. We haven't really seen very much yet.

As Senator WYDEN said, the House passed a bill back in May. It has been May, June, and almost all of July. We have waited and waited and waited.

Unemployed workers know that their unemployment expires at the end of July, yet Senator MCCONNELL sent us home, as Senator WYDEN said. They wait. We wait. We wait. Then they come up with this half-baked proposal that they don't even know what it is exactly.

But we do know one thing. We do know that workers who were laid off through no fault of their own, they want to work. Most Americans want to work. Those workers, their unemployment is cut from \$600 to \$200 a week. So we are essentially taking \$400 from millions of workers in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, Oregon, Ohio, Arkansas, and Utah. We are taking \$400 a week from these workers at the same time that the moratorium on eviction expires, at the same time that eviction courts in the States open up.

In Columbus, OH—my State's largest city—they are holding eviction courts in an arena because there are so many people who will be evicted if their unemployment expires. In the middle of a pandemic, we are going to evict people, and they are going to go to overcrowded homeless shelters; they are going to go to sleep in their cousins' basements—in the middle of a pandemic. What is that going to do?

I know the President just doesn't think much about the pandemic. He has moved on to accusing who knows what, calling names, dividing and all that, and isn't paying much attention to this pandemic. But, in the middle of a pandemic, to cut unemployment is just unbelievable.

We know that, in their plan, there is a major cut in unemployment benefits; there is no rental assistance that will help people pay their rent; there is no expansion of the eviction moratorium. There is nothing.

Senator MCCONNELL has had months to extend expanded unemployment benefits. He has had months to figure out what we are going to do on evictions. Yet nothing. I don't know, when I look down that hall—I don't really know—I see lobbyists running out of there, asking Senator MCCONNELL to get what they get, and they do very well every time, apparently.

Americans want to go back to work. People want to go to work, but they want to go back to work when it is safe. I want our schools to open, but I want our schools to open safely.

President Trump, months into this pandemic, still has no plans to protect workers. There is one reason people are still out of work: President Trump's failure to get this pandemic under control.

Now, as they suggest we drop unemployment from \$600 to \$200—it is not alarmist—people can lose their homes. A wave of evictions in the middle of this pandemic will set back millions of families.

I know it is not something that Senators do very often, but try to put yourself in the shoes of someone who is laid off in Akron, OH, or in Eugene, OR, or in Hartford, CT. Someone is laid off. They get that \$600. They can stay in their apartments—barely, but they can.

They are paying attention—sort of—to what we do here. They do know that their unemployment expires at the end of July. Then they hear of no plan.

The Democrats have said: Let's extend the unemployment. Let's do protections. Let's do emergency rental assistance. Let's help our schools. Let's help our local governments. Let's make sure people have enough food on their tables.

They hear nothing from the majority party, and people are now beginning to understand that maybe the Senate is not going to do its job, maybe the President really doesn't care about these unemployment benefits.

Think about the anxiety a family faces, the uncertainty of: Is my unem-

ployment going to be there? Am I going to be able to stay in my apartment? What am I going to do? How am I going to feed my kids? What is going to happen with schools? We don't know if they are going to be protected, if my kids are going to be safe at school.

Essentially, the Trump-McConnell plan tells people: You are on your own.

It is time that we, as a body—it is time that the Republicans work with Speaker PELOSI, work with us, that the President pays attention for a moment, and we actually take care of people in their homes; we take care of workers; we take care of people in our schools—instead of turning our backs.

It is time to help families stay in their homes. It is time to get people the help they need through this pandemic. It is time that this body lead when the President has failed.

Their plans don't come close to being enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, when people talk about this body being fundamentally broken under Republican leadership, this is exhibit A. This is exhibit A.

This body has had 2 months to consider legislation that would stand up a national effort to squash this pandemic once and for all and to make sure that people don't die, don't go hungry, don't get pushed out into the street at a moment when unemployment is higher than at any time in this country's history since the Great Depression.

We didn't consider any legislation for all of the last work period. We went on recess for 2 weeks. Now we are 3 days before unemployment benefits expire—the additional unemployment benefits—and we are now getting the introduction of what appears to be a dozen different pieces of legislation from Senate Republicans tonight.

We still don't have the details, but it looks as though there is not one bill being introduced but that there are about 13 bills being introduced. We don't have enough time before the expiration of unemployment benefits to negotiate 1 bill—1 bill—never mind 7 or 10.

We wasted months of time when Democrats and Republicans should have been talking together. Instead, Senate Republicans were talking amongst themselves and have now waited until the zero hour to come out with a piece of legislation which calls for a \$400-per-week cut in unemployment benefits for people who are out of work.

That is the economic stimulus plan: a \$400-per-week cut for families in this country who have been relying on unemployment benefits because the economy is not coming back.

But I come to this floor tonight to tell you why the economy is not coming back. It is not because we haven't appropriated enough money. It is because we are losing the fight against

the virus. In 15 days, this country has gone from 3 million cases to 4 million cases, and there is not enough funding in these proposals that were just outlined in order to help States beat the virus.

We are, once again, experiencing a PPE shortage in this Nation. Doctors at Memorial City Medical Center in Houston are using single-use N95 respirator masks for 15 days before throwing them out.

Schools are, right now, planning to spend \$25 billion in order to buy masks and cleaning supplies that are escalating in cost.

There is nowhere close to enough money in this legislation to help schools get ready. There is nothing in this bill that requires the operationalization of the Defense Production Act to make sure that we are producing enough PPE in this country.

There are still States in this Nation that are refusing to open up the health insurance systems so more people can get access to health insurance. There is nothing in these proposals to require open enrollment periods in States, to make sure that everyone who is contracting this virus has the chance to get health insurance.

The reality is that the States are the ones on the frontlines, standing up these responses. My State has done pretty well, but we are going bankrupt in the process. From what I can tell, listening to these speeches tonight, there is nothing significant in this package of bills to help States like mine stand up responses.

So I grieve for families who are going to listen to the news tonight and hear that Senate Republicans' stimulus plan is to cut their unemployment benefits by \$400 per week. I also grieve for this Nation, knowing that nothing in these proposals is significant enough to allow States and hospitals and healthcare systems to turn around this damaging trajectory on the virus, to produce enough PPE necessary to do the job, and to fix the dangerously broken testing system in this country.

I plead for my Republican colleagues to finally come to the table with Democrats in the House and the Senate so we can craft something together that does the job for families and does the job to fix this very, very broken healthcare system amidst an advancing pandemic.

VOTE ON HARDY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hardy nomination?

Mr. ROMNEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 142 Ex.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	Fischer	Murphy
Baldwin	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Roberts
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Carper	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Casey	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kaine	Shaheen
Collins	Kennedy	Shelby
Cornyn	King	Sinema
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Tester
Crapo	Loeffler	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Toomey
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	McSally	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Feinstein	Murkowski	

NAYS—30

Bennet	Gillibrand	Rosen
Blumenthal	Harris	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Peters	Whitehouse
Durbin	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Leahy	Sanders	Tillis
Markey	Sasse	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, today marks the third day after a pretty emotional weekend for the folks of Alabama, for the folks of America.

Earlier this afternoon, we had a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda to pay our respects to the late John Robert Lewis, a true American hero.

A native of Alabama, John grew up in the cotton fields of Pike County, AL, in Troy, to become one of the most influential Members of Congress and, perhaps, one of the most influential Americans this country has ever seen.

He was a remarkable human being whose life and work are examples to us all. It is now up to us to carry on, to make "good trouble," to fulfill the dream, the promise of a more equal and just nation.

As a son of Troy, AL, John Lewis loved our country with all his heart,

and he set out to make it a stronger, more democratic, more equal, more just nation for every person.

To persevere toward that end in the face of the hate and violence he so often faced is a testament to the strength of both the character and the heart of John Lewis.

John was a dear friend to my wife Louise and me, and we are both profoundly grateful to have had him in our lives.

John's long life represented an unbroken thread from a very painful past to a more hopeful future. He gave us all reason to hope. More importantly, he gave us the courage to pursue the bright future we all want for ourselves and for our children and for our grandchildren.

You know, it struck me earlier today, as we had one of the most emotional things that I have been a part of with John in the Capitol Rotunda: I was in Selma, AL, on Saturday evening—my last trip with John; I have had many—at Brown AME Chapel, historic Brown Chapel, for a service. Martin Luther King III was there. Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL, a daughter of Selma, was there. So many of the foot soldiers who marched with John were there. I was struck by his passion, by his courage, and I thought to myself: What can I say that has not already been said about John Lewis? The words just escaped me.

The following day, we were in Montgomery. John took one last journey across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. This time, on the other side of that bridge, he was met again by State troopers from the State of Alabama, but instead of tear gas and billy clubs, he was met with salutes as people lined the streets, shouting: We have got this John. We will carry on.

Then he went to Montgomery along the same path that they marched in 1965 to make sure that Americans could vote, and vote easily, without paying a poll tax, without having to count jelly beans or guess at the number of jelly beans in a jar or take another kind of test.

John marched, and he walked all the way from Selma to Montgomery. In Montgomery yesterday afternoon, his body was placed in the capital of the State of Alabama, Montgomery, which was the birthplace of the Confederacy, the capital of the Confederacy. He had to ride past all of those monuments that are along the way—and the names.

But on that sunny afternoon, John Lewis was brought into the Capitol Rotunda for the State of Alabama—the first African American to lie in state in the State of Alabama at the capitol.

Ironically, the last person to lie in state at the Alabama capitol was George Wallace. What an interesting bookend for John's life—that unbroken thread—from a Governor who declared "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever," who instilled lawlessness, all the way to John Lewis, who instilled hope and love.

John Lewis was 25 years old when he led a peaceful march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL. It was in 1965. As he got to the other side and was met by Alabama State troopers, he had his skull fractured. He was called lawless. They all were. That day is now forever known as Bloody Sunday.

You know, change doesn't wait for us to become settled and comfortable, and even if we are both of those things, it just doesn't allow us to look the other way when justice is on the line. If there is one lesson from John Lewis's exemplary life—one from so many—that we should heed today, it is that we should look to the youngest Americans to make good on America's promise and show the rest of us how to fight to eradicate injustice.

When George Floyd took his last breath, it was young men and women—White, Black, and Brown—who rose up and said enough is enough, just like 1965, following the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, when John Lewis and others rose up and said enough is enough; just as John did as a 21-year-old Freedom Rider, risking his life, traveling by bus throughout the South. The ride or march—that journey for freedom—never ended for him, and it can't end for any of us until we make it right.

Although John truly believed that the moral arc of the universe bends toward justice, he knew that it does not bend on its own. John certainly did his part to bend that moral arc, but as significant as his individual efforts were, it was his enlistment of others to join him that is going to leave his lasting legacy.

We are all here today in some measure, in some way, because we joined his fight for justice. No matter what side of the political aisle you are on, no matter where you come from, no matter what your background, we are all here today, in part, because of John Lewis, to join a fight for justice. We join because it is the right thing to do, but also because John showed us the way. He showed us the way by his courage, by his determination, and, more importantly, by his love.

John Lewis lived to see the generation that I believe will lead this Nation to our ideals and to fulfill a promise to all. Like him, this younger generation is protesting peacefully, nonviolently. They love this Nation. They love this Nation as much as John, and they want this Nation to fulfill its obligation of equality and justice.

Some have painted them as lawless thugs. They would be wrong. They, too, like John, are patriots who want America to move forward to a nation of equals—that long dream of a nation of equals—and move forward together as a nation, together as one.

In Alabama we saw firsthand the divisions that John sought to heal and the violence that rose up in opposition to his peaceful efforts to make right so many wrongs. He loved this country so, so much. May his love and his moral

courage ripple from this place in Washington, DC, the floor of the Senate, the floor of the House of Representatives, from Selma and Birmingham and Montgomery, Portland and Seattle, Minneapolis, Washington—everywhere. Let the love and moral courage rip through the hearts of young Americans—White, Black, and Brown—to reach beyond the current chaos and division, just as John did, and lead us to come together as a community to end injustice and inequality.

It is the young among us in Alabama and across this Nation who can heal what we have failed to heal in our lifetimes, no matter how hard John Lewis tried.

I truly believe that with the events of the last few weeks, as John saw the thousands of new recruits for his quest to bend the moral arc of the universe toward justice, he confidently looked around and said: All is well. It is time for the torch to be passed. It is time for me to go.

But it is not just the young in this country. As Members of Congress, we also have an obligation to act, to bend that moral arc toward justice, just as John did his entire life.

As we begin to grapple with a world without him, we must face the challenges of the moment with the same grit and perseverance he embodied. We are charged—we in this body are charged with continuing the fight for justice and equality that in his life's work meant so much.

John was called "the conscience of Congress." May the conscience of all in Congress—all of us, each of us, the Senate, the House—be awakened by his passing to finish John's efforts to restore integrity to the Voting Rights Act.

Later, after the reception today, the memorial service, the House of Representatives voted unanimously, by unanimous consent, to change the name of H.R. 4 to the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2020.

We can talk about naming roads, and we can talk about renaming bridges, but if there is one thing that John Lewis would ask us to do, it is to pass the Voting Rights Act of 2020; restore the Voting Rights Act to where it is supposed to have been. It is a good bill that passed the House of Representatives, but it has languished over here in the bowels of an office somewhere. As we approach the election in 2020, we need to send that message that every vote in this country can count. Every person who is eligible should be able to vote and not only cast the ballot but cast it with ease, cast it at a time when it is convenient with them, cast it by mail in the privacy of their home if possible, but cast a ballot to raise the level of participation. That is what John Lewis stood for. That is what John Lewis meant. That is what we need to do for John Lewis.

In the program here, I was so pleased that this program reprinted a painting of John Lewis that is housed in the Bir-

mingham Civil Rights Institute. Below it is a quote from John: "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, you have to [stand up], speak up." Speak out and find a way to "get in good trouble, necessary trouble."

I have to tell you, folks—I have been here for 2½ years now, and there are just not enough people who will stand up and speak out when they see things that they know are unfair and unjust. It is our job, our duty. We owe it not just to our constituents but to the people of America to stand up, to speak out, and to get in the way, to make good trouble.

It is time that we do that with regard to the Voting Rights Act. It is time that we do that with regard to the police reforms and law enforcement reforms that are out there as well that we know need to exist. So let's do it, folks. Let's remember John for who he was and know more because he was that kind of icon. He was that American hero who will last—his legacy will last for generations.

Let's remember the charge that John gave us in the final passage of his autobiography, where he quoted the old African proverb "When you pray, move your feet."

John gave us the charge:

As a nation, if we care for the Beloved Community, we must move our feet, our hands, our resources to build and not tear down, to reconcile and not to divide, to love and not to hate, to heal and not to kill. In the final analysis, we are one people, one family, one house—the American house, the American family.

We must carry John with us every step of the way every day and finish his life's work—patriots for equality and an America that lives a reality closer to its ideals.

Rest in peace, our old friend John Robert Lewis. We have many bridges to cross, but we got this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my colleague, my friend, to our American hero who lies in state just now in the Rotunda of this Capitol, Congressman John Lewis of Atlanta, GA.

Born in Troy, AL, the arc of his life is known to us all. He gave himself completely to the fight for the dignity of every American and every human being. I wanted to take a few minutes today, if I could, and just reflect a little bit on what made John so special and so different.

There are many in this Chamber in the Senate and in the House of Representatives who have fought for equality and justice. There are many who have marched or who have sacrificed, who have fought or who have led in many causes over many years, but John was both fierce in his passion for equality and humble in his spirit, gentle and kind.

One of the great blessings of my decade here has been to get to travel with

a group called the Faith & Politics Institute on an annual congressional civil rights pilgrimage. Many Members of the House and Senate have done so. Through five different trips I got to travel with John—to Selma and Birmingham, to Memphis and Montgomery, to Charleston and Cape Town, to South Carolina and South Africa, to Alabama and to Delaware—I most treasure the memory of hosting John in Delaware in 2015 when he came and spoke to a whole school full of eager elementary school kids. He spoke to a whole auditorium full of young community leaders and then held a town-hall for a discussion about equality and equity and civil rights.

John dedicated his life to fighting for others and principally fighting for voting rights. When John, in his childhood, was confronted with the ugly reality of Jim Crow and the legal segregation of apartheid in the United States, he couldn't follow the advice he was given by family and friends to "stay out of trouble. Don't get in the way." He lived his life by the credo: If you see something wrong, act like it. He was dedicated to getting "into good trouble," into "necessary trouble," and into doing the hard work of redeeming the soul of America.

Long before America came to believe in John Lewis, he believed in the promise of America. That he today lies in state on the catafalque that also held the remains of the slain President Abraham Lincoln; that he, this week, will lie in state in the State capital of Alabama; and that he will be honored by millions nationwide and worldwide is just a reminder that he was on the right side of history all along. He was arrested more than 40 times in the course of his activism for civil rights, and he proved that courage, as has been often said, is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it.

With many others, I had the blessing of being at the Edmund Pettus Bridge with John on several reenactments of that memorable Bloody Sunday march and was with him at Brown Chapel AME Church for a service of inspiration, gathering before that reenactment of the march. He stopped halfway across the bridge and asked each of us to just take a moment and pause at the bridge, which has a crest to it. He recounted how, as they cleared that crest, this line—two by two—of peaceful protesters, marchers seeking to go from Selma to the State capital to make their plea for access to that most fundamental of rights in our democracy—the ballot box—he could see that line of State troopers, of deputies, and a ragtag crowd of those who had gathered to do violence to those protesters and marchers. He was not gripped with fear. He was determined to go ahead even though he said he was certain that might be his last day.

You see, John is someone who understood the redemptive power of suffering, someone whom I described as a living saint, someone who was willing

to take onto himself the violence visited upon millions of others in sustaining the brutality and the repression of racial segregation in our country. And by taking on and believing in and living a philosophy, a theology, an activist stance of nonviolence, John brought alive the conscience of a nation.

I will just say that in my own life, John was someone who made me believe in the possibility of forgiveness, of redemption, and of healing. If a man who had suffered as he did at the hands of so many bigots, so many acts of violence and disrespect, from the lunch counter sit-ins, to the freedom riots, to that march on Bloody Sunday; if that man could be as hopeful, as kind, as generous in spirit, and as forgiving as he was to all who met him, holding on with fierceness to his commitment to justice and equality, yet openhearted and openhanded to all he met; if that man could have walked among us, then I am one step closer to believing in the possibility of forgiveness for us all.

I want to express my deepest condolences to his son, John Miles Lewis, and his family and to all who knew and loved and served with him. It is my hope that his legacy will be a blessing, a challenge, and an inspiration for every American.

There is now on the floor of this Senate the Voting Rights Advancement Act, renamed for John Lewis. On the 50th anniversary of the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, I carried a copy of that exact bill of that Congress, named the "John Lewis Voting Rights Restoration Act," and asked a number of my colleagues if they would join in cosponsoring it. One Republican did—a Senator from Alaska—and many Democrats. What matters is not the party but the purpose.

I will close by saying that we should never give up on John's pursuit of a more fair and equal America.

Mr. President, I was going to proceed to make remarks on another individual, but I will gladly yield to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank my friend, the Senator from Delaware.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the Joseph and Wade nominations at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow in the order listed; further, that if cloture is invoked on the nominations, the postcloture time expire at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in that order. I further ask unanimous consent that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and finally, that the cloture motions with respect to the Kaplan and McFerran nominations ripen following

the disposition of the Wade nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 770.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Derek Kan, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Derek Kan, of California, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Lamar Alexander, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Marsha Blackburn, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, James E. Risch, Shelley Moore Capito, Michael B. Enzi, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

TRIBUTE TO JACK AND DIANA BERGER

● Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Jack and Diana Berger, who are being inducted into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Every year since 1992, Wyoming has recognized individuals who have made substantial contributions to agriculture in our great State. I am proud to say that Jack and Diana Berger more than meet these qualifications and are well deserving of this honor.

Natives of Saratoga, WY, Jack and Diana Berger remain committed to Wyoming's agriculture industry and the Saratoga community. Jack is currently serving as president of the Wyoming Natural Resource Foundation, which is dedicated to conserving Wyoming's natural resources, heritage, and culture. He has been instrumental in providing the necessary support to fund a variety of water quality initiatives and rangeland and wildlife habitat improvement projects. Jack is also the past president of the Carbon County Stock Growers. Diana was elected to serve on Carbon County School District No. 2 for two terms. In 2018, she was appointed by then-Wyoming Governor Matt Mead to serve on the Wyoming State Fair Advisory Board and elected to serve as chair in 2019. As a member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Environmental Stewardship Committee, Diana played an intricate role in selecting members of the Wyoming agricultural community who exhibit outstanding stewardship ethics. These are just a few of the organizations Jack and Diana have dedicated their time to.

Perhaps more inspirational than their achievements, however, is the Bergers' commitment to the Saratoga community. Jack and Diana have a passion for the agriculture industry and their fellow producers, and want to see these people succeed right alongside them. They genuinely enjoy ranching and making a living off of the land. The Bergers also firmly believe, like myself, that the most effective policy decisions are made at the State and local level, especially when concerning critical industries like agriculture. Like most folks in the great State of Wyoming, the Bergers know that hard work, proper stewardship of the land, and a commitment to your neighbor go a long way in ensuring a strong agriculture industry and happy and healthy communities.

Fortunately for Wyoming, the Bergers also truly understand the importance of passing their knowledge on to the next generation of Wyomingites. They continue to share their passion for agriculture with their children Jace, Aubrey, Kyle, and Kirby. Jack and Diana remain active in the Carbon County Fair with 4-H and FFA. It is truly inspiring to see Wyomingites who understand the importance of passing their knowledge on to those who come next, so they too can have a positive impact on Wyoming's agriculture industry like Jack and Diana have.

The Bergers' values, dedication, and work ethic exemplify the Wyoming way of life. I want to extend my congratulations to them and thank them for their service and years of hard work. Jack and Diana Berger truly live the Cowboy way of life, and I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize their achievements as inductees into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Wyoming is well served by their lasting and continuing contributions to our great State.●

TRIBUTE TO BRAD BONER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at the 108th Wyoming State Fair, Senator ENZI and I will have the pleasure of introducing Brad Boner as one of the 2020 inductees of the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. He is a man of honesty, hard work, and strong leadership. I am proud to say Mr. Boner exemplifies the ideals of the Wyoming way of life through his immense contributions to Wyoming agriculture.

Mr. Boner has demonstrated his deep-rooted commitment to the Wyoming community and, above all, his family. He is supported by his wife Laurie and three children, Braden, Meghan, and Ryan. After graduating from the University of Wyoming with an ag business degree, Brad returned to Glenrock, WY, where he still ranches at the M Diamond Angus Ranch alongside his two brothers, Rob and Jeff, and their father, Bob.

Mr. Boner's involvement in agriculture goes far beyond production. In fact, his dedication and passion for the industry are evident through his active involvement in both cattle and sheep industries on local, State, and national levels. Brad is the current American Sheep Industry Association secretary and treasurer, as well as president of both the Wyoming Wool Growers and Wyoming Angus Association. Brad has served in various capacities whenever he has been called upon, often sacrificing valuable time on his home ranch. Brad serves as the supervisor of the Converse County Conservation District, Wyoming Animal Damage Control Board, and American Sheep Industry "Let it Grow" committee. Brad's dedication to the State and the industry has not gone unnoticed. In 2014, he was recognized as a University of Wyoming College of Agriculture "Outstanding Alumni."

In addition to serving in many capacities to the benefit of Wyoming's sheep ranching community, Brad steps up and serves as an articulate spokesman on moving the sheep industry forward. One of the most noteworthy accomplishments is Brad's active role in forming the Mountain States Lamb Cooperative, including serving as MSLC's first chairman and current chairman.

Mr. Boner is not only a leader in Wyoming's strong agriculture community, but a wonderful mentor to the youth across our State. He believes sharing his love for agriculture with students

is the best way to ensure the continuation of this great industry for generations to come. I would agree. I think that the greatest accomplishment is the mentorship that we can provide to the young folks of this country, and this is exactly what Mr. Boner continues to do. Through the Future Cattle Producers of Wyoming program, he donates a heifer to a student applicant that wants to learn about the industry. This program assists students in becoming involved in cattle production and helps them establish their own herds.

In addition to assisting many students on the agriculture front, for more than 30 years, Brad has dedicated his time to his community by refereeing basketball games from middle school to intermural college games. He also helped coach the boys and girls traveling teams to support his children. As Peter Camino, former president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, observed, "He has worked diligently to solidify a future not only for himself, but the future of generations to follow."

Brad's humble character and dedication to agriculture have truly made an impact and helped grow our agriculture community. I think I speak for many when I say I am truly grateful for his leadership, contributions, and caring demeanor that has so graciously blessed our State in many ways.

With Brad Boner's constant diligence to improve and impact his community, it is with my great honor to induct him into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. He represents every positive attribute of a leader in Wyoming agriculture and the Code of the West. He has represented Wyoming's interests with dedication and honor. It is because of people like him that the agricultural community in Wyoming has a bright and productive future. My wife Bobbi joins me in congratulating the outstanding individual, Brad Boner, who is a 2020 inductee into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO DR. NATE SMITH

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Nate Smith, whose expert medical guidance and strong leadership will be deeply missed following his departure from the Arkansas Department of Health.

Dr. Smith launched his career with the Arkansas Department of Health in 2009. His extensive medical background and dedication to the department's mission allowed him quick advancement through the agency ranks. He initially served as State epidemiologist and subsequently served as branch chief for infectious diseases and deputy director for Public Health Programs. However, Dr. Smith's more recent and notable appointments to director and State health officer in 2013 and sec-

retary of health in 2019 presented him with even greater responsibility in maintaining and protecting public health in the State of Arkansas. As a member of Governor Asa Hutchinson's cabinet, Dr. Smith crafted and implemented the State's response to the COVID-19 emergency. He has worked diligently alongside the Governor's team to provide medical and scientific reasoning for pandemic-related decisions. Dr. Smith's commitment to the health and well-being of Arkansans has always been evident. We are especially grateful for that commitment as he navigated unprecedented times on behalf of our State.

Dr. Smith's distinguished career with the Arkansas Department of Health comes after years of education and preparation, including over a decade of comprehensive medical schooling, four degrees, and two board certifications. After graduating from Rice University in 1986, Dr. Smith claimed home to Texas and its classrooms for the next 10 years. By 1991, Dr. Smith had earned two more degrees: a doctor of medicine from Baylor College of Medicine and a master of arts from Dallas Theological Seminary. In 1996, Dr. Smith earned a master of public health from the University of Texas School of Public Health, focusing on disease control. He completed two infectious disease fellowships at Baylor College of Medicine before pursuing a degree in tropical medicine and hygiene from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in England.

What emerged as an area of interest for Dr. Smith in medical school led to an expansive, acclaimed career in infectious disease medicine. After years of education and training, Dr. Smith took his knowledge to Africa at the height of the AIDS epidemic. While simultaneously serving as a medical missionary with his wife, Dr. Smith worked at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya in the roles as chief of internal medicine, medical intern program director, and infectious disease consultant. He found himself back in Kenya in 2006 under the direction of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, this time working with the Kenya Institute of Human Virology as a senior medical technical adviser and country medical director.

His expertise in infectious disease is well-respected and has led to his participation and leadership in several medical advisory groups. Dr. Smith served as chairman of the infection control committee for the Arkansas Department of Health, chairman of the Arkansas AIDS Drug Assistance Program Formulary Advisory Committee, and chairman of the Infectious Disease Policy Committee for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, ASTHO. He sat on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for several years before an appointment to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Further, Dr. Smith has published more

than 25 scientific papers with the majority citing infectious disease studies.

It is clear that Dr. Smith's passion for service and selfless dedication to public health has brought tremendous value to Arkansas, its institutions, and, most importantly, its 3 million citizens. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is one such institution that will undoubtedly feel Dr. Smith's absence, as he has held several academic appointments alongside his career at the Arkansas Department of Health. What began as a voluntary position in 2009 became a mainstay endeavor for Dr. Smith. He has since held several professorships at the university in the division of infectious diseases and the epidemiology department. When Dr. Smith is not teaching, working or spending time with his family of five, he can be found donating his time and service to St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Little Rock, where he works with the leadership team and missions team. His robust professional and community impact have earned him the following awards: the Arkansas AIDS Foundation's Compassion Award, the Arkansas Public Health Association's Director's Award for Science, and the Living and Affected Corporation's Distinguished Service Award.

I want to graciously thank Dr. Smith for his tireless commitment to improving the health and wellness of Arkansans. I appreciate his friendship and example for us all as a true public servant. His transition to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is bittersweet, and we are full of gratitude and pride for Dr. Smith and his dedication to our State over the past two decades.●

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET DAGMAN

● Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor a very special North Dakota resident who turned 100 years old on July 17. Margaret Michalski Dagman has been a lifelong resident of the Nome and Enderlin, ND, area. She and her late husband, Vernon, raised two children and farmed for many years near Enderlin. They were active in their community, and Margaret supported Vernon during his years representing Ransom County in the North Dakota Legislature in the early 1960s.

Throughout the decades of her life across the past century, Margaret has experienced great moments in North Dakota's history. She shared her memories of attending the Nome Schoolhouse in a recent video produced about the restored building. She recalled bringing lunch to school in syrup pails, the many poems she and her classmates were required to memorize, and some of her favorite teachers. Although a large celebration did not happen on Margaret's birthday, the community of Enderlin drove by her home and honked with birthday wishes. I hope she will be able to celebrate this great milestone with friends and family at other opportunities throughout the year.

North Dakota is home to more than 200 centenarians, and we consider them among our most treasured residents. Their pioneer spirit, dignity, and hard work have brought them through many challenges and personal achievements. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I wish Margaret a happy 100th birthday and hope this is the start of a year filled with happiness and joy.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN "MIKE" CROTEAU

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate Mr. John "Mike" Croteau of Newbury, NH, on his retirement from the Newbury Fire Department after a remarkable 75 years of service.

Mike's father, George, was a long-time member and chief of the Newbury Fire Department, and in 1945, 15-year-old Mike, joined the department too. At first, Mike helped put out brush fires caused by trains that ran from Boston to Newbury Station. When Mike was 18, he fought the fire on Mount Sunapee that claimed 1,700 acres. Hundreds of firefighters worked for 7 days straight to battle the fast-moving fire during one of the worst fire seasons ever recorded in New Hampshire history.

Beyond his work at the fire department, Mike was an engineer for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for 33 years, and the Town of Newbury often called upon his expertise for site work and design. While working for the State, he continued to serve the fire department, serving as the fire chief, as well as forest fire warden.

Mike has dedicated many hours of his time to the Newbury Fire Department in addition to firefighting by helping with fundraising efforts, including the annual bingo nights and auctions. His dedication to his community also went beyond his exemplary fire department service; he also volunteered for many town groups, boards, and activities and has always stepped up when something needs to be done.

In 2012, Governor John Lynch commended Mike for 67 years of service as a firefighter, and in 2015, he received the Fire Service Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Hampshire Police, Fire, and EMS Foundation.

Mike's commitment to his community and the Newbury Fire Department is a shining example of the spirit of New Hampshire, and he serves as a role model for all Granite Staters. He has been a critical part of the department for 75 years, and he has put himself at risk day after day to protect his fellow citizens. His town, State, and country are better because of his dedicated efforts.

I hope you will join me in honoring an exemplary Granite Stater, Mike Croteau.●

TRIBUTE TO CARTER MANSON

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am proud to honor Carter Manson of Manchester as July's Granite Stater of the Month. Carter's efforts to encourage Granite Staters and all Americans to get outside and help clean up their communities has made a true difference in a difficult time.

Carter, who is only 5 years old, has wanted to be a garbage man since he was 3. For Halloween last year, he even dressed up as a trash collector to show his appreciation for his heroes. Now, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, Carter has taken his passion for garbage collection one step further.

One day in April while the stay-at-home orders for New Hampshire were in place, Carter asked his mom, Kelly, if he could go outside and pick up some trash. Kelly obliged and took some photos of her young son cleaning up his neighborhood and posted them on her Facebook page.

Much to her surprise, the photos Kelly posted of Carter's efforts received a lot of attention from her friends and family. In response, she decided to build on the momentum Carter had inspired by creating a group called Carter's Clean Up Crew.

The "Crew" now has nearly 800 members from across the United States and Canada. The group has also received support from 22 businesses and raised \$1,400 to help get members of the group the supplies that they need to clean up their communities, including trash grabbers and gloves.

The Crew is planning their first big cleanup day at the end of August, and Carter and Kelly have been rallying members of their community to join them in Manchester for the big day.

In the meantime, Carter has been diligent in his clean up regimen and goes out with his mom at least once a week to pick up 5 gallons of trash in neighborhoods across Manchester.

Carter's passion for cleaning up his environment and encouraging others to do the same represents the best of our State and our all-hands-on-deck spirit. It also represents how eager people are to strengthen and improve their communities even during this pandemic. I applaud Carter for his efforts and look forward to seeing what he accomplishes next.●

TRIBUTE TO JAMES "RUSTY" MITCHELL

● Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Lt. Col. (Ret.) James "Rusty" Mitchell on his retirement from the Community Initiatives Team—CIT—at Luke Air Force Base in my home State of Arizona.

Rusty first joined the Air Force in 1976 and spent years serving his country around the globe. Rusty also spent a significant amount of his Air Force career at Arizona military installations, serving as an A-10 jet instructor at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and

having several different roles at Luke Air Force Base involving the F-16 fighter jet. He retired from the Air Force in 1998 after 22 years of service to his country.

Rusty still had a desire to fly, so after his retirement from the Air Force, he became a captain for United Airlines, a career that he enjoyed and continued for 21 years before retiring from that role last year.

But despite becoming a pilot for United, it became clear that Rusty wasn't ready to end his service to the Air Force. In 2003, Rusty became the director of the Community Initiatives Team at Luke Air Force Base. In this role he served as a liaison between the U.S. Air Force, Luke Air Force Base, the State of Arizona and 11 of the local cities and municipalities surrounding the base. He played a vital role in helping Luke Air Force Base secure the F-35 training mission, bring critical jobs to the State and boosting the local economy. Furthermore, Rusty has been personally helpful to me and my staff in our official visits to Luke Air Force Base, numerous inquiries and countless requests for information.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Mitchell has served this country, the Air Force, and Luke Air Force Base as an airman and civilian for almost 40 years, and he will be missed. On behalf of the U.S. Congress and the State of Arizona, I want to thank Rusty for his service and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 105. Concurrent resolution permitting the remains of the Honorable John Lewis, late a Representative from the State of Georgia, to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol.

H. Con. Res. 106. Concurrent resolution directing the Architect of the Capitol to transfer the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center to the rotunda of the Capitol for use in connection with services conducted for the Honorable John Lewis, late a Representative from the State of Georgia.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The messages also announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 886. An act to direct the Attorney General to establish and carry out a veteran Treatment Court Program.

H.R. 3504. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program and educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4920. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an exception to certain small business contracting requirements applicable to the Department of Veterans Affairs procurement of certain goods

and services covered under the Ability One program, and for other purposes.

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

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. 4187. A bill to establish the Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund to ensure a safe, sustainable, convenient transportation option for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MORAN, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 785. A bill to improve mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 4317. A bill to lessen the burdens on interstate commerce by discouraging insubstantial lawsuits relating to COVID-19 while preserving the ability of individuals and businesses that have suffered real injury to obtain complete relief; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 4318. A bill to provide assistance to American workers, families, and employers during the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina:

S. 4319. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily expand the deduction for business meals provided at a restaurant; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S. 4320. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4321. A bill to establish the Paycheck Protection Program Second Draw Loan and amend 7(a) loan guaranty program for recovery sector business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 4322. A bill to help Americans safely get back to school and back to work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KING, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4323. A bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BURR, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4324. A bill to facilitate the availability, development, and production of domestic resources to meet national personal protective equipment and material needs, and ensure American leadership in advanced research and development and semiconductor manufacturing; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 4325. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 4326. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to honor the 100th anniversary of completion of coinage of the "Morgan Dollar" and the 100th anniversary of commencement of coinage of the "Peace Dollar", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)):

S. 4327. A bill to establish the Taiwan Fellowship Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 4328. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and report on data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4329. A bill to provide premium assistance for COBRA continuation coverage, church plan continuation coverage, and furloughed continuation coverage for individuals and their families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 4330. A bill to provide for the collection of death information from States for purposes of the Do Not Pay Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 4331. A bill to preserve Indian Tribes' and Native Hawaiian organizations' autonomy of access to spectrum over Tribal lands and expedite immediate deployment of telecommunications services for critical government services, including national emergencies, natural disasters, public health and biohazard threats, safety, education, opportunity to participate in the broadband economy, self-governance, access to Federal, State, and Tribal voting and elections, and the Federal census count, for the protection of life and property in furtherance of the Federal trust responsibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

S. 4332. A bill to provide for the use of additional funds for transportation projects that were affected by Coronavirus Disease 2019

(COVID-19), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 658. A resolution calling for a free, fair, and transparent presidential election in Belarus taking place on August 9, 2020, including the unimpeded participation of all presidential candidates; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 53

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 53, a bill to appropriate \$25,000,000,000 for the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 997

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 997, a bill to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 2059

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2165, a bill to provide a civil remedy for individuals harmed by sanctuary jurisdiction policies, and for other purposes.

S. 2165

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2165, a bill to enhance protections of Native American tangible cultural heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2292, a bill to require asylum officers to conduct credible fear screenings before admitting aliens seeking asylum into the United States, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an alternatives to detention pilot program, and to clarify that aliens transiting through third countries on the way to the United States are ineligible for asylum, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3176, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 3419

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3419, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide for the establishment of a trust for the benefit of all unpaid cash sellers of livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3487

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3487, a bill to amend the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to provide for the compensation of elderly victims of property damage, to provide increased funding for the crime victim compensation fund, and for other purposes.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3612, a bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus assistance does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses.

S. 3672

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3672, a bill to provide States and Indian Tribes with flexibility in administering the temporary assistance for needy families program due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), to make emergency grants to States and Indian Tribes to provide financial support for low-income individuals affected by that public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 3703

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3703, a bill to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 3814

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3814, a bill to establish a loan program for

businesses affected by COVID-19 and to extend the loan forgiveness period for paycheck protection program loans made to the hardest hit businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 3998

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3998, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 4077

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4077, a bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules, and for other purposes.

S. 4085

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4085, a bill to make certain States and political subdivisions of States ineligible to receive Federal finance assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 4156

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4156, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide relief from hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic to agricultural producers, and for other purposes.

S. 4158

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4158, a bill to examine the extent of the reliance of the United States on foreign producers for personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic and produce recommendations to secure the supply chain of personal protective equipment.

S. 4172

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4172, a bill to provide emergency funding for child welfare services provided under parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4174

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4174, a bill to provide emergency appropriations to the United States Postal Service to cover losses related to the COVID-19 crisis and to direct the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service to develop a plan for ensuring the long term solvency of the Postal Service.

S. 4179

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4179, a bill to update the blood donation public awareness campaign of the Department of Health and Human Services to include public awareness on plasma donation.

S. 4192

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 4192, a bill to increase portability of and access to retirement savings, and for other purposes.

S. 4201

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4201, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to accelerate the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I auction, and for other purposes.

S. 4233

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4233, a bill to establish a payment program for unexpected loss of markets and revenues to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 4258

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

S. 4262

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4262, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop an action plan, make targeted grants, and develop public awareness campaigns with respect to COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations.

S. 4275

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4275, a bill to require recipients of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to provide employment documentation, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 524

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. Res. 524, a resolution condemning the practice of politically motivated imprisonment, calling for the immediate release of political prisoners in the Russian Federation, and urging action by the United States Government to impose sanctions with respect to persons responsible for that form of human rights abuse.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. SINEMA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KING, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4323. A bill to save and strengthen critical social contract programs of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to propose the TRUST Act of 2020. This is bipartisan legislation. It is sponsored by 14 other Senators, both Democrats and Republicans, and supported by 30 Members from each party from the House.

Its purpose is to preserve the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, among others, both of which have been pushed closer to bankruptcy due to the pandemic. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget projects that Medicare Part A will now become insolvent in only 4 years, and the Social Security retirement trust fund by 2031.

Under the law, insolvency would trigger drastic benefit cuts, or, if approved by a future Congress, draconian tax hikes. Our TRUST Act is designed to save these trust funds in addition to other vital Federal trust funds.

The TRUST Act also addresses our ballooning national debt, a burden which has become even greater due to the COVID-19 crisis. The CBO projects that the Federal budget deficit will be \$3.7 trillion this year. Our national debt will exceed \$27 trillion. That could eventually mean backbreaking interest payments, runaway inflation, or national financial calamity.

Modeled loosely after the Simpson-Bowles fiscal commission, the TRUST Act would create a process to rescue these funds. Under the bill, an individual rescue committee would be created for each of the trust funds. Each committee would be tasked with drafting bipartisan legislation that would provide for its solvency.

Members of the rescue committees would come equally from the House and the Senate and equally from each party. If the majority of a committee supported a solvency plan and if at least two members from each party endorsed that plan, it would be brought, on an expedited basis, to the floor.

The TRUST Act has strong bipartisan consensus among Senators and Members of the House, as well as policy advocates across the political spec-

trum, from Freedom Works to the Brookings Institution, as well as from Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles.

This is the right time to act. Our trust funds are approaching insolvency even more rapidly due to the pandemic. More importantly, if we don't act now, it will never happen before we face an overwhelming crisis. One of the lessons the COVID-19 crisis has taught us is that it is far better to prepare and hopefully prevent a crisis than to wait for a crisis to fall upon us.

The TRUST Act is the only bipartisan, bicameral solution that has been proposed to save our trust funds and to restore fiscal stability. I urge this body to work in good faith to advance this proposal as part of additional pandemic relief.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 4328. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and report on data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 4328

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

SECTION 1. PROTECTING DATA QUALITY, SHARING, TRANSPARENCY, ACCESS, AND ANALYSIS.

(a) INQUIRY AND SUBMISSION OF FINDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the “Comptroller General”) shall initiate an inquiry into any changes or interruptions in data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis resulting from the changes to COVID-19 hospital data reporting requirements initiated by the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the Department of Health and Human Services on July 13, 2020.

(2) SUBMISSION OF FINDINGS.—Not later than 45 days after initiation of such inquiry, the Comptroller General shall present its findings to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Department of Health and Human Services, in oral briefings, which shall detail—

(A) what is known about any changes or interruptions in data quality, sharing, transparency, access to data, and analysis or access to relevant analytics, including whether such changes increased, decreased, expedited, or delayed such quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis or access to relevant analytics, for—

- (i) the public;
- (ii) State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments;
- (iii) hospitals; or
- (iv) Federal agency officials, including officials within the Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(B) what is known about whether there was any impact to, or interruptions in, delivery of supplies, including personal protective equipment, ventilators, and COVID-19 therapeutics, to States or other entities resulting from changes to COVID-19 hospital data reporting requirements described in paragraph (1).

(b) **ACCESS TO REPORTING SYSTEM.**—For purposes of the review required under this section or any other audit, evaluation, or investigation authorized by law, the Secretary shall, within 7 days of the date of enactment of this Act, provide the Comptroller General with direct access to the systems used for the reporting of information referred to in this section, including to all information collected, stored, analyzed, processed, or produced in or through such systems used for such purposes. For purposes of this subsection, the term “direct access” means secured access to the information technology systems maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services that enables the Comptroller General to independently access, view, download and retrieve data from such systems.

(c) **ADDRESSING ISSUES.**—Not later than 7 days after the Comptroller General submits the findings to Congress under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall address data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis, and access to relevant analytics for the public; State, local, Tribal, and territorial health departments; hospitals; and Federal agency officials, including officials within the Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to fully correct any decreases or delays reported under subsection (a)(2) by the Comptroller General and ensure that data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis or access to relevant analytics are equal to or better than they were as of July 12, 2020.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report regarding the impact of changes to COVID-19 hospital data reporting requirements initiated by the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the Department of Health and Human Services on July 13, 2020. In preparing such report, the Comptroller General shall collect information from relevant stakeholders, as appropriate. Such report shall—

(1) detail any known changes or interruptions in data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis or access to relevant analytics for the entities described in subsection (a)(2)(A), including whether such changes ultimately increased, decreased, expedited, or delayed data quality, sharing, transparency, access, and analysis or access to relevant analytics;

(2) describe challenges faced by hospitals, States, localities, Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination

and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), urban Indian organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)), territories, Federal agencies, and the public resulting from such changes;

(3) describe the extent to which such changes may allow for manipulation of the data in a manner that results in hospitals, States, localities, Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), urban Indian organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)), territories, Federal agencies, and the public receiving different information than what was provided to the Department of Health and Human Services;

(4) assess the extent to which such changes increased or decreased the number of hospitals reporting data and the completeness and quality of data reported by hospitals;

(5) determine whether any States deployed the National Guard to assist in hospital data reporting, as suggested in communications from the White House Coronavirus Task Force and the Department of Health and Human Services on July 13, 2020, and whether any such deployment had a measurable effect on the speed, content, or quality of such reporting;

(6) describe the decision-making process within the Department of Health and Human Services that led to the changes initiated on July 13, 2020, including—

(A) the role of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in such decision-making;

(B) any analysis conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that assessed the quality and completeness of different data streams (including the National Healthcare Safety Network, Tele-Tracking, data reported by States to the Protect System of the Department of Health and Human Services), prior to July 13, 2020;

(C) any external input into the decision-making process, including from other Federal agencies, States, localities, Indian Tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), urban Indian organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)), territories, or hospitals;

(D) the public health justification for the changes; and

(E) any other justification for such changes; and

(7) assess the process used to address any decreases or delays in data quality, sharing, transparency, access to data, and analysis and access to relevant analytics as required under subsection (c).

(e) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives an interim report providing information on initial findings under subsection (d).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 658—CALLING FOR A FREE, FAIR, AND TRANSPARENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN BELARUS TAKING PLACE ON AUGUST 9, 2020, INCLUDING THE UNIMPEDED PARTICIPATION OF ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, and Mrs. SHAHEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 658

Whereas long-term president Alyaksandr Lukashenko has ruled Belarus as an undemocratic dictatorship since the first presidential election in Belarus in 1994 and is running for a sixth term in office;

Whereas the presidential elections in Belarus have been neither free nor fair and have been rejected by the international community as not meeting minimal electoral standards;

Whereas Belarus abolished presidential term limits in a referendum in 2004, and Lukashenko affirmed in November 2019 that he plans to run again in 2025;

Whereas, in the most recent 2010 and 2015 presidential elections, Lukashenko arbitrarily disqualified or jailed key opponents ahead of and after the elections;

Whereas, in March 2011, the United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution condemning the Belarusian elections as illegitimate and calling on the Belarusian regime to immediately release all political prisoners;

Whereas, according to the Department of State 2019 Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Belarus, Lukashenko has consolidated his rule over all institutions since his first term as president and undermined the rule of law through authoritarian means, including manipulated elections and arbitrary decrees, such that all subsequent presidential elections fell well short of international standards;

Whereas the law of Belarus provides citizens the ability to choose their government in free and fair periodic elections held by secret ballot and based on universal and equal suffrage, but the Government of Belarus has consistently denied citizens that ability;

Whereas flawed referendums in 1996 and 2004 amended the Constitution of Belarus to broaden the powers of Lukashenko, extend his term in office, and remove presidential term limits;

Whereas appearances by opposition politicians on state media have historically been limited and such restrictions have been strongly criticized by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR), which has not recognized any elections in Belarus as free and fair since 1995;

Whereas authorities in Belarus routinely impede the activities and legal status of opposition political parties by refusing to register them, while allowing approximately 6 largely inactive but officially registered pro-Lukashenko political parties to operate freely;

Whereas the Central Election Commission of Belarus (CEC) disqualified the majority of potential candidates from the upcoming August 9, 2020, presidential election for politically motivated purposes;

Whereas, on June 30, 2020, the Central Election Commission barred Valery Tsepkalo, a

former Ambassador to the United States and First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and one of the major challengers to Lukashenko, from running in the presidential election;

Whereas, on May 6, 2020, popular blogger Syarhey Tsikhanouski was arrested and jailed for 15 days prior to a rally he had planned for May 9, 2020, to challenge the decision by Lukashenko to hold a Victory Day military parade despite the coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas, between May 6 and June 16, 2020, courts in Belarus convicted 97 individuals as part of a new wave of political persecution for “illegal protesting” and sentenced those individuals to various terms of detention for a total of 1,246 days, while 105 individuals were fined a total of 90,000 rubles, approximately 40,000 United States dollars;

Whereas, on May 15, 2020, the Central Election Commission rejected the registration documents submitted by Tsikhanouski for his candidacy for the presidential election;

Whereas, on May 19, 2020, the Central Election Commission rejected the candidacy of opposition politician Mikalay Statkevich, who previously challenged Lukashenko in 2010 and was incarcerated for 4 years and 8 months for protesting the disputed election, allegedly on the basis of his “criminal record”;

Whereas Statkevich was subsequently sentenced on June 1, 2020, to 15 days in jail for taking part in an “unauthorized” opposition event in Minsk to collect signatures for his candidacy, was sentenced to another 15 days on June 15, 2020, and still remains incarcerated as of July 27, 2020;

Whereas, on May 22, 2020, Human Rights Watch reported that between May 6 and 13, 2020, authorities in Belarus “arbitrarily arrested over 120 peaceful protesters, opposition bloggers, journalists, and other critics of the government in 17 cities,” including Youth Block movement activists concerned about human rights and rule of law in Belarus, which “is particularly disturbing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic”;

Whereas, on May 29, 2020, Tsikhanouski was arrested again in Hrodna while collecting signatures for the presidential candidacy of his spouse, Svyatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who is running in his stead, and Tsikhanouski was subsequently charged with “the organization and preparation of actions that severely violated public order”;

Whereas, on May 31, 2020, Belarusian human rights group Viasna (Spring) reported that 50 opposition activists were arrested by police while they were gathering signatures to allow opponents to participate in the presidential election;

Whereas, on June 8, 2020, Paval Sevyarynets, co-chairman of the opposition Belarusian Christian Democratic Party, was sentenced to 15 days in jail for supporting independent presidential candidates in rallies in Minsk on June 7, 2020, and subsequently, on July 8, 2020, was sentenced to a fifth consecutive 15-day jail term;

Whereas, on June 18, 2020, authorities arrested potential presidential challenger Viktor Babaryka and his son, Eduard, who heads his presidential campaign;

Whereas, on June 19, 2020, the European Union issued a statement calling on the Government of Belarus to immediately release Babaryka and his son and called for an impartial investigation into the arrests;

Whereas, according to the Belarusian Association of Journalists, on June 19, 2020, police officers detained at least 14 journalists, including Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) reporter Alyaksandra Dynko and cameraperson Andrey Rabchuk, who were covering protests against the efforts of

Lukashenko to undermine the electoral process;

Whereas, on June 19, 2020, the United States Embassy in Minsk urged the Government of Belarus to “uphold its international commitments to respect fundamental freedoms”;

Whereas, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, over 3 days starting on June 25, 2020, authorities arrested several bloggers, including Ihor Losik, Serhei Petrukhin, Aleksandr Kabanau, Volodimir Neronski, Aleksandr Andreyev, Volodimir Tsiganovich, and Serhei Sparish, a move Amnesty International said represents “a full-scale purge of dissenting voices”;

Whereas, on June 24, 2020, Representative Alcee L. Hastings, Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (commonly known as the “Helsinki Commission”), released a statement noting that Belarusian authorities have made it impossible to hold free and fair elections by “arresting and intimidating presidential candidates, journalists, and activists in the early stages of campaigning,” and moreover, that “[t]here can be no free choice when the system is rigged in favor of the incumbent,” and called upon Lukashenko to “order the release of those who have been detained for political reasons and allow real political competition in Belarus”;

Whereas, on June 29, 2020, Amnesty International issued a statement condemning that “[t]here is no safe environment for political debate in Belarus, and there is a growing crackdown on human rights in the context of the forthcoming election,” and moreover, “[o]pposition candidates along with their supporters are smeared, targeted and incarcerated under trumped-up charges, with women particularly targeted”;

Whereas, on July 3, 2020, in a statement commemorating the Independence Day of Belarus, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged the “government of Belarus to do everything in its power to ensure the upcoming elections are free and fair,” including “the right of a diverse range of candidates to participate in the campaign, the right of citizens to assemble peacefully and speak freely, and open and fair ballot counting”;

Whereas, on July 14, 2020, the Central Election Commission ultimately approved only 5 candidates to run in the presidential election, namely, Lukashenko, Andrey Dzmitryyev, Hanna Kanapatskaya, Syarhey Cherachan, and Tsikhanouskaya;

Whereas, on July 14, 2020, during protests over the unjustified disqualification of several presidential candidates, authorities used unnecessary and excessive force to detain at least 220 individuals across the country;

Whereas, on July 14, 2020, authorities detained at least 17 journalists covering protests in Minsk, Brest, and Homel, including Katsiaryna Andreeva (and Ihor Ilyash when he sought her release) with Poland-registered broadcaster Belsat TV, Danil Palyanski with independent news website Pershiy Region, Artsiom Liava with independent news website Novy Chas, Aliaksei Sudnikau and Usevalad Zarubin with independent news website Tut.by, blogger Anatoly Chilik, Andy Smythe with BBC, Mikhail Ilyin and Artsiom Mayorau with Polish broadcaster Euroradio, and Ales Piletski and Andrey Rabchuk with RFE/RL;

Whereas, on July 15, 2020, at least 2,000 people lined up to file complaints with the Central Election Commission for denying the candidacy registrations of Babaryka and Tsapkalov, and authorities detained another 16 people, including RFE/RL correspondent Anton Trofimovich and BelaPAN correspondent Violeta Savchyts;

Whereas, on July 15, 2020, Amnesty International issued a statement in response to

the arrest of protesters in Minsk on July 14, 2020, stating that “[a]nyone detained simply for peacefully protesting in Minsk, or other cities, is a prisoner of conscience, and must be immediately and unconditionally released”; and

Whereas, on July 22, 2020, the Central Election Commission announced it will severely limit the number of observers during early voting and on election day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the politically motivated arrest and imprisonment of opposition candidates in Belarus, including Syarhey Tsikhanouski, Viktor Babaryka, and Mikalay Statkevich, and calls for their immediate release and ability to compete in the August 9, 2020, presidential election in Belarus;

(2) condemns the arbitrary disqualification by the Central Election Commission of Belarus of the majority of the potential candidates for the August 9, 2020, presidential election;

(3) condemns the crackdown on and arbitrary arrests of peaceful protesters, opposition party members, human rights activists, and independent media by authorities in Belarus;

(4) stands in solidarity with the people of Belarus, including human rights defenders, bloggers, and journalists, who are exercising their right to freedom of assembly, freedom of expression, and rule of law; and

(5) calls on Belarus to hold free, fair, and inclusive presidential elections on August 9, 2020, that meet international standards and include credible international election monitoring.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2498. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 881, to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2498. Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 881, to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Promoting Research and Observations of Space Weather to Improve the Forecasting of Tomorrow Act” or the “PROSWIFT Act”.

SEC. 2. SPACE WEATHER.

(a) **POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to prepare and protect against the social and economic impacts of space weather phenomena by supporting actions to improve space weather forecasts and predictions including: sustaining and enhancing critical observations, identifying research needs and promoting opportunities for research-to-operations and operations-to-research collaborations both within and outside of the Federal Government, advancing space weather models, engaging with all sectors of the space weather community, including academia, the commercial sector, and international partners, and understanding the needs of space weather end users.

(b) **AMENDMENT TO TITLE 51, UNITED STATES CODE.**—Subtitle VI of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after chapter 605 the following:

“CHAPTER 606—SPACE WEATHER

“Sec.

“60601. Space weather.

“60602. Integrated strategy.

“60603. Sustaining and advancing critical space weather observations.

“60604. Research activities.

“60605. Space weather data.

“60606. Space weather knowledge transfer and information exchange.

“60607. Pilot program for obtaining commercial sector space weather data.

“60608. Space weather benchmarks.

“§ 60601. Space weather

“(a) FINDINGS.—

“(1) SPACE WEATHER.—Congress makes the following findings with respect to space weather:

“(A) Space weather phenomena pose a significant threat to ground-based and space-based critical infrastructure, modern technological systems, and humans working in space.

“(B) The effects of severe space weather on the electric power grid, satellites and satellite communications and information, aviation operations, astronauts living and working in space, and space-based position, navigation, and timing systems could have significant societal, economic, national security, and health impacts.

“(C) Space-based and ground-based observations provide crucial data necessary to understand, forecast, and prepare for space weather phenomena.

“(D) Clear roles and accountability of Federal departments and agencies are critical for efficient and effective response to threats posed by space weather.

“(E) Space weather observation and forecasting are essential for the success of human and robotic space exploration.

“(F) In October 2015, the National Science and Technology Council published a National Space Weather Strategy and a National Space Weather Action Plan seeking to integrate national space weather efforts and add new capabilities to meet increasing demand for space weather information.

“(G) In March 2019, the National Science and Technology Council published an updated National Space Weather Strategy and Action Plan to enhance the preparedness and resilience of the United States to space weather.

“(2) ROLE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Congress makes the following findings with respect to the role of Federal agencies on space weather:

“(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration provides operational space weather monitoring, forecasting, and long-term data archiving and access for civil applications, maintains ground-based and space-based assets to provide observations needed for space weather forecasting, prediction, and warnings, provides research to support operational responsibilities, and develops requirements for space weather forecasting technologies and science.

“(B) The Department of Defense provides operational space weather research, monitoring, and forecasting for the Department's unique missions and applications.

“(C) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration provides increased understanding of the fundamental physics of the Sun-Earth system through basic research, space-based observations and modeling, developing new space-based technologies and missions, and monitoring of space weather for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space missions.

“(D) The National Science Foundation provides increased understanding of the Sun-Earth system through ground-based measurements, technologies, and modeling.

“(E) The Department of the Interior collects, distributes, and archives operational ground-based magnetometer data in the United States and its territories, works with the international community to improve global geophysical monitoring, and develops crustal conductivity models to assess and mitigate risks from space weather-induced electric ground currents.

“(F) The Federal Aviation Administration provides operational requirements for space weather services in support of aviation and for coordination of these requirements with the International Civil Aviation Organization, and integrates space weather data and products into the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

“(b) COORDINATION BY OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall—

“(1) coordinate the development and implementation of Federal Government activities conducted with respect to space weather to improve the ability of the United States to prepare for, avoid, mitigate, respond to, and recover from potentially devastating impacts of space weather; and

“(2) coordinate the activities of the interagency working group on space weather established under subsection (c).

“(c) SPACE WEATHER INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the National Science and Technology Council shall establish an interagency working group on space weather (in this chapter referred to as the ‘interagency working group’) to coordinate executive branch actions that improve the understanding and prediction of and preparation for space weather phenomena, and coordinate Federal space weather activities.

“(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The following entities shall be members of the interagency working group:

“(A) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(B) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“(C) The National Science Foundation.

“(D) The Department of Defense.

“(E) The Department of the Interior.

“(F) Such other Federal agencies as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy deems appropriate.

“(2) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

“(A) The members of the interagency working group may enter into one or more interagency agreements providing for co-operation and collaboration in the development of space weather spacecraft, instruments, technologies, and research to operations and operations to research in accordance with this chapter.

“(B) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall enter into one or more interagency agreements providing for cooperation and collaboration in the development of space weather spacecraft, instruments, and technologies in accordance with this chapter.

“(3) INTERNATIONAL, ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR COLLABORATION.—Each Federal agency participating in the space weather interagency working group established under this subsection shall, to the extent practicable, increase engagement and cooperation with the international community, academic community, and commercial space weather sector on the observational infrastructure, data, and scientific research necessary to advance the monitoring, forecasting, and prediction of, preparation for, and protection from, space weather phenomena.

“(d) SPACE WEATHER ADVISORY GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, shall establish a space weather advisory group (in this chapter referred to as the ‘advisory group’) for the purposes of receiving advice from the academic community, the commercial space weather sector, and space weather end users that informs the interests and work of the interagency working group.

“(B) COMPOSITION.—The advisory group shall be composed of not more than 15 members appointed by the interagency working group, of whom—

“(i) 5 members shall be representatives of the academic community;

“(ii) 5 members shall be representatives of the commercial space weather sector; and

“(iii) 5 members shall be nongovernmental representatives of the space weather end user community.

“(C) CHAIR.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the last member of the advisory group is appointed under subparagraph (B), the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall appoint 1 member as the Chair of the advisory group.

“(D) TERMS.—The length of the term of each member of the advisory group shall be 3 years beginning on the date on which the member is appointed.

“(E) TERM LIMITS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the advisory group may not serve on the advisory group for more than 2 consecutive terms.

“(ii) CHAIR.—A member of the advisory group may not serve as the Chair of the advisory group for more than 2 terms, regardless of whether the terms are consecutive.

“(2) DUTIES.—The advisory group shall advise the interagency working group on the following:

“(A) Facilitating advances in the space weather enterprise of the United States.

“(B) Improving the ability of the United States to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from space weather phenomena.

“(C) Enabling the coordination and facilitation of research to operations and operations to research, as described in section 60604(d).

“(D) Developing and implementing the integrated strategy under section 60602 including subsequent updates and reevaluations.

“(3) USER SURVEY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the establishment of the advisory group, the advisory group shall conduct a comprehensive survey of the needs of users of space weather products to identify the space weather research, observations, forecasting, prediction, and modeling advances required to improve space weather products.

“(B) SURVEY CONSIDERATIONS.—The survey conducted under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) assess the adequacy of current Federal Government goals for lead time, accuracy, coverage, timeliness, data rate, and data quality for space weather observations and forecasting;

“(ii) identify options and methods to, in consultation with the academic community and the commercial space weather sector, improve upon the advancement of the goals described in clause (i);

“(iii) identify opportunities for collection of new data to address the needs of the space weather user community;

“(iv) identify methods to increase coordination of space weather research to operations and operations to research;

“(v) identify opportunities for new technologies, research, and instrumentation to aid in research, understanding, monitoring, modeling, prediction, forecasting, and warning of space weather; and

“(vi) identify methods and technologies to improve preparedness for potential space weather phenomena.

“(C) COORDINATION WITH AGENCIES.—In carrying out the requirements of this subsection, the advisory group shall communicate and coordinate with the interagency working group to ensure the needs of the governmental space weather user community are adequately and appropriately identified by the survey under subparagraph (A).

“(D) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the survey under subparagraph (A), the advisory group shall provide to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a briefing on the results of the survey under subparagraph (A).

“(E) PUBLICATION.—Within 30 days of the briefing to Congress, the advisory group shall make the results of the survey under subparagraph (A) publicly available.

“(F) REEVALUATION.—The advisory group shall review and assess the survey under subparagraph (A) not less than every 3 years and update, resubmit, and republish the survey in accordance with the requirements of subparagraphs (D) and (E).

“(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

“§ 60602. Integrated strategy

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in collaboration with the interagency working group and upon the advice of the advisory group, shall develop a strategy for coordinated observation of space weather among members of the interagency working group (in this chapter, referred to as the ‘integrated strategy’). The integrated strategy shall identify—

“(1) observations and measurements that must be sustained beyond the lifetime of current ground-based and space-based assets, as described under section 60603, that are essential for space weather research, models, forecasting, and prediction;

“(2) new observations and measurements that may significantly improve space weather forecasting and prediction; and

“(3) plans for follow-on space-based observations under section 60603.

“(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the integrated strategy in subsection (a), the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall consider, as appropriate, the following:

“(1) Potential contributions of commercial solutions, prize authority, academic and international partnerships, microsatellites, small satellite options, ground-based instruments, and hosted payloads for observations identified in section 60602(a)(2).

“(2) Work conducted before the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act by the National Science and Technology Council with respect to space weather.

“(3) The survey under section 60601(d).

“(4) Any relevant recommendations from the most recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Decadal Survey for Solar and Space Physics (Heliophysics).

“(c) REVIEW OF INTEGRATED STRATEGY.—

“(1) REVIEW.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in

consultation with Federal agencies participating in the interagency working group, shall enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to review the integrated strategy developed in this section.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review from paragraph (1) shall also consider the current state, capability, and feasibility of the commercial space weather sector to provide new and supplemental observations and measurements that may significantly improve space weather forecasting and prediction.

“(3) TRANSMITTAL.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall transmit the integrated strategy and the results of the review required under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate not later than 1 year after the date of the completion of the survey under section 60601(d)(3). The integrated strategy and its review shall be made publicly available within 30 days of submittal to Congress.

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after delivery of the review of the integrated strategy in subsection (c)(3), the interagency working group shall develop a plan to implement the integrated strategy, including an estimate of the cost and schedule required for implementation. Upon completion, the interagency working group shall submit the implementation plan to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology and Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Armed Services of the Senate. The implementation plan shall be made publicly available within 30 days of submittal to Congress.

“(e) REEVALUATION.—The Director, in collaboration with the interagency working group, shall update the integrated strategy not later than 1 year after the reevaluation of the user survey from section 60601(d)(3)(F) in accordance with the requirements of subsections (a) through (d).

“§ 60603. Sustaining and advancing critical space weather observations

“(a) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to—

“(1) establish and sustain a baseline capability for space weather observations and to make such observations and data publicly available; and

“(2) obtain enhanced space weather observations, as practicable, to advance forecasting and prediction capability, as informed by the integrated strategy in section 60602.

“(b) SUSTAINING BASELINE SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITIES.—

“(1) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall, in cooperation with the European Space Agency and other international and interagency partners, maintain operations of the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory/Large Angle and Spectrometric Coronagraph (referred to in this section as ‘SOHO/LASCO’) for as long as the satellite continues to deliver quality observations.

“(2) The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall prioritize the reception of SOHO/LASCO data.

“(3) The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall maintain, for as long as is practicable, operations of current space-based observational assets, including but not limited to

the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites system, and the Deep Space Climate Observatory.

“(c) BACKUP SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITY.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall work with Federal and international partners in order to secure reliable backup baseline capability for near real-time coronal mass ejection imagery, solar wind, solar imaging, coronal imagery, and other relevant observations required to provide space weather forecasts.

“(d) SOHO/LASCO OPERATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall develop an operational contingency plan to provide continuous space weather forecasting in the event of an unexpected SOHO/LASCO failure, and prior to the implementation of the backup space-based baseline observational capability in section 60603(c).

“(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate on the plan to secure reliable backup baseline capability described in subsection (c) and the SOHO/LASCO operational contingency plan developed under subsection (d).

“(f) SUSTAINING GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONAL CAPABILITY.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the United States Geological Survey, the Secretary of the Air Force, and, as practicable in support of the Air Force, the Secretary of the Navy, shall each—

“(1) maintain and improve ground-based observations of the Sun, as necessary and advisable, to help meet the needs identified in the survey under section 60601(d)(3); and

“(2) continue to provide space weather data through ground-based facilities, including radars, lidars, magnetometers, neutron monitors, radio receivers, aurora and airglow imagers, spectrometers, interferometers, and solar observatories.

“(g) CONSIDERATIONS.—In implementing subsections (b), (c), and (d), the Administrators of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Directors of the National Science Foundation and United States Geological Survey, and the Secretaries of the Air Force and the Navy shall prioritize cost-effective and reliable solutions.

“(h) GROUND-BASED OBSERVATIONAL DATA.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall—

“(1) make available to the public key data streams from the platforms and facilities described in subsection (d) for research and to support space weather model development;

“(2) develop experimental models for scientific purposes; and

“(3) support the transition of the experimental models to operations where appropriate.

“(i) ENHANCED SPACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, should develop options to build and deploy space-based observational capabilities, beyond the baseline capabilities referenced in subsection (b), that may improve space weather measurements and observations. These supplemental observational capabilities could include commercial solutions,

prize authority, academic partnerships, microsatellites, ground-based instruments, and opportunities to deploy the instrument or instruments as a secondary payload on an upcoming planned launch.

“§ 60604. Research activities

“(a) BASIC RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Secretary of Defense, shall—

“(1) continue to carry out basic research on heliophysics, geospace science, and space weather; and

“(2) support competitive, peer-reviewed proposals for conducting research, advancing modeling, and monitoring of space weather and its impacts, including the science goals outlined in decadal surveys in solar and space physics conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

“(b) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—

“(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the multidisciplinary nature of solar and space physics creates funding challenges that require coordination across scientific disciplines and Federal agencies.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that science centers could coordinate multidisciplinary solar and space physics research. The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Director of the National Science Foundation should support competitively awarded grants for multidisciplinary science centers that advance solar and space physics research, including research-to-operations and operations-to-research processes.

“(3) MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Science Foundation, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall each pursue multidisciplinary research in subjects that further the understanding of solar physics, space physics, and space weather.

“(c) SCIENCE MISSIONS.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should implement missions that meet the science objectives identified in solar and space physics decadal surveys conducted by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

“(d) RESEARCH TO OPERATIONS; OPERATIONS TO RESEARCH.—The interagency working group shall, upon consideration of the advice of the advisory group, develop formal mechanisms to—

“(1) transition the space weather research findings, models, and capabilities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, and other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense;

“(2) enhance coordination between research modeling centers and forecasting centers; and

“(3) communicate the operational needs of space weather forecasters of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Department of Defense, as appropriate, to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the United States Geological Survey.

“§ 60605. Space weather data

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to—

“(1) make space weather-related data obtained for scientific research purposes available to space weather forecasters and operations centers; and

“(2) support model development and model applications to space weather forecasting.

“(b) RESEARCH.—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall make space weather-related data obtained from operational forecasting available for research.

“§ 60606. Space weather knowledge transfer and information exchange

“Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in collaboration with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to establish a Space Weather Government-Academic-Commercial Roundtable to facilitate communication and knowledge transfer among Government participants in the space weather interagency working group established under section 60601(c), the academic community, and the commercial space weather sector to—

“(1) facilitate advances in space weather prediction and forecasting;

“(2) increase coordination of space weather research to operations and operations to research; and

“(3) improve preparedness for potential space weather phenomena.

“§ 60607. Pilot program for obtaining commercial sector space weather data

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may establish a pilot program under which the Administrator will offer to enter into contracts with one or more entities in the commercial space weather sector for the provision to the Administrator of space weather data generated by such an entity that meets the standards and specifications published under subsection (b).

“(b) DATA STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, may publish standards and specifications for ground-based, ocean-based, air-based, and space-based commercial space weather data and metadata.

“(c) CONTRACTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 12 months after the date of transmission of the review of the integrated strategy to Congress under section 60602(c)(3) and taking into account the results of the review, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration may offer to enter, through an open competition, into at least one contract with one or more commercial space weather sector entities capable of providing space weather data that—

“(A) meets the standards and specifications established for providing such data under subsection (b); and

“(B) is provided in a manner that allows the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to calibrate and evaluate the data for use in space weather research and forecasting models of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Defense, or both.

“(2) ASSESSMENT.—If one or more contract is entered into under paragraph (1), not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the PROSWIFT Act, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall assess, and submit to the Committees on Science, Space, and Tech-

nology and Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Armed Services of the Senate, a report on the extent to which the pilot program has demonstrated data provided under contracts described in paragraph (1) meet the standards and specifications established under subsection (b) and the extent to which the pilot program has demonstrated—

“(A) the viability of assimilating the commercially provided data into National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration space weather research and forecasting models;

“(B) whether, and by how much, the data so provided add value to space weather forecasts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of Defense; and

“(C) the accuracy, quality, timeliness, validity, reliability, usability, information technology security, and cost-effectiveness of obtaining commercial space weather data from commercial sector providers.

“§ 60608. Space weather benchmarks

“The interagency working group established under section 60601(c) shall periodically review and update the benchmarks described in the report of the National Science and Technology Council entitled ‘Space Weather Phase 1 Benchmarks’ and dated June 2018, as necessary, based on—

“(1) any significant new data or advances in scientific understanding that become available; or

“(2) the evolving needs of entities impacted by space weather phenomena.”

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of chapters of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to chapter 605 the following:

“606. Space Weather 60601”.

(2) Section 809 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 18388) and the item relating to that section in the table of contents under section 1(b) of that Act (Public Law 111-267; 124 Stat. 2806) are repealed.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL—S.

4187

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 4187 be discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works and be referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

SPACE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 322, S. 881.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 881) to improve understanding and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Peters

substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 2498), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

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

PERMITTING THE REMAINS OF THE HONORABLE JOHN LEWIS, LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA, TO LIE IN STATE IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 105, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 105) permitting the remains of the Honorable John Lewis, late a Representative from the State of Georgia, to lie in state in the rotunda of the Capitol.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and 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.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 105) was agreed to.

DIRECTING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO TRANSFER THE CATAFALQUE SITUATED IN THE EXHIBITION HALL OF THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER TO THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH SERVICES CONDUCTED FOR THE HONORABLE JOHN LEWIS, LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 106, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the concurrent resolution.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 106) directing the Architect of the Capitol to transfer the catafalque situated in the Exhibition Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center to

the rotunda of the Capitol for use in connection with services conducted for the Honorable John Lewis, late a Representative from the State of Georgia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and 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.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 106) was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 28; 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, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Joseph nomination, under the previous order; finally, that following the cloture vote on the Wade nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators Coons and Whitehouse.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING STEPHEN D. SUSMAN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, on the day that we are remembering our dear friend and colleague John Lewis, "someone who got in good trouble, someone who got in the way," I rise to join with my colleague from the State of Rhode Island to offer tribute to a dear friend who also knew how to get in good trouble and get in the way.

Our friend Steve Susman of Houston, TX, at age 79, passed away on July 14 after sustaining serious injuries from a cycling accident and suffering from COVID-19. Steve will be remembered by all he inspired as one of the greatest trial attorneys ever in the United States. Steve is someone who, with incredible skill, prepared painstakingly, mastering the facts, so that he could back up every single thing he said in front of a jury.

When it came to courtrooms, it is said that Steve was the smartest guy in the room, but he also believed deeply in teaching young lawyers trial skills. And unlike many famous and leading trial attorneys, he was happy to share the spotlight with younger lawyers—in fact, insisted on it. Two of those younger lawyers happen to be friends of mine from law school, Jonathan Ross and Andrew Golub, who first introduced me to Steve and gave me the joy of getting to know him and all who practiced with him.

Steve was passionate about law and justice. He spent his entire life thinking and talking about and working for ways to improve the system of civil justice in America. Motivated by a deep passion for the law, he fought to improve our system and was a crusader. Respected broadly for his leadership and his ability to achieve justice for his clients, Steve is someone who left a lasting impact on his community and our country.

His incredible generosity to Yale University, to the University of Texas Law School, to the NYU Law School Civil Jury Project, and to the Anti-Defamation League, among many others, will be remembered for years and years to come. Steve had boundless energy, deep affection for his family, and a passionate commitment to the law.

This is a difficult time for his family, his friends, his colleagues, and his loved ones. I want to give my special condolences to his wife, Ellen; his children, Harry, Stacy, Whitney, and Amanda; his brother, Tommy; and his eight grandchildren. I share with them my deepest and sincere condolences in the passing of this lion of the law. We will not see his like again.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Delaware here to offer a Senate floor farewell to our friend Steve Susman. He was a very big personality, but unlike a lot of very big personalities, it was never all about him. He wasn't pushing people away with the size of his personality. He was enveloping them with the size of his personality, and I was one who was fortunate to be so enveloped. We became friends, and I will miss him.

To Ellen and to their children, to his brother, Tom, who gave such beautiful remarks at the electronic service for Steve the other day, I want to say thank you.

I just want to tell one story, but the story will not make sense if you don't understand what a big deal Steve Susman was. If you don't understand that he was the main partner of Susman Godfrey, which by many lights is the best and biggest litigation firm in the United States of America. His name is on that firm. His name is on thousands of pleadings filed by that firm in cases all around the country. He is a person

who had gravitas as a lawyer and who lived before judges and needed to make sure he kept their good will and respect.

Now, for a lot of people, that would have meant taking no chances—not for Steve. I have a practice, from time to time, in the Senate, of writing Supreme Court amicus briefs as an amicus curiae—a friend of the court and not the party. The Court rules allow me both to express their views on the law and on the background facts in cases—those people are called friends of the court—and I have filed those briefs over and over again. They are not the usual friend-of-the-court brief. Let's just say that.

I believe that as a U.S. Senator, I best show my respect for the Court and the Justices by being candid with them about where I think they have made grievous mistakes or where they have been led astray.

So these are not your ordinary briefs. This one was about the Consumer Financial Protection Board, and I focused on the favor-seeking interests that caused the underlying 2008 meltdown and how those same favor-seeking interests were interested in undoing the Consumer Financial Protection Board so they could get back to the same mischief again. I talked about the dangers of corruption from those interests. Well, those are powerful interests. To talk about them in that way in an amicus brief is not nothing.

Now, the brief talks about the fake notion of freedom that some espouse, which is, for instance, the freedom to pollute as opposed to the freedom to have a clean river free of the pollution. That freedom—the freedom to harm consumers—that freedom is a fake and wrong freedom, and we said so quite clearly in this brief. We talked about the value of regulation that we have clean air and water, that we have safe pharmaceuticals, that we have an orderly economy, and that people are not cheated in stock swindles because we have a regulatory system that has knowledgeable people in it who devote

their careers to looking out for the public against very clever and often wily special interests.

We push back hard on the notion that deregulation is a great asset. In fact, we pointed out that the failures of regulation have almost always occurred when the regulated interest got too much control over the regulator and got into the mischief business through the regulator, but honest regulation has been almost always a virtue for our country.

We went after this thing called the unitary executive theory and showed how it had been cooked up in corporate rightwing hothouses. This thing had come through like an assembly line of billionaire-funded rightwing phony front groups to propagate itself out into the world and tried to get some legitimacy as a legal theory, and we went through the whole history of that. That is pretty rough stuff because people put a lot of money into trying to cook up this unitary executive theory.

Last week, we pointed out that the judicial selection process that is going on around here right now is directly related to the deregulation process. The judges are being picked by special interests so they will rule against regulation and give special interests a break and they can pollute and cheat and harm people to a greater degree than they would with strong regulators. That was a point that we made in this brief. And, by the way, I quoted Trump's legal counsel, Don McGahn, who actually said this. It is not like we were making it up. He called them two sides of the same coin—fill the court with judges who hate regulation and let the big industries deregulate and have more freedom to harm.

And, finally, we did something that I have not done before in a brief, but because there is so much special interest money floating around in the Supreme Court and because there is so much mischief swirling around it, we actually put an appendix into the brief at the end that looked at some of the

other amici who had showed up to show how often they were funded by the same secretive groups and how many of them were basically tentacles of the same creature, and we backed that up with research showing one by one how they had been funded and sourced thoroughly.

This was not your usual Supreme Court brief. Why do I dwell on this brief? Because here is the name on it: Brief of Amici Curiae, U.S. Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, MAZIE HIRONO in Support of Court-Appointed Amicus Curiae, Stephen D. Susman, Counsel of Record. Like the thousands of pleadings that bear Steve Susman's name, so did this brief.

He took a chance to sign on a brief that was written the way we wrote this one. He did not mind. He knew that what we were saying was right. He was willing to put his name behind that, even though it might have caused blowback because that is the kind of man he was, and I will miss that. We have too little of that in this country these days, and, Steve, God speed.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COONS. So our respect to Steve Susman, a man of rare courage.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:12 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 27, 2020:

THE JUDICIARY

WILLIAM SCOTT HARDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.