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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 23, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KATHY CASTOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, thank You for giving us another day. Send Your spirit of peace and comity among the Members of the people's House. These are days of great political, social, and economic stress in our Nation, and those whose work is to legislate through this pandemic are naturally under considerable pressure. Give us all patience, especially with one another.

May all our citizens, in the midst of great turmoil, be filled with gratitude for those in our Nation whose work must go on when it would be so easy not to assume their responsibility to do so. Continue to bless those whose life's work is in service to public safety, be it police, medical professionals, or those producing and delivering our daily necessities.

May everything done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7(a) of House Resolution 891, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 935, ESTABLISHING A SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–419) on the resolution (H. Res. 938) providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 935, ESTABLISHING A SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 938 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 938

Resolved, That House Resolution 935 is hereby adopted.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, before we get into the resolution before us, I want to speak to my colleagues about an important issue.

Over the last several weeks, I have heard from Democrats and Republicans, who have expressed concern that we, as a House, are not adequately prepared to do our business during a pandemic. They are right.

Over a month ago, I prepared a report that I sent to everyone in the House—Democrats and Republicans—about possible ways that we could operate remotely. I received constructive feedback from both sides of the aisle, and this week I released text of a proposal that I hoped could have been voted on today.

The Republican leader had some objections to that proposal, and our Speaker has agreed to continue the conversation for 2 more weeks. I have always believed that, whenever possible, any changes to our rules should be bipartisan, and I still believe that.

However, the status quo, in my opinion, is unacceptable and dangerous. I am not talking about to Members of Congress; more importantly, it is dangerous to everyone we come in contact with.

The year is 2020. Technology has advanced and improved considerably over the last 231 years. And, yes, there are problems with some of the technology

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that exists out there, but there are low-tech approaches to dealing with remote participation by our Members, and there are higher-tech ways to deal with it. And we can work that out. There are smart people in this Congress who can figure all of this out. But I believe both sides of the aisle need to have some urgency in addressing this issue, especially in light of the statements by the head of the CDC and other medical experts, that things could be very problematic come the fall. I hope and I pray that that is not the case. But we need to be prepared so that we can do the people's business.

I also want to publicly acknowledge my ranking member, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE). We don't see eye-to-eye on this issue yet, but over our years-long working relationship and friendship, we have found common ground many, many times. A task force is going to be convened today that includes myself, Mr. COLE, the chair and ranking member of the House Administration Committee, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. DAVIS, as well as Democratic Leader HOYER and Republican Leader MCCARTHY to discuss these matters.

I have been saying this for a month, and I am going to say it again here today: If you are a Member of Congress and you care about this issue, call me. I want to hear from Members what they think about this critically important matter.

Now, back to the measure before us.

Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 938, providing that upon passage of the rule, H. Res. 935, which establishes a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform is hereby adopted.

Madam Speaker, we are here today as Congress continues responding to the biggest public health and economic emergency this Nation has seen in 100 years: The coronavirus pandemic.

What started just weeks ago half a world away is having a devastating impact across our country. No community has been spared:

More than 855,000 cases have been confirmed;

Nearly 48,000 lives lost as of the time we are meeting right now;

And more than 22 million initial unemployment claims filed in the past month.

Some regions of our country have now lost as many jobs over the last month as they did during the worst year of the Great Recession.

These statistics are not just numbers on a page, Madam Speaker. These are our neighbors. They are our family. They are our friends. Their health is at risk, and their economic reality has changed overnight. Since the start of this pandemic, Congress has provided more than $2 trillion in emergency relief to get small businesses the financial help that they need to survive, to help hospitals and healthcare workers on the front lines, to expand testing, to provide every American access to an affordable vaccine when it is developed. And I could go on and on and on.

We need to make sure these resources are going where Congress intended, that they are helping struggling Americans and small businesses without any rampant fraud or abuse, and that companies aren't taking part in price-gouging or profiteering.

That is what this Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus is all about. This proactive approach is what then-Senator Harry Truman spearheaded at the dawn of World War II to ensure Federal dollars spent then saved lives on the battlefield.

Well, today the battle is much different. It is against a worldwide pandemic currently without a vaccine or preventative treatment. But our aggressive oversight should be the same. Democratic governors and Republican governors all over the country are pleading for more tests, despite the billions we have allocated to provide them.

The Republican governor of Maryland has said the lack of available testing is the number one stumbling block in America. He is absolutely right.

The President talks about reopening America, but Madam Speaker, how about first testing America? Without that, we can't fully track and contain this virus. We need to make sure that the money we provided for testing is actually going to testing. We need to make sure that our hospitals have all the PPE equipment that they need.

In my home city of Worcester in Massachusetts, we recently opened up a field hospital in our convention center. The day before we opened, there was considerable anxiety because they had enough PPE maybe to last for a couple of days. Now working together with the governor and others, we were able to remedy that situation, but for so many of our healthcare institutions, for our first responders, trying to find PPE is like something out of the movie The Hunger Games. States competing with States, competing with the Federal Government, people receiving calls—I know somebody who knows somebody in China who might have lifesaving masks. Can you maybe follow up that lead? That is not the way this is supposed to work.

In the United States of America, the wealthiest Nation on the face of the Earth, officials are making cold calls to try to get enough equipment to survive the next surge of patients. Relying on the goodwill of people and businesses when they should be able to count on Federal agencies. Congress provided money for this equipment. We need to make sure it is going where it is badly needed.

Madam Speaker, as we talk today about what Congress has done, I want to take a moment to talk about what it has not done, and that is provide enough for hungry families during this pandemic.

You know, the President and so many of his allies in the Senate continue to block efforts to increase SNAP benefits for hungry people trying to put food on the table for their families. The demand for food banks right now wraps around city blocks in some places. We have seen it on TV. The lines go for miles. This is a crisis of food insecurity that we haven't seen in this country since the Great Depression.

Madam Speaker, whatever happened to taking care of the neediest among us? Maybe the President doesn't have to worry about where his next meal is going to come from, but millions and millions and millions of Americans do. They are terrified.

We should be suspending this administration's SNAP cuts. We should be strengthening nutrition assistance for those impacted by this pandemic. And we should be showing the American people that ending hunger is not a partisan issue. But some on the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue have chosen instead to take meals away from families.

Just yesterday the Secretary of Agriculture tried to paper over their disgraceful record by taking credit for the bill that we passed in a bipartisan way in Congress. The USDA didn't increase SNAP benefits by 40 percent; the House Democrats led that charge and, thankfully, many of my Republican colleagues supported that in the Families First bill.

And by the way, while we are at it, USDA was in court trying to kick millions of people off of SNAP through their disastrous regulatory scheme.

The only thing this administration has done is to try to push people off of nutrition assistance. I think it is cold-hearted and I think it is cruel for the Senate majority leader and others to turn their backs on struggling families. That needs to be fixed, and it has to be fixed in our next bill. And I hope in this Chamber, we can come together—Democrats and Republicans—and deal with it.

I know that it is unrelated to the underlying measure here, but hungry families are being ignored in this country. Sadly, even in the best of times, poor people oftentimes get ignored by this Chamber. I worry that in the worst of times, what we are going through right now, that these people, these individuals, these families become invisible. We cannot let that happen. I want them to know that this House is listening to them, and we will continue to fight to strengthen the programs they rely on.

Now, I don't know what is radical about that. Just as I don't understand why some on the other side are against a subcommittee that is designed to make sure that Federal dollars are spent well.

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I mean, that is what this is about. That is it.

This is an extraordinary time. We have sent trillions of dollars into our communities. They should be going to small businesses and not to big corporations—our workers, not the wealthy and those already well-off. Our workers are the ones who should be our priority. We need to make sure that that is what is happening here.

If you believe this administration has done things perfectly, then you have nothing to fear. But the American people have a lot of questions and they deserve answers, and they expect us to live up to our constitutional responsibilities with regard to oversight, and they deserve to know that their tax dollars are being well spent.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my good friend, Mr. MCGOVERN, the distinguished chairman of the House Rules Committee, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Madam Speaker, let me quickly respond to my friend's mention about the group that will work on reopening Congress. I look forward to working with my friend and our colleagues on that particular issue.

I do want to point out, it is important to note, last night we actually did function as a committee under the chairman's leadership, and we got our work done. We are on the floor right now getting our work done. The executive branch is in Washington, D.C., right now getting its work done.

The President and the Vice President aren't hunkered down in Cheyenne Mountain. They are in the West Wing working every day. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are in the Pentagon, working every day. Every Cabinet member is working every day.

I just say that to note that other people are able to get their jobs done with appropriate changes and appropriate precautions, so I rule nothing in or out.

I look forward to listening to my colleague, but I do think we are capable of working in the House of Representatives, and I will be extraordinarily cautious about giving up procedures and precedents that are 230-plus years old.

Madam Speaker, we are here today to consider a rule that creates Speaker PELOSI's proposed select committee on the coronavirus pandemic. Earlier this month, Speaker PELOSI announced that she would create this select committee, conveniently ignoring that any such select committee must be established through the Rules Committee and, ultimately, through a vote on the House floor.

Yesterday, the Rules Committee met on extremely short notice to, essentially, rubberstamp the Speaker's action. This was particularly egregious considering that, up until right before we met, we had absolutely no details on the proposal.

In the last month, the Speaker gave the minority no notice of her plans, no indication of her rationale or vision, and was radio silent since her announcement, except for the occasional media mention. In fact, we did not even know we were meeting on this item until the afternoon of the hearing. That is hardly the way to operate on something the Speaker purportedly wants to do in a bipartisan fashion.

Perhaps even more problematic, Madam Speaker, is that I am not sure what the end goal of such committee will be. Speaker PELOSI claims that the proposed select committee will examine all aspects of the Federal response to the coronavirus pandemic and will provide oversight for Federal dollars being spent in response.

But Congress already has significant oversight tools at our disposal. The CARES Act itself established a five-member Congressional Oversight Commission specifically for that problem. That Commission is in addition to Congress' other oversight tools, which include the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and the oversight subcommittees that exist on most other permanent House committees.

If we already have a separate Oversight Commission specifically for the CARES Act and we already have a separate Oversight and Reform Committee and each committee already has separate oversight committees, what, then, is the actual purpose of the proposed select committee?

It is entirely plausible for one to conclude that this new select committee will simply turn into yet another partisan witch hunt aimed at damaging the President.

There may be a time in the future when it makes sense to establish a commission, like the 9/11 Commission, to review the COVID–19 pandemic and the government response. I actually support doing that at an appropriate time. But such a commission needs to be truly bipartisan and devoted to what happened and what we can learn from it to improve government responses for the future. This select committee doesn't meet that test.

Before I reserve my time, later today, the House will be voting on the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This bipartisan bill is the next step and follow-up to the CARES Act, which Congress passed a few weeks ago.

Today's bill includes $310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, a critical program for protecting small businesses and their employees. It also includes $75 billion for hospitals on the front line of the coronavirus pandemic and a further $25 billion for coronavirus testing.

Refilling the Paycheck Protection Program account will help countless small businesses and their employees across the country, including hundreds in my district. Frankly, refilling this important account could not come soon enough. It should have happened a week ago. But I am fully supportive of this important bill, and I look forward to voting in favor of it later today.

I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article, entitled, ''Democrats Pushed for Robust Oversight of the $2.2 Trillion Coronavirus Aid Package. It Hasn't Happened Yet,'' detailing the need for oversight. The article explains that rapidly approved funds are being spent quickly with little monitoring or oversight.

[From TIME, April 17, 2020]

DEMOCRATS PUSHED FOR ROBUST OVERSIGHT OF THE $2.2 TRILLION CORONAVIRUS AID PACKAGE. IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET

(By Alana Abramson)

Some of the most heated negotiations between Democrats and Republicans over last month's $2.2 trillion coronavirus relief package were over who should watch how that money gets spent. It is the largest emergency relief fund the U.S. government has ever approved, and concerns over fraud and abuse were rife. In particular, Democrats were outraged that Republicans and the White House wanted to let the Treasury Department distribute $500 billion to industry and states without anyone overseeing the process, and vowed to block any bill without that safeguard in place.

''There was this idea that they put forth that there would be a $500 billion slush fund for the Secretary of the Treasury with no accountability whatsoever. Are you kidding?'' House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said last month after the bill passed the Senate. ''For all respect in the world for the Treasury Secretary, that was a complete nonstarter.''

Ultimately, the bill signed into law by President Donald Trump mandates the massive tranche of aid will be overseen through three key mechanisms: an inspector general at the Treasury Department to oversee that $500 billion Treasury fund, and Congress and executive branch panels, which will also monitor the Treasury fund and broadly oversee the law's implementation, respectively.

But more than two weeks later, after hundreds of billions of dollars have already flown out the door through the Paycheck Protection Program, the Treasury's Inspector General post has not yet been confirmed by the Senate and the two panels are not fully staffed. Congress is preoccupied with the unprecedented task of managing dueling public health and economic crises remotely, and Trump, whose administration has blocked Congressional oversight for years, has already threatened to scuttle the process. When he signed the bill into law in March, he said he would not allow the Inspector General overseeing the executive branch's committee to submit reports to Congress without his supervision, arguing it was unconstitutional.

''It's incredibly problematic . . . those oversight mechanisms don't do us much good if they aren't functioning,'' Liz Hempowicz, Director of Public Policy at the Project on Government Oversight, wrote in an e-mail to TIME. ''This money is being spent incredibly quickly. The (Small Business Administration) has already spent the $349 billion dollars allocated to the Paycheck Protection Program. It's imperative that these oversight mechanisms are fully functional so we can have confidence that this money won't be lost to waste, fraud, or abuse.''

The group with the broadest oversight jurisdiction in the $2.2 trillion CARES Act is the executive branch panel, called the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Glenn Fine, who was acting Inspector General at the Pentagon, was quickly appointed

to lead the committee at the end of last month but was removed by Trump just a week later. The President did not provide a specific reason, but Fine's ouster was part of a broader re-shuffling of watchdogs.

Although the committee is composed of nearly two dozen inspectors general who have been appointed, the top spot remains vacant. The law mandates that Michael Horowitz, the Inspector General for the Department of Justice who heads the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, appoint a new head, but he has not yet announced Fine's replacement. A spokesperson for Horowitz did not respond to a query about when a new replacement would be named.

On April 4, Trump announced that he had appointed Brian Miller to serve as the Inspector General for the Treasury department. Miller has over 15 years of federal experience; he spent nine years as the Inspector General for the General Services Administration, working under former Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. But since 2018, he has worked as a Special Assistant to the President and Senior Associate Counsel in the White House counsel's office. His tenure there coincided with some of the White House counsel's most high profile feuds with House Democrats in their oversight probes, including Trump's impeachment last December.

Democrats lambasted Miller's appointment, arguing that a Trump staffer would be unable to exercise the kind of independence the job requires. ''To nominate a member of the President's own staff is exactly the wrong type of person to choose for this position,'' Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement after Trump's announcement. Since confirmations of presidential appointees now only require a simple majority in the Senate, it's likely that Miller will be confirmed despite Democrats' objections. But since he cannot be confirmed by unanimous consent, lawmakers have to physically be in Washington for that to happen—and they are not expected to return until May 4th at the earliest.

The final component of the oversight framework, the Congressional commission, is also incomplete. The bill mandates that the top four leaders in Congress—Schumer, Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy—each select a member for the panel. The fifth member will chair the committee and be jointly selected by Pelosi and McConnell.

Schumer has appointed Bharat Ramamurti, who previously worked for Elizabeth Warren as an economic adviser, on the panel. On Friday, McCarthy announced he had selected Rep. French Hill, McConnell announced he had chosen Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey, and Pelosi selected Florida Rep. Donna Shalala. But as of Friday evening, the chair has not been selected, so the panel can't fully function. Pelosi told reporters in her weekly press conference on Thursday that she and McConnell had agreed to submit names to each other for their joint pick.

There are signs that additional oversight of the massive relief package not set up expressly in the law is also moving forward. Pelosi has appointed House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn to lead the House Select Committee on the coronavirus crisis, which she says will be a bipartisan committee dedicated to oversight of all of the funds. And McConnell announced Friday that Idaho Senator Mike Crapo will lead the Senate's efforts.

In a New York Times op-ed earlier this week, Ramamurti urged Congress to act swiftly so his specific panel can get to work. ''Our watching eyes can help ensure that the money broadly benefits American families,'' he wrote. ''There isn't time to waste.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD an article, entitled, ''Congressional Oversight of the CARES Act Could Prove Troublesome,'' detailing the need for oversight. The article says oversight will help limit fraud and accelerate effective use of appropriated funds.

[From Brookings, April 15, 2020]

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF THE CARES ACT COULD PROVE TROUBLESOME

(By Jackson Gode)

On March 27th, President Trump signed the CARES Act providing for more than $2 Trillion in federal spending in response to the COVID–19 crisis. Overseeing the outlay of relief funding from the bill will be no easy task, given its size, complexity and the backdrop of the 2020 election.

However, this is not the first time that a major government rescue package has included oversight measures. The 2008 Emergency Economic Stabilization Act created the office of the Special Inspector General for the Targeted Asset Relief Program the powers of which were strengthened by the SIGTARP Act of 2009. In just over a decade, SIGTARP has recovered $11 Billion in misspent funds and successfully convicted 380 fraudulent actors, leading many to consider it a success.

Members of Congress sought to mimic this success by including three major mechanisms to oversee spending within the CARES Act. The Pandemic Response Accountability Committee will be made up of Inspectors General from, at minimum, nine federal agencies, and be responsible for oversight of outlays for the entire bill. A new office within the Department of the Treasury, the Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, will oversee the $500 billion Treasury fund for targeted loans to large businesses. Brian Miller, a White House lawyer and former GSA Inspector General, has already been selected for this role. Finally, a Congressional Oversight Commission will include four members appointed by party leadership in each chamber and a chairperson agreed to by the speaker of the House and the Senate majority leader. The Commission will oversee economic stability efforts by the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Board.

The CARES Act also includes funding increases for several preexisting oversight bodies providing more than $140 million for Inspectors General offices to investigate various aspects of the bill and $20 million in funds for the Government Accountability Office.

Even with these mechanisms and funding increases, Congress will face several unique challenges while conducting substantive oversight of pandemic relief.

First, the Trump Administration has indicated reluctance to cooperate with oversight inquiries. Immediately after President Trump signed the CARES Act, the White House released a statement outlining his constitutional concerns with the newly created Pandemic Response Accountability Committee and Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery.

This is not the first time that Trump has questioned the legitimacy of oversight efforts. The administration is currently tied up in several court battles regarding the executive branch's ability to withhold information from Congress. On March 16th, nearly a year after the original request, the Supreme Court postponed oral arguments in a case regarding the House Ways and Means Committee's efforts to obtain President Trump's tax returns. The administration has also withheld information related to White House security clearances, natural disaster relief efforts, and other areas of potential misconduct.

Second, both the House and Senate are on recess and it remains unclear when they will return. Once members come back to Washington, the number of committee hearings they hold will likely be lower than normal with social distancing recommendations remaining in effect.

Hearings are an essential part of Congress's oversight mandate as they provide lawmakers with a public platform to question administration officials that many rank-and-file members do not receive on a day-to-day basis. In place of hearings, members will have to rely more heavily on written correspondence. While letters have the potential to be more effective than hearings at obtaining detailed information, recipients are only legally required to respond to inquiries from committee chairs.

The current administration has made a habit of ignoring written information requests and it remains too soon to tell whether COVID–19 oversight will be met with similar resistance. Documents released by the House Oversight and Reform Committee on the availability of medical supplies from the federal government's stockpile suggest that the administration is responding to at least some inquiries. Partial or private responses however, can make it difficult for committees to signal a lack of cooperation to the public.

Third, as their efforts to oversee the Trump administration response ramp up, House Democrats may find themselves confronting intra-party cooperation challenges. Due to the political visibility of the pandemic, committee chairs will likely compete to demonstrate their willingness to hold the administration accountable. Coordination among Democrats will be necessary to ensure that panels' efforts are complementary, rather than competitive.

Conflict between the parties will also create challenges. The creation of a Select Committee on the Coronavirus Pandemic already seems to be increasing tensions between Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D–Calif.) and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R–Calif.) who indicated that Republicans will object to a unanimous consent request creating the panel. Speaker Pelosi has signaled the profile she expects the committee's work to have by naming Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D–S.C.) as chair. The committee will have subpoena power, but the House's experience so far this Congress with having to go to court to try to enforce subpoenas illustrates the limits of that tool.

Finally, the Trump administration has become famous for vacancies and ''acting'' officials in the highest positions of government. By tolerating a large number of acting positions, the Senate has given up one of its most important tools for influencing executive branch conduct. On April 3rd, the President nominated five individuals to Inspector General positions. However, while the Senate remains on recess, those roles will continue to be served by officials in an acting capacity.

Four of the IG offices receiving funding increases from the CARES Act are currently headed by acting officials. Notably, Glenn Fine, the Department of Defense Inspector General who was originally appointed as the Chairman of PRAC, only served in an acting capacity. On April 7th, President Trump removed him from the DOD IG role and appointed EPA Inspector General Sean O'Donnell, making Fine ineligible to be PRAC Chairman.

Congress will face many challenges protecting against fraud and helping an economy stalled by the pandemic, which may require members to find unique solutions for ensuring effective implementation of the CARES Act. With $2 trillion of taxpayer money on the line, nothing is more important than effective oversight.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I include for the RECORD an April 4 ABC News article, entitled, ''Experts Warn About Big Dollar Fraud in $2.2 Trillion Coronavirus Relief Package.''

[From ABC News, April 4, 2020]

EXPERTS WARN ABOUT BIG DOLLAR FRAUD IN $2.2 TRILLION CORONAVIRUS RELIEF PACKAGE

(By Benjamin Siegel)

The U.S. government's historic $2.2 trillion coronavirus aid relief package recently approved by Congress is highly vulnerable to fraud and abuse, oversight experts and veteran watchdogs who investigated abuse of the government's financial system bailout more than a decade ago told ABC News.

The size of the unprecedented relief package—in the scale of spending and the number of businesses eligible for funds—will make it difficult to verify the information from each applicant, and how they plan to use their money.

With roughly 10 million Americans filing jobless claims over the last two weeks, and millions of small businesses seeking government aid to stay afloat, the need for the government to immediately push out money to Americans and into the staggering economy could hinder efforts to filter out efforts from potential fraudsters to seek relief funds.

Tune into ABC at 1 p.m. ET and ABC News Live at 4 p.m. ET every weekday for special coverage of the novel coronavirus with the full ABC News team, including the latest news, context and analysis.

''Everybody's acceptance of some or a lot of fraud is going to have to be high, because it's going to happen,'' said Earl Devaney, who served as the top watchdog of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, which tracked the stimulus spending following the Great Recession in the late 2000s.

Though the legislation mandates multiple oversight bodies, if even a small percentage of the funds are misused, it could mean fraud on the scale of potentially millions, if not billions, before there are any efforts to recoup losses, according to experts.

They see the $350 billion in funding earmarked for small businesses in the form of forgivable loans as particularly susceptible to abuse. Millions of small business owners began applying to banks for the loans on Friday, though many applicants and lenders experienced problems with the program's rollout.

While the Treasury Department has said money will begin flowing immediately, some institutions, including JP Morgan Chase, said Thursday they would not be ready to receive applications by Friday.

Other veteran investigators are concerned that the review process, which leaves it up to banks to vet potential borrowers and applicants to attest to their eligibility, doesn't give authorities enough time to effectively weed out potential fraud.

''If you have fewer entities that has a lot of implications for oversight. It's fewer entities to worry about. But it also means that the processes for application can be a little more thoughtful,'' Neil Barofsky, the former special inspector general of the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), told ABC News.

''In contrast here, the very purpose of these programs is not to impact a relatively small number of institutions but to reach as far and wide as possible,'' he said.

The small business loan initiative, known as the Paycheck Protection Program, will be ''an extraordinarily easy program to defraud, and it will be defrauded in massive ways,'' he added.

The $2.2 trillion, 880–page CARES ACT approved by Congress last week included oversight provisions, modeled after some of the safeguards implemented to track the financial system bailout and stimulus money after the Great Recession.

It formed three major groups to lead oversight efforts: A new special inspector general, who will be nominated by Trump and confirmed by the Senate, will be responsible for oversight of the $500 billion fund administered by the Treasury Department and Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Trump plans to nominate Brian Miller, a special assistant to the president and senior associate counsel in the Office of White House Counsel, to serve as inspector general, the White House announced Friday night.

A five-member panel appointed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers will monitor the Treasury Department program and Federal Reserve's implementation of the stimulus package.

The third group, the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, have the broadest mandate, aimed at rooting out waste and fraud throughout programs in the entire $2.2 trillion relief package.

Led by Glenn Fine, the acting inspector general of the Department of Defense who was part of the panel's precursor following the financial crisis, the group will be able to conduct audits, subpoena individuals and information, and refer matters to the Justice Department for investigation.

''Every time there's kind of an emergency surge in spending like this it's even more important that there's additional layers of oversight to make sure that everything is on the up and up,'' Liz Hempowicz, the director of public policy at the Project on Government Oversight, told ABC News.

House and Senate Democrats, who were particularly worried about how the $500 billion supervised by Mnuchin will be awarded, also pushed Republicans to add additional language into the legislation preventing President Trump, his family, top government officials and lawmakers from receiving loans or investments from the Treasury programs.

Already, there are signs that President Trump and Democrats could tangle over oversight of the massive stimulus programs as money begins to flow from the federal government to workers and businesses.

Trump's plans to nominate Miller, a former inspector general for the General Services Administration, will likely be met with criticism by Democrats. Inspectors General are typically independent and apolitical appointees; Miller played a role in rebuffing investigations into the withheld military aid to Ukraine that led to Trump's impeachment.

In a signing statement last week, Trump said he wouldn't allow the inspector general to share information with Congress without ''presidential supervision,'' objecting to the provisions of the law that require the watchdog to notify Congress when they are ''unreasonably'' denied information about the stimulus program.

Democrats criticized the comments, and on Thursday House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the formation of a special select committee to provide additional oversight of the recovery funds and the administration's management of the coronavirus crisis, a move Republicans and the White House quickly condemned as redundant.

Mnuchin on Thursday said he didn't think the panel was necessary.

''Both parties wanted us to have oversight, wanted us to have transparency. We have full transparency,'' he said at the daily White House coronavirus briefing.

''It's witch hunt after witch hunt after witch hunt,'' Trump said of the select committee at the same briefing.

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D–Ore., on Saturday, issued the following statement on the nomination of Brian Miller to be special inspector general for pandemic recovery:

''The special inspector general needs to be independent above all. Someone who currently works in the White House counsel's office, serving a president who has tried to silence other inspector generals and announced his intention to silence this one, is not independent. It's no wonder President Trump announced this nomination late on a Friday evening.''

''While Mr. Miller has requisite experience for this position, he must clear a high bar to show the Senate he would protect the interests of the American people over the political interests of this administration.''

While it's not uncommon for both parties to snipe over the use—and potential abuse—of stimulus funds, the level of partisanship in Washington and the immediate need for the funds to be delivered to businesses and Americans make this situation much more difficult than the oversight efforts following the last recession, Devaney told ABC News.

''The atmosphere on the Hill, I thought it was acrimonious when I was there. It's a lot worse today and I suspect that whoever takes this job is going to be testifying once a week,'' he said of the eventual special inspector general.

Former Rep. Tom Davis, R–Virginia, who served as chair of the House Oversight Committee, defended the stimulus package, given the time constraints put on lawmakers and the Trump administration.

''It's unlike anything I've ever seen in the last 50 years,'' he told ABC News. ''Emergency situations call for emergency measures. You can't sit and write layers and layers of oversight.''

''There's always going to be money going to people who shouldn't have gotten it,'' Davis said. ''The question is, what were the alternatives?

Lawmakers and coronavirus stimulus watchdogs won't just have this historic $2.2 trillion coronavirus package to police. Conversations have already started on Capitol Hill around a fourth phase of relief funding, including more money for small businesses.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this emergency surge in spending to confront the coronavirus is unprecedented, but the idea of what we are establishing is not. As I said, then-Senator Truman proposed it at the dawn of World War II. It worked then, and it will work now as well.

So if you believe that this administration has nothing to hide, then nobody should oppose this and let the American people see how their money is being spent.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Speaker of the House, who has been an incredible leader during this pandemic.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership as chair of the Rules Committee for bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

I also acknowledge the bipartisan cooperation of the Republicans in this House and pay tribute to Mr. COLE, who is highly respected on both sides of the aisle. I am sorry that he doesn't see a pattern in this, as the Republicans have had these kinds of committees time and again. I never heard him question them then, but I do hear him questioning them today.

But I am very pleased that the two of them will be working together with the distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER, and the distinguished Republican leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, as well as with the leadership of Chairwoman LOFGREN and Ranking Member DAVIS in the days ahead to consider the proposal that we have for how we can act as a Congress when everybody cannot be present.

I see in the paper that I pulled it. No, I didn't pull it. I said all along I wanted this to be bipartisan. As Speaker of the whole House, as we changed how we participate, I wanted it to be bipartisan. When we saw that that opportunity existed, in my conversation with the distinguished Republican leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, I then said we have to give this a chance.

I do think that there are many options that may be available. We want to give all the options to our Members, but consistent with the Constitution of the United States, the rules of the House of Representatives, the security of this body's information, as well as, again, the technology to make sure it works when we are depending on it.

So I yield to the wisdom that they will bring to all of this to give Members as many options as possible and to do so in a way that, again, is respectful of this being the coronavirus—and not just for how we do business generally, but in this specific time—as, also, a template for any other kind of emergency that might arise.

So I thank the chairman and I thank Ranking Member COLE for their comments about willingness to discuss that, and hopefully by the time we return, if that is May 4, we will have an opportunity to vote in a bipartisan way on how we can do that.

By the way, when we are talking about proxy voting, we have to be sure that it is consistent with the wishes of the Member of Congress who is yielding a proxy, consistent with his or her representation of their district. It is not just a license to the proxy holder to work his or her well or the leadership to have a handful of proxies. It is about the actual representation of that person whose district, his or her district, wishes to vote on a matter, with not that much latitude except as spelled out by the granter of the proxy.

As a new Member of Congress—some of you may have identified with this—I would go into a committee room and think I had the best argument in the world for my new, fresh idea as a Member of Congress, and the chairman would have a pocketful of proxies and there was no need to even have a discussion if he or she were not in agreement. So I have been a victim of that, and I don't want there to be any doubt in mind that it is a complete, accurate, guardrailed reflection of the wish of the person granting the proxy.

Having said that, I want to salute our distinguished chairman for his championship. He has gone on starvation, this, that, and the other on behalf of solving the hunger crisis, the food insecurity crisis in our country, and his enthusiasm on SNAP and what we are doing as we go forward, the recognition that people are hungry in our country and that we have to do something about it.

But hearing him as chair of the Rules Committee talk about that, recognizing his history, chair of the task force on hunger, so many times going on starvation diets and I would say, ''Why are you doing that? I am not sure the other side even cares if you are on a starvation diet,'' but, nonetheless, I salute the gentleman again and again for his leadership on that.

So, Madam Speaker, here we are, and I thank Mr. MCGOVERN, our distinguished chairman, for bringing this resolution to the floor, again for his great leadership trying to move us forward in a bipartisan way to continue the operations of Congress during this extraordinary time. I again acknowledge Mr. COLE's interest in doing that as well.

Our Nation faces a deadly virus, a battered economy with tens of thousands of sick, some died, millions out of work. This is really a very, very, very sad day.

We come to the floor with nearly 50,000 deaths, a huge number of people impacted, and the uncertainty of it all. We have to be very prayerful, and we have to be as bipartisan as we can possibly be, as united, working together.

The bill we will vote on later today, which I will speak about later today, is the fourth bipartisan bill that we will be passing in the Congress of the United States. Starting March 4, we had our first bill: testing, testing, testing; shortly thereafter, the 14th: masks, masks, masks, in terms of the personal protective equipment that people needed; and, again, our big CARES Act, which was bipartisan, as is this bill today. That is why I hope, as we continue to talk about how Congress conducts itself, we can do so in a bipartisan way.

Congress, again, has taken important steps in addressing this crisis, as I mentioned, by passing three bills, over $2 trillion in desperately needed emergency relief. We started: emergency, emergency, mitigation for the impact on the health and the economy of our country. We hope to soon get to a recovery phase. But right now, we are still in mitigation.

Again, later today, as we pass this, the fourth bill and urgently needed interim bill, I am very pleased that it was transformed from a bill 2 weeks ago on the floor where the leader in the Senate said: This is it, 250. We are not doing anything else.

That failed to get unanimous consent. At the same time, that other proposal was put forth. But I will talk about that later.

Again, why we are here for this particular initiative is we need to ensure that the historic advancement of dollars in these bills and in future packages are spent carefully and effectively to save lives and rebuild our economy.

□ 1030

As the distinguished chairman mentioned, at the dawn of World War II, then-Senator Harry Truman spearheaded the creation of a special committee to ensure that the dollars spent on the war effort had oversight and accountability.

Now, there was a democratic President in the White House, President Roosevelt, so this was not partisan in any way, nor should this be considered partisan. The purpose was to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse, profiteering, price-gouging, and the rest.

As Truman said later, when he was President, he was interviewed about this and he said: I knew that after World War I there had been 116 committees set up to investigate the money spent in World War I. 116 committees, after the fact. He said: First of all, there had been 116 investigating committees after the fact, and I felt one committee before the fact would prevent a lot of waste and maybe even save some lives. And that, he said, is the way it worked out.

The Truman committee turned into a tremendous investment for taxpayers. The total cost at the time was less than $1 million, and it saved lives and nearly $15 billion by preventing waste, fraud, and abuse. That is the equivalent of like $750 billion today.

What made sense then makes even more sense now. That is why the House is forming a special bipartisan oversight panel, the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

And by the way, Mr. COLE, I did inform the distinguished leader of my intention to announce such a thing before I did.

The committee won't root out waste, fraud, and abuse. We keep saying it. It will be laser focused on ensuring that taxpayer money goes to workers' paychecks and benefits, and it will ensure that the Federal response is based on the best possible science and guided by health experts and that the money invested is not being exploited by profiteers and price-gougers.

We already have been hearing of families facing scams. There are people out there creating scams to steal the direct payment checks. The Secretary of HHS told me of a scam, one entity was selling masks they didn't even have. That is why this is so important, and that timing is important, so people know we will be watching how these tax dollars are spent.

I agree with Mr. COLE. There is plenty of time later for an after-action review of what went before. What we are

talking about is how this money is spent as we go forward, to make sure, as President Truman—Senator Truman at the time—did, to put a spotlight on the factories that were doing the work that they were supposed to be doing.

We have a tall order in terms of vaccines and therapies and the rest, and we want to be sure that if there is, God willing, a vaccine soon or a cure, even sooner than that, that we will be able to have the resources available in places where they need to be in real time, to be able to advance that.

Led by Majority Whip CLYBURN—and I am very proud of him, Mr. CLYBURN. I had the privilege of naming him then to oversee what was happening in response to Katrina, and he just was magnificent in his precision of thought and objectivity.

And again, this isn't about assigning blame. This is about taking responsibility and to be able to answer for what we have put forth, that it really did work.

And so, the committee will exercise oversight to ensure that the historic investment of taxpayers' dollars, which is enormous, are being used wisely and efficiently and that nobody is ripping us off. Because where there is big money—we know this—people will come up with a scam of some kind.

Mr. CLYBURN's leadership, again, is essential to the work. His review of the response to Hurricane Katrina, which I mentioned, and so many issues critical to working families, I am proud that he has accepted the opportunity to serve our country in this role now.

We urge our Republican colleagues and the administration to join us in respecting this oversight, that we can save lives, deliver relief, and protect our economy. And I say this with all the hope that I can muster, that we can do this in a very bipartisan way.

So anyone who is thinking of a scam or a delay in terms of how the product we are looking out for is produced and how available it is to everyone in our country, they will know that we, again, are watching from both sides of the aisle how taxpayers' dollars are being spent.

With that, I once again thank the distinguished chairman for bringing this important legislation to the floor. I hope that we may—on a different side of this vote, when the committee is formed—have much in common in how we put a very bright light on how the money is spent to make people healthier, to make our economy stronger, and to do so in a way that brings us all together.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Speaker for her kind and thoughtful remarks.

I also want to acknowledge—I am going to follow her example. I think we should keep our mask on when we are doing our normal business but take them off when we are speaking. And thank you for setting that example, Madam Speaker.

With that, I would like to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, first, I want to say that I am praying for comfort for all of the families that have lost someone to COVID–19. I also want to pray for the families and those people that are in the hospitals now sick from COVID–19, that they have total and complete healing.

And I want to thank the healthcare workers, the grocery store workers, the truckers, everybody that every day is putting their health at risk and their family's health at risk to keep the economy going and to help Americans.

And it is really good to be back here today in Congress working and continuing to do our job during this crisis.

You know, two weeks ago, in the Senate—it was two weeks ago now—the Senate Republicans put up a bill to help continue funding for small businesses so they could pay their workers. Two weeks—two weeks—we have been waiting around while Democrats have been delaying it. And why? I don't understand why.

I have had businesses, just like all of my fellow Members of Congress, that have called me and said: I need the money; I need the money from this program, or my business is going to go under.

Two weeks ago this could have happened. But, no, in those two weeks, millions and millions more people filed for unemployment insurance. And why? We could have done this funding for small businesses so they could pay their workers two weeks ago. I am thankful that we are finally—finally—getting it done.

Now, the rule talks about Speaker PELOSI's oversight committee. Maybe that is the reason that Democrats delayed funding for small businesses and their workers for two weeks.

Why do we need another oversight committee? Speaker PELOSI said, oh, it is going to be all bipartisan. I am sorry; I don't believe it. And the reason I don't believe it is because since the beginning of 2019, I have served on three committees, including Judiciary Committee, and in every single committee, the entire goal has been nonstop to criticize President Trump and try to influence the 2020 election.

And now you are going to tell me that you are going to have another oversight committee, even though every standing committee has oversight on this, and we have inspector generals and the CARES Act has oversight. Now we need a ninth committee to do oversight, and it is supposedly going to be bipartisan? I am sorry. I call BS.

And the reason I know this is because of past history. While Democrats were focusing on impeachment, the President was working on coronavirus.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, the reason why we are doing this is because the President is undercutting oversight.

Madam Speaker, I want to insert in the RECORD ''Trump Ousts Pandemic Spending Watchdog Known for Independence.''

[From The New York Times, April 7, 2020]

TRUMP OUSTS PANDEMIC SPENDING WATCHDOG KNOWN FOR INDEPENDENCE

(By Ben Protess, Steve Eder, and David Enrich)

WASHINGTON—President Trump moved on Tuesday to oust the leader of a new watchdog panel charged with overseeing how his administration spends trillions of taxpayer dollars in coronavirus pandemic relief, the latest step in an abruptly unfolding White House power play against semi-independent inspectors general across the government.

The official, Glenn A. Fine, has been the acting inspector general for the Defense Department since before Mr. Trump took office and was set to become the chairman of a new Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to police how the government carries out the $2.2 trillion coronavirus relief bill. But Mr. Trump replaced Mr. Fine in his Pentagon job, disqualifying him from serving on the new oversight panel.

The move came at a time when the president has been reasserting authority over the executive branch and signaling impatience with independent voices within the government that he considers disloyal. In recent days, he fired an inspector general who reviewed the whistle-blower complaint that led to his impeachment, nominated a White House aide to another key inspector general post, declared that he would ignore certain oversight provisions in the new relief law and attacked another inspector general who criticized virus testing shortages.

Mr. Trump even cheered the firing of the captain of an aircraft carrier for sending a letter to fellow Navy officers pleading for help for his virus-stricken crew, castigating the officer for airing unfavorable information. Only after a loud backlash over the firing and the acting Navy secretary's speech calling the captain ''stupid'' did the president partly reverse himself and say he would look into it. The acting Navy secretary, who said he had ordered the firing because he assumed Mr. Trump might have done it himself otherwise, took the hint and resigned on Tuesday.

The questions of accountability and loyalty within the government have been persistent themes in the past three years as Mr. Trump has repeatedly waged war with what he calls ''the deep state.'' He has rejected the conventional views that figures like the director of the F.B.I., the attorney general, intelligence directors, uniformed military commanders, ethics officers and now inspectors general should have a degree of autonomy.

At his daily coronavirus briefing, Mr. Trump offered no particular explanation for sidelining Mr. Fine but characterized it as part of a larger shuffle of inspectors general, some of them left over from past administrations, and cited unspecified ''reports of bias.''

Critics said on Tuesday that it sent a message to government watchdogs to tread softly. ''I cannot see how any inspector general will feel in any way safe to do a good job,'' said Danielle Brian, the executive director of the Project on Government Oversight, a nonprofit group. ''They are all at the mercy at what the president feels.''

But Mr. Trump's allies said he felt burned by the investigations of his campaign and associates and therefore distrusts figures he perceives to be partisan foes within government, particularly former F.B.I. officials who obtained warrants under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, to investigate a campaign aide's ties to Russia.

''I've never heard the president express frustrations about independent oversight,'' said Cliff Sims, a former White House aide.

''But he doesn't think he should be subjected to his political enemies in supposedly apolitical oversight roles. This has been deeply ingrained in his psyche since the moment he learned that FISA had been abused to spy on his campaign.''

In removing Mr. Fine from his role overseeing pandemic spending, Mr. Trump targeted a former Justice Department inspector general who earned a reputation for aggressive independence in scrutinizing the F.B.I.'s use of surveillance and other law enforcement powers in the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Replacing Mr. Fine as the Pentagon's acting inspector general will be Sean O'Donnell, who serves as the inspector general at the Environmental Protection Agency and will do double duty for the time being. A group of inspectors general led by Michael E. Horowitz, the Justice Department inspector general, will determine who will replace Mr. Fine as chairman of the new pandemic oversight committee.

Created as part of the coronavirus relief bill, the committee consists of nine inspectors general from across the executive branch and will have an $80 million budget to hunt for waste, fraud, abuse and illegality in the disbursement of the $2.2 trillion approved by Congress to provide relief to Americans affected by the pandemic.

In announcing Mr. Fine's short-lived role last week, Mr. Horowitz had praised him as ''uniquely qualified'' to run oversight of ''large organizations,'' citing his 11 years as the top Justice Department watchdog and his four years serving as the top Pentagon one.

''The inspector general community recognizes the need for transparency surrounding, and strong and effective independent oversight of, the federal government's spending in response to this public health crisis,'' Mr. Horowitz said at the time.

Democrats immediately condemned Mr. Fine's sudden ouster as ''corrupt,'' in the words of Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the minority leader. ''President Trump is abusing the coronavirus pandemic to eliminate honest and independent public servants because they are willing to speak truth to power and because he is so clearly afraid of strong oversight,'' Mr. Schumer said.

Representative Carolyn B. Maloney, Democrat of New York and the chairwoman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, called Mr. Trump's actions ''a direct insult to the American taxpayers—of all political stripes—who want to make sure that their tax dollars are not squandered on wasteful boondoggles, incompetence or political favors.''

Still, it is not a given that Mr. O'Donnell will toe the line at the Pentagon. At the E.P.A., he has issued reports that are critical of Mr. Trump's appointed administrator, Andrew R. Wheeler, who has sought to limit Mr. O'Donnell's authority and oversight.

Only last week, after Mr. O'Donnell's office released a report concluding that the E.P.A. failed to adequately warn communities living in proximity to certain carcinogenic chemicals of their health risks, Mr. Wheeler publicly rebuked the inspector general's report for its ''tone and substance'' and demanded that he rescind it. Mr. O'Donnell refused.

Privately, some people within the government's inspector general community suggested that the appointment of Mr. O'Donnell to the Pentagon post would divert his oversight from the E.P.A., which has continued to move forward with Mr. Trump's agenda of reducing or eliminating public health and environmental regulations, even as the coronavirus rages.

Before being appointed as the E.P.A. watchdog, Mr. O'Donnell clerked for two federal judges and worked since 2005 as a career lawyer at the Justice Department, most recently in the criminal division working on cases involving fraud, corruption and national security.

At the Pentagon, Mr. O'Donnell will serve in an acting capacity pending Senate action on Jason Abend, a Customs and Border Protection official, who was nominated by Mr. Trump last week to take on the post permanently. Mr. Fine remains the No. 2 official at the Pentagon's watchdog office.

Late last month, several hours after Mr. Trump signed the $2 trillion coronavirus relief and stimulus bill with fanfare on television, he issued a signing statement challenging a key safeguard congressional Democrats insisted upon as a condition of approving $500 billion in corporate bailout funds: that a special inspector general be empowered to demand information about how the Treasury Department spends the money and who would be required to tell Congress if executive branch officials unreasonably balk.

In his signing statement, Mr. Trump effectively declared that he could control what information goes to Congress about any disputes over access to information about how and why the money is spent. On Friday, he nominated Brian D. Miller, a White House aide, to serve as the special inspector general overseeing the corporate relief.

Then late that night, Mr. Trump fired the inspector general for the intelligence community, Michael K. Atkinson, whose insistence on telling Congress about the whistleblower complaint about Mr. Trump's dealings with Ukraine prompted impeachment proceedings last fall.

At the same time, Mr. Trump also announced a slew of other inspector general nominees, including Mr. Abend as the new Defense Department inspector general, and three current and former Justice Department officials to be the new inspectors general at the C.I.A., the Education Department and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mr. Trump redoubled his attacks on the acting inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services, Christi A. Grimm, in a statement on Twitter on Tuesday, a day after she released a report about hospitals facing severe shortages in tests as they battle the pandemic:

Why didn't the I.G., who spent 8 years with the Obama Administration (Did she Report on the failed H1N1 Swine Flu debacle where 17,000 people died?), want to talk to the Admirals, Generals, V.P. & others in charge, before doing her report. Another Fake Dossier!—Trump Tweet

On Monday, Mr. Trump had suggested that Ms. Grimm's report was politically biased against him. Ms. Grimm is a career official who began work at the inspector general office late in the Clinton administration and stayed there throughout the Bush and Obama administrations, taking over the role of acting inspector general in an interim capacity this year.

Mr. Trump's interest in inspectors general has grown more intense lately. Until his most recent nominations, he had failed to pick anyone for about one-third of the 37 inspector general positions that are presidentially appointed, according to the Project on Government Oversight. Those roles were temporarily assumed by other officials whose lack of job security and status typically makes them more cautious than a permanent appointee, government experts say.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I also insert into the RECORD the President's signing statement, which is crystal clear that he is trying to undercut oversight. So we need to do our job here.

STATEMENTS & RELEASES

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

(Issued on: March 27, 2020)

HEALTHCARE

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 748, the ''Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act'' or the ''CARES'' Act (the ''Act''). The Act makes emergency supplemental appropriations and other changes to law to help the Nation respond to the coronavirus outbreak. I note, however, that the Act includes several provisions that raise constitutional concerns.

Section 15010(c)(3)(B) of Division B of the Act purports to require the Chairperson of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency to consult with members of the Congress regarding the selection of the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for the newly formed Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. The Committee is an executive branch entity charged with conducting and coordinating oversight of the Federal Government's response to the coronavirus outbreak. I anticipate that the Chairperson will be able to consult with members of the Congress with respect to these hiring decisions and will welcome their input. But a requirement to consult with the Congress regarding executive decision-making, including with respect to the President's Article II authority to oversee executive branch operations, violates the separation of powers by intruding upon the President's power and duty to supervise the staffing of the executive branch under Article II, section 1 (vesting the President with the ''executive Power'') and Article II, section 3 (instructing the President to ''take Care'' that the laws are faithfully executed). Accordingly, my Administration will treat this provision as hortatory but not mandatory.

Section 4018 of Division A of the Act establishes a new Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery (SIGPR) within the Department of the Treasury to manage audits and investigations of loans and investments made by the Secretary of the Treasury under the Act. Section 4018(e)(4)(B) of the Act authorizes the SIGPR to request information from other government agencies and requires the SIGPR to report to the Congress ''without delay'' any refusal of such a request that ''in the judgment of the Special Inspector General'' is unreasonable. I do not understand, and my Administration will not treat, this provision as permitting the SIGPR to issue reports to the Congress without the presidential supervision required by the Take Care Clause, Article II, section 3.

Certain other provisions (such as sections 20001, 21007, and 21010 of Division B of the Act) purport to condition the authority of officers to spend or reallocate funds upon consultation with, or the approval of, one or more congressional committees. These provisions are impermissible forms of congressional aggrandizement with respect to the execution of the laws. The Congress may affect the execution of the laws only by enacting a new statute in accordance with the requirements of bicameralism and presentment prescribed in Article I, section 7. My Administration will make appropriate efforts to notify the relevant committees before taking the specified actions and will accord the recommendations of such committees all appropriate and serious consideration, but it will not treat spending decisions as dependent on prior consultation with or the approval of congressional committees.

Finally, several provisions (such as sections 3511(d)(4) and 3862 (creating section

744N(d)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) of Division A of the Act) purport to require recommendations regarding legislation to the Congress. Because Article II, section 3 gives the President the authority to recommend only ''such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient,'' my Administration will continue the practice of treating provisions like these as advisory and non-binding.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 27, 2020*.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the distinguished chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution which establishes a new select subcommittee on the coronavirus within the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

I look forward to working closely with the distinguished majority whip from South Carolina, Mr. CLYBURN, on this very important effort.

As the Speaker has explained, this new subcommittee is modeled directly after the Truman committee which saved billions of taxpayer dollars during World War II and helped mobilize our Nation, our industries, and our entire population for war.

Harry Truman explained at the time that it was critical during this effort to conduct oversight, to prevent the waste of taxpayer funds, rather than waiting until after they were spent.

Catching problems early and correcting them immediately saved not only money but lives. Today our Nation, our economy, and our people, face a similar mobilization effort as we engage in this war against the coronavirus. Microbes are killing more people than missiles.

And let me be clear. Right now, we are only in the first battle. This week the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that we could face a second, more deadly wave of coronavirus this fall. He warned that it could, ''Actually be even more difficult than the one we just went through.''

But our national stockpile is nearly depleted. We need protective equipment, we need critical medical supplies, we need tests, and we need new vaccines and treatments. We need all the supplies and materials necessary not only to safeguard our current medical workers but to restore our stockpiles and to build them up, so we are ready for the next battle and the one after that and whatever comes next.

This is something we all should be able to agree on. This should be a bipartisan effort, and I encourage all of my colleagues to come together, to protect the interests of the American taxpayers, and to promote the most efficient, effective, equitable, and transparent mobilization in history in response to this deadly crisis.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my good friend and distinguished member of both the Rules Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, of course, we are all observing the Attending Physician's request that we stay at least 6 feet apart. And I appreciate the Democratic Speaker's acknowledgment that it is perhaps better to address the American people without a mask.

Mr. COLE, I also want to extend my sympathies to you. I know your district suffered greatly last night in the storm, and certainly our hearts are with our near neighbors in Oklahoma.

So our actions today represent a lost opportunity. I am grateful that we are going to finally pass legislation that will provide more funding for our small businesses and for our healthcare providers.

We should have been preparing for the needs of the American people since the first of this year. Instead, the House considered 15 pieces of non-crucial legislation and five resolutions that do not now, nor ever will, have the force of law.

Six months before this crisis started in January, President Trump signed into law the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, the product of our health subcommittee, last Congress and this Congress.

But after this fire broke out across the globe, did we do any real-time oversight as to whether or not the bill that we had passed, the bill that we had labored over, was, in fact, performing as indicated?

The Speaker talked about real-time oversight. We had an opportunity, but we didn't take it.

The Energy and Commerce Committee held hearings on flavored tobacco, we looked into horse racing, we looked into ticket scalping. And these issues have a place in our legislative agenda, but not in the middle of a pandemic when we should have been doing real-time oversight of a bill we had signed into law a mere 6 months before.

So as the leader of the Health Subcommittee on Energy and Commerce, I began calling for action in January. It was not until February 26, as an add-on to a budget hearing for Health and Human Services where there was a brief panel assembled, and only 10 Members were allowed to ask questions of this expert panel on the emerging novel coronavirus.

□ 1045

It was a full 2 weeks later before Congress considered its first comprehensive bill. During consideration in the Rules Committee, I requested, because one hadn't been done, a survey of ventilators. We didn't know how many we had available.

Now, thanks to vital steps taken by the Trump administration, to this date, no patient has been denied a ventilator that needed one. This is a testament to the administration's response. It is a testament to the private sector in this country that responded so well. And it certainly puts to shame the Democratic majority's response during January and February.

We are in the middle of working to ensure patient survival and keeping our economy afloat. Now is not the time to authorize yet another partisan committee to conduct oversight in a manner that we know will only be good for the next new cycle.

Early in this crisis, we forewent an opportunity to prepare. Let us not make the same mistake again. Let us not continue to waste time. Let us do the work of the American people and get to business as usual. If we had been better authorizers, less oversight would be necessary.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise to support the rule and underlying legislation to establish the select committee, and I also support this bill that we will be voting on later today.

Small businesses are the heart of a thriving community and vital to the American economy, and there isn't one in Georgia or across the country that has not been impacted by the pandemic.

This crisis demands we all continue our work together to ensure that our American families are kept safe, American small businesses are supported, and American workers receive the relief that they need. This funding is one more step on the long journey toward recovery.

I want to take this time to offer my condolences to the victims who have lost their lives to this awful disease. My prayers are with those mourning in Georgia, across America, and around the globe.

To our doctors, nurses, and first responders: Americans everywhere are looking up to your love, your sacrifice, and your uncommon courage.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my good friend and a distinguished Member.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, eight different oversight processes are in place as we speak:

We have got the Oversight Committee itself, which has the broadest jurisdiction of any committee in Congress to do oversight.

We have the committees of jurisdiction, which each have a subcommittee that does oversight: Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Small Business, and, of course, Financial Services.

We have the CARES Act itself, which created the Oversight Commission in the bill itself.

We have the CARES Act, which also created the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee in the bill itself. That is the fourth one.

The fifth one, we have the IGs, the inspectors general from each of the respective agencies: Health and Human Services, Treasury.

Sixth, we have a special inspector general created in the CARES Act.

Seventh, we have $20 million in funding appropriated in the CARES Act, which created a process for auditors and experts at GAO to do further oversight.

And finally, eighth, we have the FTC and DOJ, the agencies doing oversight and holding people accountable for the fraud that may be committed.

Eight different entities doing oversight, but the Democrats want a ninth. Why? Eight different committees doing the work making sure that the hard-earned tax dollars of the American people have the proper oversight. But we need a ninth for what reason? The ninth is political. Eight committees looking out for the taxpayer, the ninth looking out for Joe Biden; the ninth to go after President Trump.

This is just a continuation of the attack that the Democrats have had on the President for the past 4 years. It started before he was President when they opened the Trump Russia investigation, spied on two American citizens associated with the Trump campaign. It continued with the Mueller investigation. And then, of course, we had the ridiculous impeachment process based on a phone call between the President of Ukraine and President Trump.

And now this. Now this, a select committee in the summer of an election year to attack the President when we already have eight different entities doing the oversight we are all supposed to do to look out for the taxpayer interests.

The Democrats want a ninth because the ninth is political, and the ninth will be chaired by our colleague, the biggest supporter of the Democrats' nominee for President.

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Guidance for Members and Attendees provided to us by the Office of the Attending Physician.

While face coverings are not mandatory, they are certainly recommended. The Office of Attending Physician has also advised that ''a face cover will produce a minimal reduction in sound when using a microphone. The face covering is likely to be most useful in preventing viral spread while a person is speaking.''

So people can do whatever they want to do, but I would say, while we are all trying to show how fearless we are, we should be mindful of the people surrounding us. So until I am advised otherwise, I am going to keep my mask on.

GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS AND ATTENDEES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

In order to accommodate this meeting of the House Committee on Rules, the following guidelines have been developed in consultation with the Office of the Attending Physician (OAP), the Office of the Sergeant at Arms (SAA), and the Committee on House Administration. The OAP continues to recommend teleworking for all Congressional offices and that Members and staff maintain 6-foot social distance spacing as much as practicable when in the offices or the Capitol.

The OAP, in conjunction with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recommends that all Members and attendees should:

1. Avoid congregating in groups upon arrival to the room;
2. Use provided hand sanitizer;
3. Apply a face cover if a face covering is not already worn (a face cover will be available for those who need them);
4. Proceed directly to their seat, maintaining proper distancing; and
5. Remain seated until the conclusion of the meeting, to the extent possible.

Use of a face covering, while voluntary, is recommended for this specific proceeding due to occasions when the six-foot separation distance may be not be possible (Member private communications with staff, document distribution if needed, witness or staff movements, etc.).

The OAP has advised that a face cover will produce a minimal reduction in sound when using a microphone. The face covering is likely to be most useful in preventing viral spread while a person is speaking.

Members are encouraged to attend without staff or to limit themselves to a maximum of one staff person per Member if necessary. Staff who do accompany their bosses are requested to sit in the audience and only approach the dais if/when needed.

Members and attendees should not engage in personal greetings such as handshakes or embraces.

Members and attendees are asked to respect markings present on chairs to prevent their use, in accordance with social distancing guidelines.

Access restrictions to the Capitol Complex remain in place. Per guidance from the SAA, House Office Buildings remain open to Members, Congressional staff, and credentialed press.

When the meeting is adjourned, departure from the room should continue to respect social distancing by avoiding congregating in groups near the exit doors, hallways, or elevators. Members and attendees should use waterless hand cleansing upon exit after removing and disposing of their face covering.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. It is sad to say, but this coronavirus pandemic has caused some of the greatest suffering in our time for individuals and for our country at large. And yet there are those few who would see this as an opportunity to benefit for themselves and their companies by price gouging or, one might say, pandemic profiteering.

We have good reason to be skeptical about many of these companies, including the pharmaceutical industry. For example, even during this crisis, we saw Gilead seek and receive from the FDA 7 years of orphan drug exclusivity for a possible treatment for the virus. Only after organizations stepped in and protested did Gilead go back to the FDA to withdraw their request.

Do we really need an oversight committee? Look what has happened already.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Headlines such as a $55 million contract to a bankrupt company, who is a baker, in order to make N95 masks.

''Hedge Fund Managers Claiming Bailouts As Small Businesses.''

''Over 43,000 U.S. Millionaires Will Get 'stimulus' Averaging $1.6 Million Each.''

Yes, we need an oversight committee, and we need it now.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), my good friend and a distinguished gentleman.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Americans are suffering right now. Hospitals, families, and businesses are figuring out what their next step will be.

But, instead of helping American families, Speaker PELOSI wants to set up a new, costly, unnecessary select committee. This is an outrageous attempt to yet again use Congress to smear President Trump in an election year, just like the impeachment charade a few months ago.

I am all about oversight. We already have an Oversight Committee that is tasked with carrying out these very duties, and it is a very good committee, a quality committee made up of outstanding members from both sides of the aisle.

This is yet another political game from Speaker PELOSI using tax dollars for political gain. Creating a new select committee is completely redundant. We must stop these games and, instead, focus on the real problems facing the American people.

Creating an entirely new select committee is an irresponsible waste of time and resources that could be used elsewhere. Let's refocus on getting this country back on track and moving forward for the American people.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, when it comes to $2 trillion, I don't think there can be enough oversight. I think our constituents expect us to make sure that that money is being spent where it should be spent, where Congress intended it.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support the underlying bill, which was made much safer to save lives and to provide economic opportunity. But, as well, I rise to support the bipartisan, as it should be, oversight bill created by the vision of our Speaker, and I ask my colleagues to understand what oversight

is in COVID–19. It is to save lives and to make sure that we focus on the needs of those like the elderly in nursing homes who need to be tested or essential workers.

Or we find out the underlying incompetence, if you will, of large companies getting money from the mom-and-pop businesses. That needs oversight.

Or we promote more testing, like the $25 billion that is in the underlying bill, and contact tracing. That is what oversight is.

Oversight is to maintain the idea that we have responsibility for the budget of this Nation, but we have the responsibility for the lives of this Nation.

I served as a staffer for the Select Committee on Assassinations when people were in dismay about the assassinations of Dr. King and John F. Kennedy. I will tell you that even that small committee in the House gave some comfort that Congress was caring about lives and about our budget.

I support enthusiastically the rule and, as well, the bipartisan Oversight Committee. Wise people will know that Congress must continue to do its work in a way that saves lives and strengthens our economy.

I ask support for this bill and the rule.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON), my good friend and the distinguished chief deputy whip of the Republican Conference.

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, here we go again. Once again you are about to do what America doesn't want.

We just came from our districts where we have been solving problems with our constituents, helping them through a very, very difficult time, working to make sure that they had funding through the PPP loan program, working to make sure that our hospitals had the supplies that they needed.

I hoped there would be a sense of cooperation and shared stories of good things that were going on back in our district, despite the hard times. I had hoped that those commonalities from all congressional districts could be the shared stories that we built a new sense of cooperation on. But, no. You all seem to be like a bird dog pointing at a quail. You just can't help yourselves.

First of all, you had Russia, then impeachment, and now the coronavirus. You just can't do it. And you will say—I have heard it already—that this will not be partisan, that this is needed work. Needed more than eight committees that are already out there? Well, I can tell you this will be partisan, being led by an individual who is the Democratic nominee's number one supporter.

And I will tell you this: I am willing to bet just about everything I have got that this will be nothing more than a partisan hack job; and if it is not, I will be the first one to apologize and happy to buy the Speaker a pint of her favorite ice cream.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I want to remind my colleagues, one of our constitutional responsibilities is oversight. We just appropriated over $2 trillion, and I applaud the Speaker of the House for making sure that this Congress does its job and does proper oversight.

I don't know about their constituents, but my constituents are puzzled why some of the money that was designed to go to small businesses ended up going to these megabusinesses like Shake Shack or Ruth's Chris Steak House, so they want accountability.

Two trillion dollars, I mean, is that too much to ask? So I applaud the Speaker of the House for focusing us on making sure that we do our job, but we do oversight. This select committee is warranted, it is important, and I think Democrats and Republicans should overwhelmingly support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), my good friend and a distinguished member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I appreciate his leadership.

I rise in opposition to this select committee. Energy and Commerce has a long tradition of bipartisan oversight in its broad jurisdiction and has the tools to prevent any fraud, waste, or abuse.

In the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, we are working right now, Republicans and Democrats, to make sure the FTC is protecting Americans from bad actors who are using the coronavirus to commit fraud. Our Oversight and Investigation team is working around the clock to stop bad actors and to track the spread of the virus itself, as well as the stockpiles of PPE, ventilators, and test kits sent to the States.

Our Health Subcommittee is working with HHS, FDA, CDC, and NIH to ensure resources reach hospitals and frontline healthcare workers who need it most.

The same can be said for the Small Business and Financial Services Committees' efforts to ensure that PPP loans are implemented effectively.

There is also the Ways and Means Committee oversight of the economic impact payments or any of a number of other committees involved in Congress' unprecedented bipartisan response to this crisis.

□ 1100

This select committee duplicates the existing jurisdiction of the Energy and Commerce Committee and others. It will erode the trust and effectiveness in our work that is underway during the greatest healthcare and economic crisis we have seen in our lifetime.

We shouldn't create a new committee that will divide us, make this response partisan, create more bureaucracy in Congress, and undermine the hard, bipartisan work of my colleagues and staff who are doing their jobs on their committees already.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to let our committees continue to do their jobs and reject this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, we are waiting for a couple of other speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), my good friend.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, in a very short period of time, this body has moved an unprecedented amount of money at an unprecedented speed, and rather than taking a step back now and looking at the effectiveness of what we have implemented so far, here we are today rushing forward, not only with additional funds, but also to rig up an unnecessary and duplicative select subcommittee for the purpose of investigating the President of the United States. Make no mistake. That is the purpose of this subcommittee.

It is entirely political in nature, designed to influence the 2020 elections. From the moment it is gaveled into life, there is no question that the mission will be to prevent the reelection of President Donald Trump.

There are already eight real oversight and watchdog processes in this body. Eight.

The Oversight and Reform Committee, of which I am a member, has the broadest jurisdiction in this body, and we have the power and the experience needed to oversee any Federal coronavirus response.

So why does the Speaker want a ninth? Why are we here looking at a ninth oversight subcommittee, especially when the Democrats are already in charge of the eight that we already have? Why would the appointment of this new select subcommittee be a member of her own leadership team who has already publicly stated that this virus creates for the Democrats a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit their vision?

That makes it clear what the purpose of this is all about: it is because this is an election year, it is because they hate the President of the United States, and because of that, I strongly encourage my colleagues to reject this resolution, which is intended to create an un-needed and duplicative committee.

Madam Chair, I again thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are still waiting for a couple of additional speakers but let me just say one thing here again. It is hard to believe what we are hearing here.

My friends on one hand are telling the American people that we all care deeply about oversight, we all want to make sure that the money is being spent properly, but yet they are opposed to this.

It is $2 trillion that we have responded with to try to deal with the crisis that we are faced with. That is a lot of money. To object to a select committee to basically make sure that it is being spent properly as this thing is unfolding, my colleagues have such a difficult time dealing with that.

Madam Speaker, again, I applaud the Speaker of the House for her leadership during this pandemic, not only on this, but on a whole range of other issues. She has taken what my Republican friends in the Senate and what the White House has proposed and made it better and made it more responsive to average working people.

That is what this is about: making sure the money gets to the people who need it, not to the people who don't need it, not to the big corporations, not to the well-off or the well connected.

So I don't understand all of the handwringing over this select committee. This is an important select committee, just like the one that then-Senator Truman did to make sure that the moneys that were appropriated went to help win the war.

We want to win this war too.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a quick response to my friend.

I recall that we requested oversight committees for TARP. That was not allowed by then-Speaker PELOSI. We requested oversight committees for the stimulus package in 2009. That, too, was not agreed to by Speaker PELOSI. So we find this new need for oversight refreshing, but somewhat questionable.

Madam Speaker, I also remind my friend, there are eight existing committees, all of which, by the way, the Democrats control, all of which they chair.

We have confidence in the eight existing committees to do their job. We don't see the need for a ninth.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my great friend.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, when we passed the Paycheck Protection Program, I warned that serious flaws would deliver a windfall to businesses that did not need it at the expense of those that do. That is exactly what happened, exhausting the fund within days.

Now it is imperative to replenish this program to assure that small businesses that desperately need these funds receive them.

Now, this could have been done 2 weeks ago but for the Democrats' demands that wasted time and added costs.

I supported the CARES Act only because I believed a better bill could not be produced given the current majority.

For the same reason, I support the bill to be taken up later today, but with this grave warning: unprecedented and unconstitutional government edicts have deliberately destroyed the livelihoods of millions of Americans and have set in motion both an economic depression and government insolvencies that threaten the very survival of our Nation. They must end now.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS).

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, 4 weeks ago we passed the largest economic rescue in American history. Today we replenish some of its most important programs.

Behind each program are real people in desperate need of our help: healthcare workers and hospitals in dire need of support, supplies, and testing;

Small business owners agonizing amid uncertainty and boxed out of loans by big banks serving well-connected clients; and

Our family farmers who continue to feed the world under unprecedented hardship, unable to qualify for the disaster loans afforded to others.

Today's legislation rights these wrongs. It also harnesses the help of our community banks and our credit unions, but it does not go far enough.

Our cities, our States need assistance now. They soon may have to lay off police and first responders, the very people we need on the front lines in this crisis.

Our corn growers and ethanol producers deserve the same help afforded Big Oil. We must take care of them in this next relief package.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my very good friend.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), for yielding, and I am greatly sorry for the losses yesterday, as well as down in BRIAN BABIN's district.

I heard the Speaker say we need to move in a bipartisan manner, and I believe she meant that. But then I can't forget that she said the same thing about impeachment a year ago: we can't move forward with impeachment unless it is bipartisan.

So what are we doing first? We are going to have a vote to create another oversight committee. So apparently the answer the Democrats have is if you have got eight committees that aren't doing their job, we have the answer: another committee.

For heaven's sake, we have got people losing their businesses, they are isolated.

Humans are social animals; we like to be around other people.

There are suicides, like in Knox County, Tennessee: they have lost more people to suicide than the coronavirus.

We have got to be careful about spreading fear. We can be concerned, but we shouldn't be afraid.

But another committee? For heaven's sake, that is not what we need.

It is interesting that the answer the Democrats have to potential waste, fraud, and abuse is to create another wasteful committee.

Just make the committees we have do their job of oversight, and then we will be all right. There needs to be oversight.

We apparently need a committee to give oversight to the oversight committees, because they are not doing their job, and that is why we need a new one.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am absolutely stunned over the outrage to sunshine and oversight. Give me a break.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this isn't the bill I would have written. I am incredibly frustrated that Senate Republicans stalled negotiations without offering any fixes to help get money into the hands of the small businesses that are hardest hit.

Funding needs to get to legitimate small businesses quickly and efficiently, not to big corporations.

Senate Republicans also rejected funding to help support State and local governments that are on the tip of the spear in fighting this pandemic.

With your help, Madam Speaker, we did get some improvements in this bill, such as additional funding for hospitals and testing to help respond to this crisis so we can eventually reopen our country, and improvements to the PPP and the EIDL program, which were crucial.

Times are uncertain and people in my district are hurting. They need relief now.

I will support this bill, but I look forward to future packages to get the needed relief to our communities that need it the most.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS).

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, a few days after the last bill became law, stories began to surface of an extreme disproportionate death rate among African Americans in several cities, with a 70 percent death rate, while African Americans are only 20 to 30 percent of the population.

Some cite underlying health conditions as the reason for the extreme disproportionate death rate, as though this is a reason that nothing can be

done, as though we have to just accept this for now.

This bill begins the process of addressing the disproportionate death rate, but oversight and advocacy from Congress and the public will still be needed.

The bill calls for a report to be issued in 21 days, where we should have a better picture of what is happening and, hopefully, provide a roadmap.

The bill calls for reporting data on demographics including race, on the number and rates of cases, hospitalization, and deaths from COVID.

When the report is made public, it will be clear that communities with large African American populations will require focused and concentrated testing with rapid results, that contact tracing and early and aggressive treatment will be required, and that hospitals should reevaluate how they make decisions regarding who has access to ventilators.

Using formulas that decide based on who they believe has a better chance of survival will undoubtedly hurt African Americans and contribute to the disproportionate death rate.

When we gather again to pass another bill, we must include targeted resources that support aggressive interventions.

It is just not acceptable for the richest country in the history of the world to allow different populations to suffer like they don't even live in the United States but live in countries without the resources to protect its population.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT).

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in support of this rule. It will continue urgent support for our small businesses, hospitals, and healthcare providers on the front line.

Madam Speaker, I want to commend the House leadership for ensuring that this agreement, which includes the agreement that we will pass later on today, includes $120 million more in small business relief that the Senate initially wanted to provide.

I am pleased to see that we will include SBA disaster loan programs and other provisions for extra support for small businesses.

The dynamic work of the members of the House leadership have been hard fought for those forgotten, and I have a great concern that without the select committee, the implementation of the incredible work will not be done.

Reporting requirements holding this administration to task are important for those that have been forgotten, for people like those in the Virgin Islands and for those who have been disproportionately affected by this law.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule.

□ 1115

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), my good friend.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, with the Second World War raging, Eleanor Roosevelt noted that: ''When all is said and done, and the statesmen discuss the future of the world, the fact remains that people fight these wars.''

The war on the pandemic is being waged in our crowded hospitals, our empty classrooms, and our closed businesses. Today's bill will bring Americans desperately needed relief, and I am deeply grateful for the victories that Democrats secured.

But the pandemic has exposed the deep income, racial, and health disparities as it cuts a lethal path through our communities. And it has exposed the callous and deadly indifference of the protectors of the wealthy and the connected all too willing to sacrifice our neighbors for the bottom line.

But in this House, the people's House, we know that our strength and our recovery as a nation rests in the health and prosperity of all Americans, and we will fight with everything we have for the people.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE).

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I wonder when this administration will treat all of its citizens with the same concern. Yes, our small businesses need additional support and our hospitals, too, but big banks should not have access to any more money because they have really already taken care of all of their friends.

I am happy our farmers are being helped, but what about hungry people? The USDA has decided to buy meat and produce, put it in a box, and send it to the unemployed through food banks. Why not just increase SNAP benefits as we have requested?

When is the right time to fight for teachers and sanitation workers, police, fire, and EMS?

When do we ensure prisoners are safe and are afforded appropriate care?

When do we provide nursing homes with adequate resources?

When do we guarantee every child has access to distance learning?

When is it the right time to fight for those who can't afford to pay 2 or 3 months' rent at once?

Most Americans don't have the luxury of waiting for us to pick and choose who gets help. We keep saying it will be in the next bill. Our people need it now.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me just say I rise in support of this package. I want to thank the Speaker; our leadership committee chair; members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Chairwoman BASS; Chairwoman KELLY, chair of the Health Braintrust; and all of the Members and staff who are working together on the health provisions of this bill.

Also, let me just take this moment to thank our essential workers for their sacrifices during this horrific pandemic.

Evidence has piled up that Black and Brown people are bearing some of the worst burdens of COVID. This bill requires, as Chairwoman BASS said, the CDC to get us the data on which communities are bearing the worst brunt and then to make sure that testing is focused on these communities.

But let me just say, we have much more work to do. Too many people were trapped in poverty before this crisis, and now more people have been pushed into the ranks of the poor because of COVID. People are lining up in front of food banks.

We need to increase SNAP funding, support the State and local government workers who are on the front lines of this crisis, protect our elections, and help people who are falling through the cracks and living on the edge. We have a moral and we have a patriotic duty to do this.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my friend and the Rules Committee as a committee and the staff. We met last night. Obviously, we are all meeting now at an extraordinary time, a very difficult time.

I was very proud of our committee last night, particularly our chairman and our staff for reopening and functioning and producing a contentious item, but a worthy item, to discuss here today. So thank you to Mr. Chairman for his leadership, and I thank our staff and thank our fellow members of the committee.

And I want to thank the body, including the Speaker. We are here today functioning. Obviously, we are taking precautions. Obviously, we are doing things differently. We are a little bit out of our comfort zone as a body. This isn't the way we normally work. But the point is we are here in Washington, D.C., and we are working.

While we disagree very strongly over this particular piece of legislation, later today we will vote in overwhelming bipartisan numbers for another relief package, Madam Speaker, for the American people.

That is the fourth time in a row that we have done it, and we have done it without partisanship. That doesn't mean there wasn't hard bargaining. It doesn't mean that everybody got everything they wanted in the package.

Quite the opposite. Everybody gave up some things that they wanted. But at the end of the day, we did come together.

Now, personally, I wish we would have put money earlier in the Paycheck Protection Program, but I certainly don't begrudge the additional money for hospitals and testing. So, hopefully, we can avoid that and keep programs that are working going, fine-tune them where we must.

There are certainly some changes that could be made. But I think, on balance, we ought to look back and say, at a time of great crisis, Congress has continued to function and has come together in a bipartisan manner and has done important work on behalf of the American people.

We have a lot more important work to do. There are many, many challenges that are going to confront us. Secretary Mnuchin sometimes calls the response to coronavirus a baseball game with nine innings. And I suspect that we are completing the fourth inning today, Madam Speaker, with the ultimate passage of the additional resources for the CARES Act.

Again, while we disagree on this one—I want to talk about that in a second—we agree on the most important act of the day, which is getting relief out the door to the American people and sustaining our economy under a time of great stress, helping our healthcare workers who are on the front line, trying to make sure we have the robust testing that is necessary so our Governors can make good decisions when they grapple with the tough issue of how they are to reopen their respective States.

We think, Madam Speaker, the particular item we are considering this morning is simply unnecessary. We have eight oversight committees, all of which, I remind my friends, they control. They are the majority in this body. That is appropriate. They are their oversight committees.

Creating another one we just think is, at a minimum, superfluous; and, frankly, history has taught us it is more apt to be a weapon, in our view, used to attack the President of the United States relentlessly during an election year. I would love to be wrong about that. As my friend Mr. FERGUSON said he would be the first to apologize, I will be happy to apologize, too, if I am wrong.

But, even if that were not the case, I would question the need for an additional committee. I simply don't see any need for that. We have committees that do this. We have committees that have a lot of experience in doing this. And, frankly, we have committees that have done it in a pretty bipartisan way in the past. So I would hope we would rely on those committees.

With that, Madam Speaker, I again thank my friend for the debate and thank his side for the spirited participation, but I urge rejection of this particular measure, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on the rule.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Mr. COLE—and he is my friend. I appreciate all of his counsel and advice in the Rules Committee, and I appreciate his respect for this institution.

I want to thank the distinguished Speaker of this House for her leadership. This is a moment in history that demands strong leadership, and she has risen to the occasion, and I applaud her and I appreciate that.

I also want to thank all of those who work on the Hill here: the Capitol Police, the Sergeant at Arms, the attending physician, the chief administrative officer, and all of the people who maintain this incredible building. I want to thank them. They protect us and they do an unbelievable job.

Madam Speaker, I want to remind people that more than 855,000 cases of coronavirus have been confirmed. Nearly 48,000 lives have been lost as of today, more than 22 million initial unemployment claims filed in the past month. Families will be changed forever. We are in a crisis, and we should be proud that we have come together repeatedly in a bipartisan way to move legislation forward to respond to that crisis.

Now, over $2 trillion we have approved to try to help our constituents, protect them, and help protect small businesses, but that is just part of our job. Our job is not just to appropriate the money and just hope it goes to wherever it is supposed to go. We need to do the oversight. We need to make sure that every single penny that we have appropriated goes to where it needs to go.

I don't want to be here a year from now looking back and saying: Oh, look at all of the waste and all of the abuse. Look at all of the well-connected people who benefited, but look at all the people who needed the funds who didn't.

We need to get this right. That is what this select committee is about. This should not be controversial.

Again, I am stunned by the resistance to sunshine and transparency. That is what this is about, and I hope and pray that everything goes perfectly. But we cannot take that chance. We have to make sure we live up to our constitutional responsibility.

So I urge my colleagues to vote for this rule so that we can establish this select committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1130

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PERMISSION TO EXTEND DEBATE TIME ON H.R. 266

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that debate under clause 1(c) of rule XV on a motion to suspend the rules relating to the Senate amendment to H.R. 266 be extended to 2 hours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 266) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Sec. 101. Amendments to the Paycheck Protection Program, economic injury disaster loans, and emergency grants.
Sec. 102. Emergency designation.

DIVISION B—ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM, ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS, AND EMERGENCY GRANTS.

(a) INCREASED AUTHORITY FOR COMMITMENTS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM.—Title I of division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) in section 1102(b)(1), by striking ''$349,000,000,000'' and inserting ''$659,000,000,000''; and

(2) in section 1107(a)(1), by striking ''$349,000,000,000'' and inserting ''$670,335,000,000''.

(b) INCREASED AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY EIDL GRANTS.—Section 1110(e)(7) of division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended by striking ''$10,000,000,000'' and inserting ''$20,000,000,000''.

(c) ELIGIBILITY OF AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES FOR ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOANS AND EMERGENCY GRANTS.—Section 1110(a)(2) of division A of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) an agricultural enterprise (as defined in section 18(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 647(b)) with not more than 500 employees.''.

(d) SET ASIDE FOR INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS, CREDIT UNIONS, AND COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 7(a)(36) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(36)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (viii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(x) the term 'community development financial institution' has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702));

''(xi) the term 'community financial institutions' means—

''(I) a community development financial institution;

''(II) a minority depository institution, as defined in section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note);

''(III) a development company that is certified under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.); and

''(IV) an intermediary, as defined in section 7(m)(11); and

''(xii) the term 'credit union' means a State credit union or a Federal credit union, as those terms are defined, respectively, in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(S) SET-ASIDE FOR INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS, CREDIT UNIONS, AND COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

''(i) INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND CREDIT UNIONS.—In making loan guarantees under this paragraph after the date of enactment of this clause, the Administrator shall guarantee not less than $30,000,000,000 in loans made by—

''(I) insured depository institutions with consolidated assets of not less than $10,000,000,000 and less than $50,000,000,000; and

''(II) credit unions with consolidated assets of not less than $10,000,000,000 and less than $50,000,000,000.

''(ii) COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, SMALL INSURED DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS, AND CREDIT UNIONS.—In making loan guarantees under this paragraph after the date of enactment of this clause, the Administrator shall guarantee not less than $30,000,000,000 in loans made by—

''(I) community financial institutions;

''(II) insured depository institutions with consolidated assets of less than $10,000,000,000; and

''(III) credit unions with consolidated assets of less than $10,000,000,000.''.

SEC. 102. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided under this division are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

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

DIVISION B—ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', $75,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for necessary expenses to reimburse, through grants or other mechanisms, eligible health care providers for health care related expenses or lost revenues that are attributable to coronavirus: Provided, That these funds may not be used to reimburse expenses or losses that have been reimbursed from other sources or that other sources are obligated to reimburse: Provided further, That recipients of payments under this paragraph in this Act shall submit reports and maintain documentation as the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Secretary'') determines are needed to ensure compliance with conditions that are imposed by this paragraph in this Act for such payments, and such reports and documentation shall be in such form, with such content, and in such time as the Secretary may prescribe for such purpose: Provided further, That ''eligible health care providers'' means public entities, Medicare or Medicaid enrolled suppliers and providers, and such for-profit entities and not-for-profit entities not otherwise described in this proviso as the Secretary may specify, within the United States (including territories), that provide diagnoses, testing, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID–19: Provided further, That the Secretary shall, on a rolling basis, review applications and make payments under this paragraph in this Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act shall be available for building or construction of temporary structures, leasing of properties, medical supplies and equipment including personal protective equipment and testing supplies, increased workforce and trainings, emergency operation centers, retrofitting facilities, and surge capacity: Provided further, That, in this paragraph, the term ''payment'' means a pre-payment, prospective payment, or retrospective payment, as determined appropriate by the Secretary: Provided further, That payments under this paragraph in this Act shall be made in consideration of the most efficient payment systems practicable to provide emergency payment: Provided further, That to be eligible for a payment under this paragraph in this Act, an eligible health care provider shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes a statement justifying the need of the provider for the payment and the eligible health care provider shall have a valid tax identification number: Provided further, That, not later than 3 years after final payments are made under this paragraph in this Act, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall transmit a final report on audit findings with respect to this program to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: Provided further, That nothing in this paragraph limits the authority of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General to conduct audits of interim payments at an earlier date: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on obligation of funds, including obligations to such eligible health care providers summarized by State of the payment receipt: Provided further, That such reports shall be updated and submitted to such Committees every 60 days until funds are expended: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

For an additional amount for ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', $25,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for necessary expenses to research, develop, validate, manufacture, purchase, administer, and expand capacity for COVID–19 tests to effectively monitor and suppress COVID–19, including tests for both active infection and prior exposure, including molecular, antigen, and serological tests, the manufacturing, procurement and distribution of tests, testing equipment and testing supplies, including personal protective equipment needed for administering tests, the development and validation of rapid, molecular point-of-care tests, and other tests, support for workforce, epidemiology, to scale up academic, commercial, public health, and hospital laboratories, to conduct surveillance and contact tracing, support development of COVID–19 testing plans, and other related activities related to COVID–19 testing: Provided, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, not less than $11,000,000,000 shall be for States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes for necessary expenses to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID–19 tests, including support for workforce, epidemiology, use by employers or in other settings, scale up of testing by public health, academic, commercial, and hospital laboratories, and community-based testing sites, health care facilities, and other entities engaged in COVID–19 testing, conduct surveillance, trace contacts, and other related activities related to COVID–19 testing: Provided further, That of the amount identified in the preceding proviso, not less than $2,000,000,000 shall be allocated to States, localities, and territories according to the formula that applied to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement in fiscal year 2019, not less than $4,250,000,000 shall be allocated to States, localities, and territories according to a formula methodology that is based on relative number of cases of COVID–19, and not less than $750,000,000 shall be allocated in coordination with the Director of the Indian Health Service, to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes: Provided further, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in

this paragraph as the ''Secretary'') may satisfy the funding thresholds outlined in the first and second provisos under this paragraph in this Act by making awards through other grant or cooperative agreement mechanisms: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Governor or designee of each State, locality, territory, tribe, or tribal organization receiving funds pursuant to this Act shall submit to the Secretary its plan for COVID–19 testing, including goals for the remainder of calendar year 2020, to include: (1) the number of tests needed, month-by-month, to include diagnostic, serological, and other tests, as appropriate; (2) month-by-month estimates of laboratory and testing capacity, including related to workforce, equipment and supplies, and available tests; and (3) a description of how the State, locality, territory, tribe, or tribal organization will use its resources for testing, including as it relates to easing any COVID–19 community mitigation policies: Provided further, That the Secretary shall submit such formula methodology identified in the first proviso under this paragraph in this Act to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate one day prior to awarding such funds: Provided further, That such funds identified in the first and second provisos under this paragraph in this Act shall be allocated within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, not less than $1,000,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support'' for surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity expansion, contact tracing, public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization, disseminating information about testing, and workforce support necessary to expand and improve COVID–19 testing: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, not less than $306,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''National Institutes of Health—National Cancer Institute'' to develop, validate, improve, and implement serological testing and associated technologies for the purposes specified under this paragraph in this Act: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, not less than $500,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''National Institutes of Health—National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering'' to accelerate research, development, and implementation of point of care and other rapid testing related to coronavirus: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, not less than $1,000,000,000 shall be transferred to the ''National Institutes of Health—Office of the Director'' to develop, validate, improve, and implement testing and associated technologies; to accelerate research, development, and implementation of point of care and other rapid testing; and for partnerships with governmental and non-governmental entities to research, develop, and implement the activities outlined in this proviso: Provided further, That funds in the preceding proviso may be transferred to the accounts of the Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this paragraph as the ''NIH'') for the purposes specified in the preceding proviso: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in the preceding proviso is in addition to all other transfer authority available to the NIH: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, not less than $1,000,000,000 shall be available to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority for necessary expenses of advanced research, development, manufacturing, production, and purchase of diagnostic, serologic, or other COVID–19 tests or related supplies, and other activities related to COVID–19 testing at the discretion of the Secretary: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, $22,000,000, shall be transferred to the ''Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses'' to support activities associated with diagnostic, serological, antigen, and other tests, and related administrative activities: Provided further, That the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used for grants for the rent, lease, purchase, acquisition, construction, alteration, renovation, or equipping of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at the State and local level for diagnostic, serologic, or other COVID–19 tests, or related supplies: Provided further, That the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used for construction, alteration, renovation, or equipping of non-federally owned facilities for the production of diagnostic, serologic, or other COVID–19 tests, or related supplies, where the Secretary determines that such a contract is necessary to secure, or for the production of, sufficient amounts of such tests or related supplies: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may be used for purchase of medical supplies and equipment, including personal protective equipment and testing supplies to be used for administering tests, increased workforce and trainings, emergency operation centers, and surge capacity for diagnostic, serologic, or other COVID–19 tests, or related supplies: Provided further, That products purchased with funds appropriated under this paragraph in this Act may, at the discretion of the Secretary, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the Public Health Service Act: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, $600,000,000 shall be transferred to ''Health Resources and Services Administration—Primary Health Care'' for grants under the Health Centers program, as defined by section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, and for grants to federally qualified health centers, as defined in section 1861(aa)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act: Provided further, That sections 330(e)(6)(A)(iii), 330(e)(6)(B)(iii), and 330(r)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service Act shall not apply to funds provided under the previous proviso: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this paragraph in this Act, $225,000,000 shall be used to provide additional funding for COVID–19 testing and related expenses, through grants or other mechanisms, to rural health clinics as defined in section 1861(aa)(2) of the Social Security Act, with such funds also available to such entities for building or construction of temporary structures, leasing of properties, and retrofitting facilities as necessary to support COVID–19 testing: Provided further, That such funds shall be distributed using the procedures developed for the Provider Relief Fund authorized under the third paragraph under this heading in division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136); may be distributed using contracts or agreements established for such program; and shall be subject to the process requirements applicable to such program: Provided further, That the Secretary may specify a minimum amount for each eligible entity accepting assistance under the two previous provisos: Provided further, That up to $1,000,000,000 of funds provided under this paragraph in this Act may be used to cover the cost of testing for the uninsured, using the definitions applicable to funds provided under this heading in Public Law 116–127: Provided further, That not later than 21 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with other appropriate departments and agencies, shall issue a report on COVID–19 testing: Provided further, That such report shall include data on demographic characteristics, including, in a de-identified and disaggregated manner, race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region and other relevant factors of individuals tested for or diagnosed with COVID–19, to the extent such information is available: Provided further, That such report shall include information on the number and rates of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths as a result of COVID–19: Provided further, That such report shall be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and updated and resubmitted to such Committees, as necessary, every 30 days until the end of the COVID–19 public health emergency first declared by the Secretary on January 31, 2020: Provided further, That not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a report on the number of positive diagnoses, hospitalizations, and deaths as a result of COVID–19, disaggregated nationally by race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, and other relevant factors: Provided further, That such report shall include epidemiological analysis of such data: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with other departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate on a COVID–19 strategic testing plan: Provided further, That such plan shall assist States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations, in understanding COVID–19 testing for both active infection and prior exposure, including hospital-based testing, high-complexity laboratory testing, point-of-care testing, mobile-testing units, testing for employers and other settings, and other tests as necessary: Provided further, That such plan shall include estimates of testing production that account for new and emerging technologies, as well as guidelines for testing: Provided further, That such plan shall address how the Secretary will increase domestic testing capacity, including testing supplies; and address disparities in all communities: Provided further, That such plan shall outline Federal resources that are available to support the testing plans of each State, locality, territory, tribe, tribal organization, and urban Indian health organization: Provided further, That such plan shall be updated every 90 days until funds are expended: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. The requirements, authorities, and conditions described in sections 18108, 18109, and 18112 of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136) shall apply to funds appropriated in this Act to the Department of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Department of Health and Human Services'', except for the amounts specified in the first paragraph and the first and second provisos in the second paragraph under the heading ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings ''Centers for Disease Control and Prevention'', ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', ''Food and Drug Administration'', and ''National Institutes of Health'' to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: Provided, That the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer:

Provided further, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation by this Act are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by this Act may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 205 of division A of Public Law 116–94 or section 241(a) of the Public Health Service Act.

SEC. 103. Of the funds appropriated by this Act under the heading ''Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund'', up to $6,000,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the heading ''Office of the Secretary, Office of Inspector General'', and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally: Provided, That the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate prior to obligating such funds: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided by this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

TITLE II

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for ''Salaries and Expenses'', $2,100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DISASTER LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for ''Disaster Loans Program Account'' for the cost of direct loans authorized by section 7(b) of the Small Business Act, $50,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCY EIDL GRANTS

For an additional amount for ''Emergency EIDL Grants'' for the cost of emergency EIDL grants authorized by section 1110 of division A of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136), $10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

TITLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 301. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 302. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 303. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2020.

SEC. 304. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this Act, or transferred pursuant to authorization granted in this Act, may only be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

SEC. 305. In this Act, the term ''coronavirus'' means SARS–CoV–2 or another coronavirus with pandemic potential.

SEC. 306. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded or transferred, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 307. Any amount appropriated by this Act, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 308. (a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(7) and (c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall be estimated for purposes of section 251 of such Act.

This division may be cited as the ''Additional Emergency Appropriations for Coronavirus Response''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) each will control 60 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we are here today in these very trying and unprecedented times to act on an emergency interim funding package that I am pleased has strong bipartisan support. But we did not arrive here without significant efforts by our Democratic colleagues.

When we began negotiations with the Senate, we were presented with an insufficient proposal that did not address the public health crisis that has now claimed the lives of nearly 48,000 Americans. The measures that we fought for will now bring real relief to the American people and prioritizes resources to combat this virus. This means more funding for hospitals and healthcare workers. It also means resources designated for testing.

I am encouraged that the administration has committed to a national testing strategy which will be necessary to reopen our economy. We are all painfully aware that the American people are worried about their health, their jobs, the economy, and what life will look like after the emergency subsides. It is our responsibility to give our communities the confidence that we will get through this crisis, and that, eventually, we will return to normal lives.

To do this, we must protect our small businesses on Main Street, and that is why we fought to increase funding for the Paycheck Protection Program and target the funds to community-based lenders, small banks, and credit unions. The legislation before us today is a marked improvement from where the Senate majority started, but I want to be clear: This does not come close to addressing the staggering needs of the American family. That is why my fellow chairs and I have already begun working on COVID four.

Our next legislative package must be grounded in the understanding that restarting our economy can only happen when Americans are healthy and have the confidence to return to work. For our part, the Committee on Ways and Means will prioritize funding for hospitals and assistance for those on the front lines—and I know Mr. BRADY agrees with us on that—as we proceed.

In addition, our State and local governments are feeling the pain of slashed revenue from this pandemic. Without our support, essential workers who have been risking their lives are at risk of losing their jobs.

Finally, we must look at what the most vulnerable in our country are facing by putting money into their pockets with another round of stimulus payments so they can pay for essentials. Similarly, we need to extend Federal unemployment compensation into the fall and help take the pressure off of overwhelmed State governments at the moment.

Since this crisis began, Members and staff have made Herculean efforts to address the challenges we are now facing. We still have much work to do to ensure that we put the needs of our neighbors first, and we need to acknowledge—and I know Mr. BRADY feels as I do—the work of the Committee on Ways and Means' staffers in bringing us to this moment. Together, we will rise to this challenge.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the coronavirus launched an unprecedented attack on Americans' health in the best economy our Nation has experienced in decades. America responded with an unprecedented effort to contain the virus, led

by President Trump and the healthcare community. Congress responded by working with the President to deliver not one, not two, but three bipartisan measures to combat the health and economic damage of COVID–19.

The battle continues amidst signs that in some regions we are flattening the curve and beginning to reopen the economy safely as health conditions on the ground permit. This fourth bill replenishes the crucial help for Main Street businesses and local healthcare providers, while devoting more resources to producing more tests and distributing them more quickly.

It adds $320 billion in crucial funding to the Paycheck Protection Program to help keep our local businesses afloat. It boosts funding for local healthcare providers by another $75 billion. It expands our States' testing capacities and ensures more resources for our Nation-wide effort to continue locking down this virus. It is targeted. It will have an immediate impact, and it deserves strong bipartisan support.

Once President Trump signed the CARES Act into law merely 4 weeks ago, then moved with historic speed to provide forgivable loans to small businesses, it soon became clear more dollars are needed to keep workers on local payrolls.

So far, the Paycheck Protection Program is helping nearly 1.6 million local businesses, impacting and helping save 30 million jobs for local construction, retail, manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, and service businesses. Despite media portrayals, the average loan is around $200,000—that is Main Street—and more often than not, it is provided by a community bank. These dollars are reaching small businesses. And when funding ran out, Republicans and President Trump urged Congress to quickly replenish them.

□ 1145

It is unfortunate that Speaker PELOSI decided to hold up this bill nearly 16 days while small businesses and their workers desperately fought to hold on, especially minority-owned businesses in underserved communities. They suffered, and during this unnecessary delay, America's jobless numbers climbed to 26 million.

How many jobs could we have saved if partisan politics had not reared its ugly head?

This emergency funding is just that; it is funding. It doesn't adjust the design of the Paycheck Protection Program nor does it address the flawed unemployment design that pays some Americans more than they make at work. It takes what is working for businesses and healthcare providers and replenishes it, which is why it has earned the support of a number of organizations like the American Hospital Association and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Today's bill makes it possible for families to stay connected to their work. Local businesses can keep their lights on. And once we get to the other end of this, we will return to a safe, healthy America for our seniors, our children, and our grandchildren.

I will conclude with this: The President is right. We can continue to apply maximum pressure on the coronavirus while reopening our economy safely and responsibly. Not only can we, we must, if we hope to prevent hurting working families and the jobless with an unnecessarily extended economic recession marked by shortages of needed day-to-day supplies and serious healthcare problems created by long-term unemployment.

This isn't a choice between lives and livelihoods. We must do both. With the President, State and local leaders, healthcare providers, and local businesses all working together, I am convinced we can.

How? The way we tackle every adversity our Nation has faced: with American ingenuity, know-how, and common sense.

Today, we help our small businesses and healthcare heroes. Tomorrow, Congress and President Trump will continue to work together to identify practical ways to help businesses create safe, healthy workplaces, jumpstart this economic rebound, and accelerate a return to work for those who are jobless or furloughed. I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), whose career has been marked by a steadfast determination to expand healthcare coverage for all members of the American family and continues to be a champion for the least, the last, and the lost, who are feeling part of the grip of this pandemic.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for managing this important legislation on the floor of the House. I also commend him for the work that he did in the previous legislation that we have had.

As has been acknowledged, this is the fourth bipartisan bill that we have brought to the floor to address the coronavirus pandemic, and this is a very important piece of legislation.

So we come to the floor with such heartache, with such sorrow for those who have lost their lives and for their loved ones, for those who are suffering from the virus assault now, and for those who are in doubt about their economic situation. It is about the lives and the livelihood of the American people; that is what this is about.

Nearly 900,000 Americans have been diagnosed and are sick. Nearly 50,000 have tragically died. Oh, my goodness. We have to be prayerful, prayerful about this assault again on the lives and livelihoods of the American people.

Countless hospitals and healthcare systems remain swamped with cases, and far too many frontline workers still do not have the personal protective equipment that they need.

And just this morning, we learned that more than 4 million workers filed for unemployment last week, with more than 26 million having lost their jobs during this pandemic so far.

So, as we work to protect the American people, we have to make decisions. We recognize that the key to opening up our economy, the key to opening that door, the threshold we must cross, is a scientific one: testing, testing, testing, testing; contact tracing; isolation; of course, treatment; and, best of all, prevention. But the key is scientific, and we must make our decision in that way.

So here we are, and I say this in terms of the overarching. The American people have told us, when we did our earlier bill, they do not want any taxpayer dollars going to enriching shareholders, dividends, bonuses, CEO pay, all of that. They want their taxpayer dollars to keep people in their jobs.

The oversight of that is exactly what we passed, we will pass—we passed by voice vote earlier, we will vote on later. That is very important. It is very important to the American people to have confidence, as they make their sacrifices, that their taxpayer dollars that they pay are not being squandered.

Our colleagues have said: Why do we need oversight? We have all these committees that do oversight—and I hope they will—but they have other work to do as well.

And as the Republicans have put forth select committees themselves—Benghazi; trying to destroy Planned Parenthood, which did not have any urgency for the American people—this has an urgency to the American people.

We need a select committee whose focus, whose purpose is to address the challenge that the coronavirus places on us. That is one.

Two, the American people want their checks. They want their checks, and that is what we are doing with the PPP and the direct payments and other initiatives that are there, and we need to do more.

And third, and we haven't done enough in this regard, they want our heroes, our healthcare providers, our police and fire, our first responders, our emergency services folks, our transit people, everyone, our food service folks, they want everyone to have the equipment that they need to do their jobs.

Our healthcare workers are on the front line, as are the others. Emergency services, police, and fire, some of them are the first people to respond to a 911 call. They are in the line of defense, and they do not have the PPE, the personal protective equipment, that they need, and we owe them.

We are not worthy of thanking them, thanking them, praising them, unless we support them, and that is not being done sufficiently. That is what we have

to do in the next bill—I call it the Heroes Act—when we will come together to support our heroes.

Unfortunately, there was not enough interest in this bill right here on the part of others to join us in supporting our heroes, our healthcare workers, our police and fire, emergency services, in the form of supporting State and local government.

When you hear State and local, it might sound bureaucratic, but it isn't. Those are the people who meet the needs of the American people and are on the front line of fighting this virus.

So, when we finish this—and I am pleased to hear the distinguished chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. NEAL, talk about the fact that we are already preparing for that. We have been for a while, because we just didn't really know that this interim bill would come up. But when it did, again, we had to meet the needs of the American people.

I am so proud that all of the bills we are passing, as has been acknowledged, have been done in a bipartisan way, and the next bill will be as well.

But let me just correct the RECORD, because the distinguished gentleman from Texas said we held up this bill, and I want to correct that RECORD because nothing could be further from the truth, and perhaps he isn't aware, but let me inform.

Two weeks ago, the distinguished Secretary of the Treasury called me and said: I need a quarter of a trillion in 48 hours.

Oh, really? Well, I don't know about that. Let's see what we can do. Let's see. Why do you need that?

That was April 7. The next day, on April 8, Democrats came together, House and Senate Democrats, and made a proposal that went beyond the $250 billion for the PPP, a program that we helped shape and that we fully support, supporting our small businesses, the entrepreneurship of America, the optimism of America, the creators of jobs and wealth and community in our country. So we are there with that.

But we saw some evidence that everything wasn't being done as we had hoped, and so we proposed, 1 day later, that we would have additional funding for small businesses, a $60 billion setaside for the smallest of small businesses: women, minority-owned businesses, rural America, veterans, Native American communities, and the rest, who were not, shall we say, as bankable as some others, the underbanked, $60 billion.

Another $60 billion, we said, for all of our small businesses: $50 billion of it for the EIDL, the disaster assistance loans, put $50 billion there. That $50 billion is leveraged to over $300 billion in lending, easier lending for some than PPP because it is just a loan; it is not about the bank deciding. And then the other $10 billion—we wanted 15, we got 10 for the grants.

So there we got 60 and 60, 120, and then another $100 billion for the hospitals. That was on April 8, $100 billion for the hospitals, divided: hospitals, 75; testing, $25 billion.

The Senate Republicans went to the floor the next day, on April 9, which was the 24 hours from the request of the quarter of a trillion dollars. MITCH MCCONNELL went to the floor and said: This is it, 250, not one penny more. This is what it is.

The Senate Democrats objected, offered an amendment that includes what we are voting on today. MITCH MCCONNELL said: Absolutely not. That was it.

So for 1 week, he kept saying: I am going to bring it up again on Monday. I am going to bring it up on Thursday. For 1 week there was that delay.

Finally, that was Thursday of last week, there was interest in negotiation. And what we have on the floor today is the result of not time that we delayed the legislation, but the time that the Republicans refused to accept the fact that we needed $100 billion for our hospitals and our testing, that we needed more money for those who do not have sophisticated banking relationships, where we can have community development financial institutions reach into communities where they know the businesses, the neighborhood, the community, the people, the customers, the clients.

So we should be very, very proud of the work that was done by Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ of the Small Business Committee and Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS, chair of the Financial Services Committee, banks, small business coming with an idea that was rejected out of hand by the leader of the Senate: Don't even bring that around. It is only this; that is it, or else you don't support small business.

So when I hear, during the previous debate on the other bill and then this distinguished ranking member on the Ways and Means Committee, whom I respect, and he knows that, say we delayed this, no, you delayed this because—now, this isn't about assignment. This is about taking responsibility.

Without the discussion over this past weekend which resulted in the Senate passing the bill unanimously, MITCH MCCONNELL, who wasn't going to do one more penny, unanimously passing the bill, and then saying it has all this additional help that we initiated, that he initiated. He resisted it, but he initiated it.

So I think it is really important for people to understand what this fight is about. It is not about trickle-down. We were successful in turning the CARES Act from a corporate-oriented, trickle-down bill to a workers-first, bubble-up bill, and we were proud of that and that it passed and was signed by the President.

Once again, they just had the 250. We fully support that. We helped create that. But that isn't the end of the day for what else we needed to do.

And while I understand that they are resistant to helping those at the lower end of the scale, I can't understand why they resisted $100 billion for the hospitals and the testing, because that was central to meeting the needs, the health needs of the American people. I want more, of course. I want more than that.

So now we go to the next bill. I call it the Heroes Act. We fully support that. We helped create that. But that isn't the end of the day for what else we needed to do.

And while I understand that they are resistant to helping those at the lower end of the scale, I can't understand why they resisted $100 billion for the hospitals and the testing, because that was central

□ 1200

Unfortunately, they do not want to put the heroes into this bill today as fully as they should by supporting State and local.

And what does the distinguished leader on the Senate side, Mr. MCCONNELL, say? I am not doing any more bills. I think the States should go bankrupt.

Oh, really? And not pay the healthcare workers and public hospitals, the first responders and the rest? Oh, really? What made you think that was a good idea? It is just more notion mongering to get attention, I guess.

And so I came to this floor fully happy in terms of our bipartisanship, totally sad about what it is in terms of the lives of America's families and the uncertainty they face and the illness that some are suffering and the loss of life that many others, tens of thousands, have suffered.

But to hear them say we held up this bill, when they are doing today, with great pride, exactly what the Senate Democrats asked them to do on April 9. So I just wanted to set the record straight on that.

Again, I want to thank MAXINE WATERS and NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ and I want to thank FRANK PALLONE for the great work that he did and the staff of all of those committees.

We are voting on the floor today with a strong agreement that sets a path that we had in the CARES Act, the issues that were addressed in the CARES Act. Of course, we had State and local in the CARES Act; they wouldn't go there here.

So what we are doing is we are helping small businesses. We are strengthening the Paycheck Protection Program. It is $310 billion, including that critical $60 billion reserved for underserved rural, urban, and Tribal communities.

By supporting small businesses that cannot access the PPP, we secured $50 billion for emergency assistance lending. That will be leveraged into over $300 billion in disaster assistance loans and $10 billion more for grants to small businesses.

For hospitals, providers, and health workers: We secured $75 billion for health providers, which are losing revenue every day, and for physicians and health workers who are risking their lives because they don't have PPE.

In one of the New York hospitals, I heard a nurse say on TV that when she went to meet the needs of the patients, she was given not the regular gown and mask and gloves and the rest. She was

given a New York Yankees rain poncho. Others were wearing garbage bags. Some of them said they were wearing medical waste on their faces because they could not change the mask, and they would go to maybe four patients instead of the one and discard.

So again, we thank them, we honor them, we revere them. But we have no right to do that unless we support them with what they need. They are risking their lives to save other lives, and now they may lose their jobs unless we do our Heroes Act, which I look forward to doing.

For testing: We secured $25 billion for testing, which is key, central, to reopening our economy and resuming our lives.

The administration has also agreed—and this is very positive—to a national testing strategy that will increase domestic testing capacity and address disparities, including across race, ethnicity, and geographic regions.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned, the administration was not ready to include funding for our heroes, our healthcare, fire, EMS, and other essential workers, for the postal system, which is essential to us now in getting information and materials where they need to be. And that is why CARES 2 must be about our Heroes Act, focusing on support for healthcare and essential workers. And I can't say it enough.

And then with that overarching concern for them, OSHA, so they have safety in the workplace, family and medical leave, so that they can meet the needs of their families, COBRA for those who have lost their jobs. And we need full funding for COBRA, and I hope the administration will be receptive to that. Pension, additional UI, and more indirect payments and more.

So let us be clear, the health and safety of our country will be endangered if we cannot pay the heroes who sacrifice to keep us safe. They are being fired as we speak. Mr. SCHUMER was referencing hospitals in his State where people were let go from public hospitals. But that is not unusual. Our teachers, the custodians of our children, are being let go. We have to face that, and we have to do it very soon and next.

And it is unacceptable that Leader MCCONNELL thinks that no further legislation is needed. That is what he said: No further legislation is needed. And he thinks our heroic workers can wait and our States who hire them should go bankrupt.

As CARES 2 protects the lives and livelihoods of the American people, it must also protect the life of the American democracy: safeguarding the integrity of our elections and supporting voting by mail.

So, again, it is the lives of the people, the livelihood of the people, the life of our democracy.

Again, our prayers are with those who are suffering. His Holiness, Pope Francis—and I quote him all the time—he said weeks ago, his world prayer, that God would enlighten those who have responsibility to take responsibility for those in their care.

Let us hope that we can all be prayerful, take responsibility, do the job for the American people. We have an extraordinary opportunity to do that.

But we must do so in a way that keeps them safe, as we want to open our economy and do so—again, science, science, science, and science. Let us show the same courage and strength and move with great urgency to provide the support that they need, that they provide to others.

And, again, we have our differences, there is no question. I heard the gentleman speak out against the $600 for people who are unemployed. I think that we have to do whatever we can to recognize that public policy has a role here, that governance carries with it responsibility and opportunity and results and progress for the American people and that science and governance are the answers to meeting the healthcare needs and meeting the needs of our economy as we go forward.

So I thank our colleagues for their leadership, MAXINE WATERS, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, FRANK PALLONE, our distinguished chair of the Ways and Means Committee, for his work, and so many people.

Again, right now, as we speak, the Agriculture Committee is meeting. And as some of our colleagues have said, we can't do SNAP? They turned down SNAP, food stamps, at a time when America is hungry?

We have our differences, but we are coming together on this particular bill, and I am proud of that. It is bipartisan, it is urgent, and let us get on with it so that we can get on to supporting our heroes in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I respectfully remember a different history where only one fund was out of money, those for our small businesses. The President asked for us to move quickly, and it was blocked in the Senate by those who said there is no proof small businesses need this money. And I remember the Speaker herself saying there is no data that shows small businesses need money. Those critical funds were blocked and held up for 16 days. This agreement we have today could have been agreed to in 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the leading Republican on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, this has not been an easy time for America's small businesses. As the ranking member of the House Small Business Committee, I hear daily from owners of restaurants and hair salons and small retailers and manufacturers and grocers and others, about the gut-wrenching choices that they have been forced to make recently.

Fortunately, the Paycheck Protection Program, created under the CARES Act, has already helped small businesses save millions of jobs and cover essential expenses.

One company, for example, New York Bagel, survived the Great Depression and World War II during its 99 years of operation. This Ferndale, Michigan, business was forced to close due to the coronavirus. But thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program, their employees are still getting paid.

After losing 70 percent of their business, Woodyard Bar-B-Que in Kansas City was only a week or two away from laying off workers or even closing permanently. Their paycheck protection loan will allow them to stay in business.

These examples are only a fraction of those who have been helped. Understandably, this program has been very popular. In fact, demand was so high that funding was exhausted within 2 weeks of the program being started up. Over a million-and-a-half loans have been processed, with nearly 60,000 in my home State of Ohio alone.

Madam Speaker, small businesses are resilient. Start-ups are pioneering new techniques for sanitizing masks and surfaces. Neighborhood grocers are bravely staying open to provide necessary supplies, yes, including toilet paper, for their communities.

Small manufacturers are retooling to make personal protective equipment for frontline workers. These small businesses and entrepreneurs make the America we all know and love.

Congress should have passed this legislation last week, but to those small businesses who already applied and are waiting to hear, or those who are yet to apply for this relief, finally, help is on the way.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of this bill to provide additional resources for small, local, and minority-owned businesses and nonprofits under the Paycheck Protection Program, as well as to provide resources for our hospitals and for testing.

Madam Speaker, the Paycheck Protection Program has not been without its controversy. I have heard too many stories of frustrated business owners who have not been able to access the program due to a lack of existing relationships with a lender or difficulty navigating the complex application process. And these are issues that are disproportionately harming local, rural, and minority-owned businesses that make up the heart of my district.

Madam Speaker, I am glad that we are taking steps today to address the inequities and indirectly and directly allow funding for lenders that service the truly local barber shops, beauty shops, restaurants on Main Street across this country. These are the businesses that are the lifeline of so many

of our local economies, and it is important that we make sure that this lending gets to these vitally important businesses.

I hope that this bill will offer some relief to these businesses, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I also ask our leaders and the lenders to know that we are watching them. We want the truly small, local businesses to get their fair share.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), the lead Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Texas for his leadership on this issue.

I, too, rise in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and the Health Care Enhancement Act. This provides a fourth installment of funds to continue to address the impact of the COVID–19 virus on the American people.

We have heard all the stories about how people have lost their lives, lost their loved ones, lost their business, lost their jobs. This bill will replenish the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses, and it will provide additional funding for healthcare providers and expanded testing.

And I am glad we are finally here. For too long, Democrat leaders in the House and Senate played partisan politics. They needlessly delayed the initial passage of the CARES Act, and then they prevented a quick replenishment of the funds for the PPP. That left our small businesses and the people they employ in the lurch.

With record unemployment claims, we have seen that every single day, every day, counts in this pandemic. That is why Republicans and President Trump were so adamant over the last two weeks about the need to not let these programs run out of money. We all knew that was going to happen. We could have done this unanimously.

Painfully, Democrats took an ice-cream break while small businesses were left empty-handed, a pointless weeklong shuttering of the Paycheck Protection Program that hurt Americans and undoubtedly cost thousands of jobs.

As a member of the President's bipartisan task force on reopening the economy, I remain committed to ensuring that there are resources and strategies in place for widespread testing that our health and economic experts have said is needed to reopen the country.

And while I support additional funding for healthcare-related expenses, it should never have been at the expense of bankrupting more small employers and throwing more people into the unemployment lines.

The American people's plight should not be used as leverage for partisan priorities, especially in the midst of a crisis. We must move forward in a united way that puts the needs of the American people first.

Now, let's pass this measure, get it to the President's desk, so we can begin to safely reopen this country.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, let me describe hospitals as a priority.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

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Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

COVID–19 is a crisis with few parallels in world history. Yet I have been amazed by the resilience of my fellow Rhode Islanders: the tenacity of our small businesses and the dedication and bravery of our frontline healthcare workers.

This bill is for them. It refills the coffers of the Paycheck Protection Program, which is a vital lifeline for so many small businesses. Thanks to House Democrats' efforts, it backstops our hospitals, community health centers, and nursing homes and funds the nationwide testing strategy.

This cannot be the end of the work of Congress to help Americans weather the storm, but it is another vital step as we confront this crisis.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the top Republican on the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and the Health Care Enhancement Act, which provides nearly $500 billion for economic recovery and public health efforts in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

The cornerstone of this legislation is the support for small businesses through the PPP, the Paycheck Protection Program. These PPP loans, which can be completely forgiven, are essential for small businesses to continue paying their employees and cover operating costs.

To illustrate how crucial this loan has been to the 30 million small businesses in this country, the SBA supported more loans in the first 14 days of the PPP than it did in the last 14 years. In total, more than $340 billion has been provided to more than 1.6 million American small businesses.

An additional $60 billion is provided in this bill for another key source of assistance for small business: economic injury disaster loans and grants. Borrowers can get loans at low interest rates and then repay them over a long period of time, up to 30 years.

This legislation also provides $100 billion for critical healthcare initiatives. These funds will support our heroes on the front lines and allow us to deploy more tests so we know where the virus is having the most impact. With this information, we can begin safely reopening our communities and restarting our economy.

While it took much too long to get this bill to the floor today, I want to thank my colleagues for coming together to deliver results for the American people whose health and livelihoods depend on it.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting on this measure to continue supporting our Nation's small businesses, their hardworking employees, and our critical healthcare workers.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the well-regarded Congressman who also has the title of Assistant Speaker.

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

In the face of this crisis, I have seen so many New Mexicans step up. They have gathered fabric scraps, distributed masks, checked in with their neighbors, and showed their resilience over and over. But so many people, small businesses, and communities continue to struggle.

Today, we approve $360 billion for small businesses, $75 billion for our hospitals and frontline workers who are doing heroic work to save lives, and $25 billion so that more people can be tested for this deadly virus.

But our work is not done. Everyone knows this is not enough, and due to Republican opposition, this package fails to provide necessary relief to our local, State, and Tribal governments. MITCH MCCONNELL said local governments should file for bankruptcy to make themselves whole.

I had the honor this last week to participate in a townhall with the Navajo Nation, and I heard firsthand their struggles. They need resources, water, and testing. We need to do more for them, and we need to do more for the people of New Mexico and everyone living in the United States of America.

Small businesses must be prioritized by approving these loans and grants. The American people are counting on us. Let's act.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL), the Republican leader of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. BRADY) for yielding and for his great leadership on this bill.

Today, America is in a crisis. Not since the Spanish flu of 1918 has the world faced a global pandemic of such epic proportions. This virus, which came out of Wuhan, China, has created fear and devastation across the globe.

COVID–19 has infected more than 2.6 million people around the world and killed nearly 200,000. It has paralyzed our economy, forcing more than 26 million Americans into unemployment in just a few short weeks. And that is why we took the risk, Madam Speaker, to fly back here today so we can do our job and vote for this important legislation.

This rescue package throws a lifeline to small businesses and the American worker to keep them whole during this hard time. It provides much-needed funding for testing and for our hospitals that need it desperately.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to thank the brave American heroes who are on the front line today: our doctors, nurses, and first responders who are risking their lives every day. We honor their sacrifice to our Nation.

At the end of the day, as Americans, we are all in this together, and together we will get through this hard time and be stronger than ever before.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the very capable Democratic whip.

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Madam Speaker I rise today in support of this emergency spending package. I believe this legislation moves us a step closer to my vision of making America's greatness accessible and affordable for all.

The COVID–19 pandemic has laid bare the inequities in our healthcare system that are having dramatic negative impacts on health outcomes in minority communities.

Martin Luther King, Jr., observed back in 1966: ''Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhuman because it often results in physical death.'' How prescient.

To know the full extent of how this virus is ravaging communities of color, we must test, test, test. That is why I am pleased there is $25 billion in this package for testing, which allows for my advocacy of mobile testing.

We must make testing accessible and affordable for rural and persistent-poverty communities facing obstacles due to a lack of transportation.

This pandemic has also laid bare the inequities in our financial system. The first round of funding through the Paycheck Protection Program went to businesses with long-term banking relationships. Many small family and minority-owned businesses and nonprofit organizations were shut out. That is why Democrats insisted that $60 billion be reserved in this package for community-based lenders, such as community development, financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and credit unions.

This legislation is not perfect, but it is a step towards making some much-needed relief accessible and affordable.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

April 1, Secretary Mnuchin warned us that the PPP has high demand and will likely need more funding.

April 4, President Trump tweeted out a statement supporting more funding a day after the program opened up.

April 7, Secretary Mnuchin requests more funding for the program, warning that we will run out.

April 9, Senate Democrats block replenishing this funding, winning praise from fellow Democrats.

Members, colleagues, we had ample warning of the funding running out on numerous occasions during this month of April that we have been away. How many small restaurants, hairdressers, bookstores, et cetera, in your districts have suffered and closed because the majority is too busy looking at the election in November to see today's crisis in April?

Yet, so after all this time and the travel it took us all to get here wearing masks, what is the first thing we bring up? A duplicative, partisan select subcommittee to make a political spectacle of the virus.

I sit as a member on the Transportation Committee. We can oversee the oversight of FEMA just fine.

Our Commerce Committee can have oversight of HHS. We don't need extra, duplicative committees.

We are 22 days behind. We need to get back to work and put the people back to work and get this done.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), a well-regarded Congressman.

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today to speak in favor of this emergency coronavirus supplemental package.

I am glad that we are delivering for the people of Nevada, including bringing home billions of dollars of additional funding for Nevada's 270,000 small businesses and nonprofits. We also are positioning our country for recovery in voting for $25 billion for COVID–19 testing.

This bipartisan agreement is one of the many steps that we must take to provide the American people with the relief they need. However, for Senate majority Leader MCCONNELL to suggest that our States and local governments should be bankrupt in order to be made whole is outrageous. These are our heroes. They are on the front lines.

I urge this body to pass this legislation and to work with us now to pass the Heroes Act.

Mr. BRADY. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL).

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 266, which provides badly needed financial support for small businesses and hospitals. Our Nation continues to struggle with the health and economic impacts of COVID–19.

But I must also comment on the function of Congress. We passed the CARES Act almost 30 days ago. Since then, the lights have been off here. Today, we vote for one crucial item and depart again.

I will vote ''aye'' on the relief package, but I stress Congress must get back to work here in the Capitol. We all must resume our full duties and obligations to the Constitution and, most importantly, to the American people. We took an oath to preserve and protect both.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished Congresswoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise with the good, the bad, and the ugly for small businesses.

The good: Democrats fought hard and won in providing more than $310 billion for small businesses.

The bad: It may not be enough.

The ugly: Thousands and thousands of small businesses and minority businesses may be left out again.

The past weeks of economic history and trends offer reasonable predictions of what we should do in this financial assistance funding bill.

The longstanding economic inequalities already undermine any ability to close the wealth gap, and COVID–19 will undeniably exacerbate this paradigm.

I am asking that we match the language that the Democrats fought so hard for. It is not enough just to allocate funding to institutions; we must hold the Secretary of the Treasury accountable that minority and small businesses will not be left out.

Just like in the film ''The Good, the Bad and the Ugly,'' we must be the one to shoot the COVID–19 noose to save small businesses. I know that we will do more in the weeks to come because this a great victory for Democrats, but still not enough.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), a member of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, all of us want our small businesses to survive this economic crisis. All of us want to save American livelihoods. All of us want to get Americans back to work.

For weeks, I have talked to workers, small business owners, farmers in Pennsylvania who are counting on the Paycheck Protection Act.

Today, we are offering these Pennsylvanians an opportunity to keep their workers paid and emerge stronger on the other side of this unprecedented challenge by protecting our workforce and safeguarding our economy.

Truly these are difficult days, but we know there is light ahead.

The people of Pennsylvania are resilient. The people of our great Nation are resilient. Together, we will weather the storm.

We cannot allow a virus to destroy the American Dream.

□ 1230

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE), a well-known advocate for the people of Michigan.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the latest COVID–19 relief package.

In my State of Michigan, the numbers are devastating. There are more than 33,000 confirmed cases. I want to add another number today: over 2,800 deaths. I just got a phone call that another dear friend of mine has passed. Nearly 1.2 million people have filed for unemployment.

That is why I am back here today.

We, however, have a lot more work to do. The package is not perfect. More work must be done to provide assistance to our States and our local governments, to ensure the continuous operation of the Postal Service, where there is a statement that neither snow nor rain nor gloom of night should stay the completion of mail delivery. The COVID virus is devastating the Postal Service.

I want you to know that the $484 billion measure will provide desperately needed financial support.

I stand here today with my heart broken in support of this bill.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this emergency legislation that prioritizes to replenish emergency relief for all small businesses and hospitals across the Nation.

The Paycheck Protection Program has, without doubt, been instrumental in helping small businesses in Puerto Rico and America keep their employees paid through this unprecedented crisis.

Lenders in Puerto Rico approved more than 2,800 of these loans, disbursing a total of $658 million before the funds ran out. We have got less than .17 percent of all the Nation's PPP loans, making us jurisdiction number 52.

I expect this bill now would allow the rest of those small businesses to get it and to get it now.

The island's economy has been greatly impacted, just like the people here on the mainland. And now with more than 150,000 employees that are out of work and the small businesses that are out of business, it is imperative that we support this bill and immediately provide vital aid to American businesses across the Nation, which are the lifeblood of our economy.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), a very capable Congressman and a close friend of mine.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NEAL for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise to thank and commend my colleagues for their work on this $480 billion legislation.

On April 7, as the Speaker said, Republicans wanted $250 billion, but no more.

After Democratic demands, Republicans finally agreed to increase the $250 billion to $480 billion to include our priorities. An additional $60 billion was set aside for small banks and community development financial institutions and credit unions.

We were determined to add billions for small community lenders. We wrote into the legislation that these loans will be forgiven if properly used for paycheck protection.

I call on Secretary Mnuchin to follow through on his commitment to Chairs WATERS and VELÁZQUEZ to ensure that these small lenders get the money; make sure the money gets into the hands of African American, Latino, women, and veteran-owned businesses; make sure the money gets into the hands of nonprofits and churches.

I call on the Small Business Administration to furnish data on the approved lenders authorized to originate these loans, provide a report to us by race and ethnicity as to whether diverse entities are receiving these loans and grants.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

There is no doubt that our small businesses in west Tennessee and across the Nation have felt the brunt of the economic effects of the coronavirus.

The Paycheck Protection Program has saved small businesses in west Tennessee and also allowed them to keep their employees on the payroll.

Now, I am disappointed that the Democrats didn't allow a vote on this funding before today, but I am appreciative of the vote.

I look forward to voting for this funding today that will give American small businesses the resources to maintain their livelihoods and weather the storm.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY), a real champion of small business.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I support this legislation because hospitals and small businesses in our communities need relief.

Our communities need this bridge over troubled waters.

This legislation rightfully invests $300-plus billion into the backbone of our economy: small businesses. It puts $75 billion into our Nation's hospitals and ensures that those serving our most vulnerable receive the resources they need to save lives. It invests $25 billion in testing.

As the chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, we must make sure that the testing goes into the areas disproportionately affected, like the Black and Brown communities.

This legislation includes language developed by me, along with Congresswomen BASS, LEE, and PRESSLEY, as well as Senators WARREN, HARRIS, and BOOKER, to ensure that we collect and analyze racial data related to the obvious disparity in COVID–19.

The better data made possible by this bill must effectively direct resources into our communities where needed, not where best connected.

Let us also remember the postal workers, the State and local governments, our teachers. They need our resources also.

Madam Speaker, I want to give my condolences to Senator WARREN for losing her brother to COVID–19.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, while we have many different approaches about restarting our economy, we should all agree the Paycheck Protection Program has provided a vital lifeline to small businesses and communities across America, including west Michigan.

For example, media reports are that Macatawa Bank, a community bank based in Holland, Michigan, was able to process over $300 million in PPP loans. This will help keep paychecks coming to more than 27,000 hardworking people in west Michigan.

In Wellington, Michigan, I heard from an owner of a bowling alley whose business was literally saved by the PPP. His employees are getting paid, he can pay his bills, and his business has avoided bankruptcy.

Even with these successes, I have heard from employers across my district waiting to receive their loan. While I am glad that is happening today, it shouldn't have taken this long.

Now, Madam Speaker, as we discuss the next steps the Federal Government can take, I encourage the Speaker and my colleagues to support H.R. 6433, a bill I introduced on April 3, the Heroes Act, as a way to say thank you to the first responders and medical professionals risking their lives on a daily basis to save the lives of others.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a very influential member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NEAL for yielding me time.

I am in awe of the countless unsung heroes who made it possible for all of us to get here safely today. We thank them.

I am here not just to vote for badly needed additional relief, but in support of the Speaker and our leadership in their successful effort resisting the Republicans and the Senate in fighting against making it better.

But I am here to give voice to my fellow Oregonians, who know so much more needs to be done, that it is outrageous that big banks and the Trump administration gave too much to the

wrong people and not enough to those most in need.

The administration can do something that costs taxpayers nothing: clarify the PPP provisions with a simple answer on how exactly the forgiveness provisions are going to work.

I was on the phone until 1 a.m. last night with a small businesswoman in Portland who, because of this lack of clarity, is unsure if she should even accept the loan that she has been given.

We must do better for the small businesses and the millions of jobs that depend upon them.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, like all bills, this bill comes down to how it is implemented.

Right now we have a problem, and I hope that bureaucracy does a better job of implementing it.

The PPP in this program is going to, I believe, a lot of businesses that are actually even better off because of the virus, because it is being so sloppily administered. I hope in the future, if we pass this bill, that people pay attention to that.

I also realize a lot of money is going to hospitals who have relied on predictions coming out of Washington that they were going to get a lot of patients that they may not be getting.

Right now in my district and many other districts, nurses and other hospital personnel are being laid off and hospitals are losing money because they were expecting a deluge of patients that never came, gratefully.

I hope in the future that the recommendations out of Washington are more on target and the employees of my hospitals can get back to work as we begin to do colonoscopies, mammograms, hips, knees, and diagnostic tests one more time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), who has done a remarkable job during this trying period as the chair of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair for his tremendous leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this emergency spending legislation. More must be done, but it is a strong step in the right direction.

The COVID–19 pandemic is ravaging America. Small businesses are shuttered. Thousands have died. Millions of Americans are unemployed.

Rome is burning.

We can either put out the fire or watch our great Nation go down in flames.

This bill will help family-owned businesses, help women-owned businesses, help minority-owned businesses, help small family farmers, and help our hospitals and our nursing homes.

Yes, it is not perfect, but we cannot allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good.

We are here to legislate, not just pontificate.

Vote ''yes'' and live to fight another day.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the PPP program came out with astonishing speed. The President and the Secretary implemented the legislation we passed, bipartisan, in astonishing speed, but there were criteria to get the money because we were spending $350 billion.

I did have smaller banks and smaller businesses who did not have experience working with the SBA, with the Federal Government, who needed to come up to speed. I think all of us, hopefully, were home, and I certainly was, talking to our small businesses, our small banks, getting them online and getting them ready.

I had small businesses saying, I don't have my 2019 taxes prepared yet, and I have to have that to show my income for 2019.

But it all came together right before we ran out of money, at least in my district. Everybody was in the portal or the small businesses were ready. And that is what we wanted, was $250 billion to go forward, keep the program running, and they would be flush today.

Doing the things we are doing now today, they are important too, they are bipartisan, we agree, but we didn't have to have this interlude.

So help is on the way.

Our small businesses are now ready. It did take some time for some smaller banks and smaller businesses, but I am proud to say they are ready, and I am proud to vote for this bill today.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), an ambassador, Congressman, successful businessman, and member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise in support of this legislation to protect jobs, support small businesses, and save lives.

It is good that we agree on this funding, but Americans need more, much more.

As of this morning, 26 million Americans have lost their jobs, in some States as many as one-third of their workforce.

Workers need our help in a way that doesn't stop or expire. Congress will have to do more to save small businesses both in funding, in making changes, and exercising oversight to ensure that it goes to small businesses.

State and local governments desperately need our help. The idea that we would tell States and localities to bear the brunt and then let them go bankrupt, and lay off medical workers, police, firefighters, and teachers is despicable, and we must reject it.

Letting State and local governments flounder would dangerously weaken the response ahead of the virus' second expected wave.

The American people deserve and need to be able to participate in their democracy safely, without having to risk their lives, and Congress should support State efforts to set up voting by mail.

Finally, postal workers are risking their lives every day to deliver our mail. They deserve our support, and the Federal Government needs to keep their agency from going bankrupt.

Only Congress can achieve these things, and we cannot delay. The need in this country is urgent, and the American people are depending on us.

□ 1245

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I have one question: Where has Congress been?

Forty-three percent of American households have had a significant or total pay cut; 26 million Americans have filed for unemployment; schools are shut down, placing burdens on families; and hospitals are laying off doctors and nurses. Where has Congress been?

Congress has met twice: first, to pass a $2 trillion bill that in many cases is harming the very businesses it purports to help; now, again, to spend more borrowed money without asking the important questions—no hearings, no oversight.

Today, I am holding my nose voting for a bill I had no chance to shape because there are 700,000 businesses closed by the power of government on the outside looking in while Harvard qualifies for $9 million.

But this is it, Madam Speaker, enough. No more half-assed legislating. No more picking winners and losers. No more asking a small restaurant to gamble, to borrow money in hopes that money will be forgiven by their government if they rehire people. They can't rehire because those same overlords are paying workers more in unemployment than to do their job.

Congress must convene not just today, but every day until America is back on track. Our job is to make policies that will save lives by moving us forward with deliberation, facts, and balanced reason, not reaction, panic, and fear.

Congress should be here, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from using profanity in debate.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU), a very well-regarded gentlewoman and a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

In order to reopen our economy and conquer this virus, we need to have a real count of who has been infected, but we still don't know the true impact of this pandemic because our Nation is facing a severe shortage of COVID–19 tests. That is why it is so important that Democrats fought to include $25 billion in this package to expand our testing capacity.

Also of critical importance is that this legislation has the Paycheck Protection Program set aside $60 billion in lending authority for small community lenders, helping the countless small businesses turned away by big banks, like my constituent Tony, a dentist who has had a business account with Bank of America since 1983 but was denied the opportunity to even apply for PPP. This set-aside authority gives our smallest businesses the resources and hope they need that they can survive this pandemic.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a leader of the Financial Services Committee and newly appointed member of the Congressional Oversight Commission for the CARES Act.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise in support of the Paycheck Protection Program Increase Act. In Arkansas, there are more than 13,000 pending PPP loan applications, representing over $1.1 billion, Madam Speaker, of loans in limbo. Likewise, many await the SBA's disaster loan funding and wait for it now.

The timing of this additional funding is critical, and yet, again, I regret the delay by many leaders on the other side playing politics one more time with the livelihoods of our constituents.

After the passage of this important package, I am confident that our employers and our consumers will prudently be able to combine common sense and follow the CDC precautions and get back to work, back to seeing patients, back to the barbershop, back to their faith communities, and back to some semblance of normalcy.

Americans always come together in times of crisis. We will defeat this foreign invader. We will get our economy back to full capacity.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), champion of all things Buffalo and a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NEAL for yielding.

This disaster relief bill includes $360 billion for paycheck protection for American workers; $75 billion for our courageous healthcare workers and the institutions that they work at; and $25 billion for virus testing to bend, break, and crush the disease curve.

Sadly, New York's State, county, and local governments were kicked out of this disaster relief bill, and the Senate majority leader's arrogant advice for them to include bankruptcy is insulting and arrogant.

What we need at the time of national crisis, a national emergency, is we need leaders who possess goodness, humility, courage, and a sense that we are all in this together, a sense of national solidarity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the United States Senate.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), Republican leader of the House Administration Committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member BRADY and Chairman NEAL.

I really appreciate the opportunity to come here to once again remind our colleagues that, if there is one thing that we ought to do right in this institution, it is to help Americans recover from a disaster that they didn't ask for. We did that by coming together for the CARES Act.

The PPP program in Illinois, alone, has made 69,893 loans to our Main Street businesses, worth almost $16 billion. But I want to tell you about one person who still has a need: Lindy McDonald of Myler Automotive Repair in Champaign, Illinois. She kept all of her employees. She is keeping her business going even though customers are down. She is still in the queue to get funded by what we do today.

Vote ''yes'' for this legislation, and I thank you for the bipartisanship.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), chairman of the Subcommittee on Worker & Family Support.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the coronavirus has brought to national attention the huge disparities in health status and economic status of African Americans and other population groups in this country.

We have seen how some financial institutions overlooked and denied small, struggling businesses. This bill will do something about both. I hope it does, and I am confident that it will.

After we have arrested the coronavirus, let's do something different and help equalize America so that Blacks and other population groups are not dying in disproportion to our population.

Let's make America the great equalizer, the America that has never been and yet the America that we know can and must be, and let's save our Postal Service.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in an unprecedented public health and economic crisis. While frontline providers are fighting to keep us all safe, the deliberate slowdown of our economy has caused significant disruption for employers and employees throughout the country.

In Pennsylvania, the Payroll Protection Program has, in a period of 12 days, processed over 70,000 loans, totaling $15.7 billion, to help small businesses make payroll and save jobs. I thank our community banks and small businesses and the SBA for everything that was done.

The severity of this crisis, however, necessitates additional funding for this program. For the past 2 weeks, Republicans in Congress have advocated for additional appropriations while Democrat leadership has permitted such delays to continue.

It has been extremely disruptive for businesses that it took this long for the PPP to be increased. Businesses need some certainty. They do not have the luxury of waiting for partisan political games. Let's not let this happen again, particularly during the course of this crisis.

Our country must now focus our efforts on planning to get back to work while maintaining a high level of safety standards. With new funding in place, we can continue to fight the virus, stay safe, and get our economy roaring again.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI), a champion of all things New York and a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I support this legislation. I am concerned, however, that the banks are focused on big small businesses and have ignored the smaller small businesses seeking $100,000 or less.

I am asking my colleagues to send a clear message to the banks and to Secretary Mnuchin: We will be watching. We need you to fight for the little guys.

There are a lot of good things in this bill, including something we in New York have pushed for: money for hospitals based on the rate of infection. But we need more.

My three counties are in the top five in the Nation in confirmed cases. New York has over 30 percent of the cases and 30 percent of the deaths. Previously, this administration gave New York hospitals less money than Texas, which has only 3 percent of the cases. How does that make sense?

Now Senator MCCONNELL is saying let's bankrupt our hardest hit States and local governments.

Madam Speaker, my State subsidizes Senator MCCONNELL's State and has for decades. The grim reaper is telling my State and others to drop dead.

Well, I have a message for you: We are going to fight you. Most Democrats and Republicans have put aside ideological differences for the common

good. We must continue to fight for New York, for my district, and for the little guy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BISHOP), a leader in the small business community.

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

In my 1 minute, let me tell you about Hornwood, Inc.—talk about a survivor. Hornwood is a specialty textile manufacturer in operation 74 years. It manufacturers products for the U.S. military, many specialty applications, and now components for PPE.

Hornwood's main facility is in Anson County, among the most economically challenged counties in North Carolina. Hornwood employs almost 400, the largest employer in that county.

Although it is designated essential, its revenues plummeted as government shut down the economy. Without a PPP loan, despite being essential, Hornwood must shut down imminently. It applied for PPP on the second day, but its application was caught in a snafu and the funds ran out.

The 2 weeks consumed by the majority's exercise of leverage may well prove the fatal difference for Hornwood and thousands of other small businesses, but I am glad we are here finally to finish the job.

To Hornwood and all of the others: Keep surviving.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), a well-regarded member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this package because I have small businesses in my district that are closing, after being in business for decades, right before our eyes. This bill is better than what the Republicans originally proposed.

And make no mistake about it, if it wasn't for Democrats pushing to make changes, the businesses, the true small businesses—not the publicly traded companies—would still continue to be left behind. There would be no money for hospitals, no money for PPEs, no money for testing. It is the push of the Democrats that made this bill better and is why I am supporting it.

I also want to be clear that this virus is on a different timeline. No matter what people think, no matter what people say, this is just the end of the beginning and not the beginning of the end.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

Less than a month ago, I stood on this floor and urged my colleagues to support our small businesses by passing the CARES Act. Today, I am here again asking the House to pass this bill and get it to the President's desk so we can give our small businesses and healthcare providers the additional assistance they need.

This bill provides an extra $75 billion to our hospitals and $25 billion for expanded testing capacity, with resources specifically set aside for community health centers and rural health clinics. These additional funds will have a dramatic impact in rural areas like Michigan's First District, where access to testing has lagged and our rural healthcare facilities are struggling to keep their doors open.

This legislation also refills the Paycheck Protection Program, critical for the Upper Peninsula and northern Michigan's small businesses. This temporary, targeted relief is our opportunity to send a strong message to our Main Street businesses that we want them to be able to open their doors when it is time to open our economy back up.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, who is a major author of this legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and tough negotiations in support of this legislation, H.R. 266.

I not only rise in support of this legislation, the Enhancement Act, I also would like to rise in support of what we are doing for the Health Care Enhancement Act in this bill.

And I am going to take a moment to dedicate this legislation to my dear sister, who is dying in a hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, right now, infected by the coronavirus.

This legislation provides $370 billion in funding for small businesses, as well as $100 billion for hospitals and coronavirus testing. I am pleased that we have been able to set aside $60 billion for our Nation's community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, community banks, credit unions, certified development companies, and microlenders to directly lend to their small business customers, who are often minority-owned businesses.

Small businesses and their workers all across the country are in dire need of assistance and will benefit from this bill. And so with that, Congress must now immediately turn to the next package of legislation to provide relief during the pandemic. We need to do much more to help renters, homeowners, people experiencing homelessness, and mom-and-pop landlords.

As chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee, I am already working on additional coronavirus relief legislation, including legislation that creates a $100 billion emergency rental assistance fund and a $75 billion homeowner assistance fund.

Madam Speaker, I support H.R. 266, and look forward to working with my colleagues on the next relief package.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, our prayers are with Chairwoman WATERS, her sister, and her family.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), one of the leaders of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this, the fourth bill.

At a time of adversity, I would like to reach out to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. The American people are concerned, but we are optimistic. The American people are worried, but we will come through this adversity. I think of the people I represent in Tennessee, but we are coming together as a Nation during this time like I have never seen us come together before. At a time of difficulty, we have an opportunity to actually seize this moment and move our great Nation forward. So, yes, am I concerned? Yes, I am concerned. Of course, I am. But we will see better days in this great Nation.

Madam Speaker, let us never forget, we in this Chamber represent the people of the greatest Nation in the world. We shall prevail.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, we certainly express our best to MAXINE WATERS and her family at this challenging time.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the distinguished congresswoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me acknowledge that people are dying. That sometime in the future, we may have one-sixth of the number of people that died in World War II in the battles on behalf of the United States.

I rise because I support this legislation because it has universal testing for COVID–19. It is a matter of life and death. And I call upon using this $25 billion for testing nursing homes and all essential workers. They must be assured that they are safe.

I join with the Congressional Black Caucus to make sure that we have concentrated voluntary testing in areas where there have been high deaths, contact tracing to identify the people, which has been included, antibody tests, working with our communities and faith-based. And, yes, The Nickel in the Fifth Ward, where Mickey Leland and Barbara Jordan work; that is a restaurant. I want them to be part of those who will get now the new dollars, the $60 billion that is going to help the very, very small. And I want to stand in the way of the Ruth's Chris and the Shake Shacks, the large corporations, to make sure that they understand that we are sharing with each other. So small businesses now with minority banks and CDFIs can do this.

Finally, our hospitals that have been on the front lines. They need to be reimbursed and those who are Medicare focused, not just Medicaid focused, not just Medicare focused.

And, yes, I want hero pay for our transit workers and hero pay for our professionals.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation now to save lives.

Madam Speaker, as a senior member of the Committees on the Judiciary and on Homeland Security, and founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Coronavirus Taskforce, I rise in strong support of the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act," an interim measure that supplements the CARES Act, the assistance and relief package passed by Congress providing more than $2 trillion to address the adverse health and economic impacts of the COVID–19 pandemic.

But more must be done, and it is our obligation to ensure that the necessary assistance is provided, and that our decisions are informed by science, based on evidence, and put the physical safety and economic security and livelihoods of the American people foremost.

Every day, we see the need for further action to combat the coronavirus crisis.

To date, there are more than 800,000 confirmed cases, over 43,000 dead, including 20,196 cases and 547 deaths in my home state of Texas.

On top of that, by taking the necessary measures to slow the pandemic and 'flatten the curve' so as not to overwhelm the nation's health care system, economic activity in the United States has experienced a severe shock to the system.

More than 22 million initial unemployment claims in the past month alone.

In addition, on March 23, 2020, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) dipped to 18,321.62, which is even lower than it was on Election Night 2016, and far below the 19,827 mark where it stood on January 20, 2017.

In other words, Madam Speaker, all the gains that were made to the stock market and heralded by this Administration as evidence of its genius have been wiped out, depleting the retirement savings and 401ks of millions of ordinary Americans.

Democrats dramatically changed the package originally proposed by the Senate from an insufficient Republican plan that left behind hospitals and health workers but did nothing to aid the survival of the most vulnerable small businesses on Main Street.

That is why Democrats in Congress insisted on, fought for, and succeeded in shepherding into law the CARES Act, established the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a new guaranteed loan program at the Small Business Administration (SBA) to help small businesses cover payroll and other expenses during the crisis, with 100 percent of the amount eligible for forgiveness if employers retain employees.

The CARES Act also created the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, a new $10 billion grant program, leveraging SBA's Office of Disaster Assistance to provide small businesses with much needed capital in a timely manner.

Congress intended that these programs would provide immediate financial support to secure the survival of the small business community, which is the backbone of the national economy.

As the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic becomes clearer and more far-reaching, it will be necessary to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL) funding made available under the CARES Act.

The legislation before us replenishes these funds, and importantly, sets aside a portion of those funds be deposited in Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), minority depository institutions (MDIs), certified development companies, microloan intermediaries, and State or Federal Credit Unions to ensure that economically distressed or disadvantaged communities have access to the capital needed to revive and regenerate their local economies.

Specifically, the legislation before us strengthens the Paycheck Protection Program with $310 billion in additional funding and $50 billion for SBA disaster lending, translating into more than $350 billion in loans, and $10 billion in SBA disaster grants.

Additionally, and importantly, this legislation directs that $30 billion be deposited in banks and credit unions with less than $10 billion in assets, as well as all Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), MDIs, certified development companies (CDCs), and microlenders that are PPP lenders.

Madam Speaker, another reason I strongly support this legislation is because it provides $75 billion to provide hospitals and health care workers on the frontlines the necessary resources, especially personal protective equipment (PPE) to battle the coronavirus pandemic and care for its victims.

We have all seen the heart-wrenching stories of courageous doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers, orderlies, and others selflessly striving to save others while putting themselves in harm's way because of the severe shortage of PPE.

Madam Speaker, the current president fancies calling himself a "War President."

For anyone who needs reminding, the nation's greatest wartime presidents made sure that American troops on the frontlines were trained, equipped, and protected in battle.

I also support this legislation because it provides as I requested $25 billion for diagnostic testing and contact tracing promised at no charge to the person.

This funding will help states and local jurisdiction conduct necessary COVID–19 testing in local jails, juvenile detention centers, and elsewhere in the criminal justice system.

Testing is the key to reopening the economy and resuming our lives, and to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, for necessary expenses to research, develop, validate, manufacture, purchase, administer, and expand capacity for COVID–19 tests to effectively monitor and suppress COVID–19, including tests for both active infection and 19 prior exposure.

If we cannot see where COVID–19 is within a community, there is no reliable way to prevent its spread other than quarantine.

If we do not dramatically increase testing, we will remain prisoners of COVID–19 until we have a vaccine widely available, which is not expected to occur until early 2021.

Universal testing for COVID–19 is a matter of life and death for millions of Americans, but it is also a salvation for millions of others who are living desperate lives behind locked doors.

The liberation of millions hinges on getting testing in every community so that we can shine a light on where COVID–19 is and where it is not present.

The lack of testing early on and the continued lack of testing is costing trillions in lost economic output and it will continue to cost much more as we struggle to save lives through social distancing and providing adequate universal access to COVID–19 needed medicines, equipment, and PPE to protect medical personnel.

Madam Speaker, based on the limited data available to date, it is clear that African Americans are at higher risk of contracting COVID–19 and experiencing the worst outcomes.

An April 2020 analysis by the Washington Post of available data and census demographics shows that counties that are majority-black have three times the rate of infections and almost six times the rate of deaths as counties where white residents are in the majority.

Madam Speaker, African Americans are 26 percent of the population in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin but account for 73 percent of COVID–19 related deaths; comparable numbers in Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C. are 32 percent and 46 percent of the population but 67 percent and 58 percent of COVID–19 deaths respectively.

Faced with this grim reality, I am particularly pleased that the legislation before us directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect, publicly release, and report to Congress racial and demographic data on COVID–19 in order to identify and address racial disparities in the response.

But Madam Speaker, we all recognize the legislation before us is only an interim measure and more must and will be done to protect our nation and make our people whole.

In the next supplement to the CARES Act, I look forward to working with my colleagues to include the following priorities:

1. Hero pay for mass transit workers;

2. Increased childcare direct payment assistance to essential workers;

3. Additional funding for CDC data collection and research regarding disparate impact of COVID–19 on African Americans and Latinos;

4. Expanded Medicaid payments to local counties in states that have not accepted the expanded Medicaid;

5. Medical shelters creating extra COVID–19 hospital beds to be funded at 100 percent so counties like Harris County in my home state of Texas is not subsidizing all of its neighboring counties; and

6. Funding for an additional cash distribution of $2,000 per adult and $500 per child.

Madam Speaker, the occasion demands that we rise, and I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON), the chief deputy whip, a key member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation.

This is important for our communities and our small businesses back home. We are in a real battle. On one front, we have our incredible healthcare workers, our frontline healthcare workers, our first responders, and hospital administrators that

are fighting out there. And those heroes, we owe a debt of gratitude. This bill will provide important resources, particularly for our rural hospitals.

But there is an economic disaster as well. And I would like to say thank you to another group of unexpected heroes that are out there working very, very hard every single day, and those are our community bankers in our small, rural communities.

These bankers have been working long hours, helping the small business in their communities that they serve. And I will tell you, there are going to be a lot of stories that come out about good things and bad things that happen with this program, but I could not be more grateful for the men and women in our small community banks out there putting in long hours, long days, doing their dead-level best to help the communities that they serve.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask that all colleagues support this legislation.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the chairperson of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I support this bill, which provides an additional $310 billion for PPP loans. And while this is desperately needed, it almost certainly will not be enough.

I am glad that an additional $60 billion is being set aside for community banks, credit unions, minority banks, and CDFIs. And as chair of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, I promise I will watch the $60 billion like a hawk to make sure that it goes to the communities that we intended.

But I also want to mention another key priority: The postal service, which is running out of money and must be funded soon.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

Mr. WALTZ. Madam Speaker, we are hearing a lot today about Democrats support this; Republicans support that. I don't think this is the time for that. Americans don't care. They don't care about party. This virus doesn't care. They care about this Congress getting things done and about America pulling through.

This is a good day for our businesses, for our hospitals, but I think a silver lining in all of this will be all of us seeing America pull together.

And I think the other silver lining will be us drastically changing how we view our relationship with China, and understanding the Chinese Communist Party is not our friend, they are manipulating international organizations, they are hoarding supplies, have brought manufacturing away from a place where we, as America, can benefit. We must bring that manufacturing home. We will do that on the other side of this.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today to not only bring our pharmaceuticals home, but our technology and our business that China is preying on right now, as we speak. Wake up America. We are in a cold war, and we have to do better.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a fully capable member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, this economic relief package is for small businesses, finally.

I am proud that we also secured $25 billion to expand testing, with $11 billion to increase State and local testing capacity; $1 billion for the CDC, $1.8 billion for the NIH, $1 billion for BARDA, money for the Food and Drug Administration and money for community health centers. This is not everything we wanted.

Next, we need relief for States and localities, SNAP benefits, paid family leave and paid sick days, and the expansion of the Child Tax Credit. Vote ''yes'' to continue working for people.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), a fellow Texan, and key member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, these resources are a lifeline to our fellow Americans, whose lives and livelihoods have been turned upside down through no fault of their own.

They aren't just numbers on some government spreadsheet. They are healthcare workers who rush to the front lines in this battle, risking their lives for our safety. They are family farmers, independent energy producers, and small businesses of all kinds who listened to their leaders, did their part, made their sacrifices and stayed home, shuttered their businesses, all to keep their communities and their country safe.

This temporary support will compensate them partly, but more importantly, will help them get on their feet so that they can keep their employees on the payroll and off the unemployment roll. These folks are the heartbeat of America. They are the lifeblood of this economy, and they—not the government—will lead one of the greatest American comebacks in our history.

Madam Speaker, let's suit up, let's strap it on, and let's get America back to work.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), chairperson of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, H.R. 266 provides billions of dollars in funding for small businesses, hospitals, and much-needed testing. This is a bill that works for the people, not just the favorite clients of the big banks.

I have heard from small business owners in Riverside County who have struggled to receive the help they need after the original funds ran dry. This bill strengthens the Paycheck Protection Program by providing an additional $310 billion to help small businesses stay afloat.

Further, this bill ensures that true small businesses—not large, multimillion-dollar corporations—have access to these funds.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 266. The well-being of the American people depends on it.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I support the legislation.

I am grateful that President Donald Trump has succeeded with an agreement to address the destructive impact of the Wuhan virus. Our families, small businesses, and hospitals need this support to maintain jobs now more than ever.

The Paycheck Protection Program has been successful in supporting small businesses in maintaining jobs, already saving 30 million jobs. A real-world example of success was on Fox Business News last week with Melissa Francis interviewing Bill Dukes of the Blue Marlin restaurant in Columbia, praising Scott Hagler of the Security Federal Bank for saving jobs.

This agreement will help families but, sadly, there was a delay because of partisan politics, letting no disaster go to waste.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MURPHY), a very capable member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, today's bill is a positive step and has my full support, but it took too long. Next time let's skip the partisan games and just do our jobs.

We must be aggressive and smart. We should spare no expense when it comes to testing, treatments, and vaccines. And we must support workers and business owners who bear no blame for this crisis.

We should keep workers tethered to their jobs and to their healthcare. And aid should be swift and direct rather than through complicated and time-consuming programs. For workers who do lose their jobs, Congress has provided billions to support them.

Sadly, this support has been delayed in States like Florida, whose unemployment system is marred by incompetence and indifference. Congress must demand better. Our country confronts a deadly, serious crisis. As leaders, we must unite to combat COVID–19.

My fellow Blue Dog colleagues and I will continue pushing for more bipartisan cooperation to get the job done for the American people.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. HURD), a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and a fellow Texan.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, 134,700—that is the number of small businesses in my home State of Texas that have received Paycheck Protection Program loans amounting to more than $28.4 billion.

This money helps small business owners catch their breath because they didn't have to fire their employees. This money prevented thousands from going on unemployment and standing in line at already-overrun food banks.

Madam Speaker, this money has been a Band-Aid helping small businesses stop bleeding. This program has and will help many survive this moment of darkness. More funding for PPP will save jobs. More funding for testing will save lives. Let's get it done. No more delays.

Madam Speaker, I am proud a solution to add funds to this program finally came about, but I am disappointed partisanship delayed it. Our neighbors and communities are stepping up and working together to help one another. Congress should follow that lead.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA).

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, we are in the middle of a global pandemic. This isn't a Republican virus or Democratic virus. It doesn't recognize the color of your skin or the country of your origin. It doesn't know what god you worship.

We are in this together, not just as a city, a State, a country. We are in this together—all of us—and we will get out of this together. Let's find our human kindness and our better nature. We will persevere. We will be more resilient. And we will come out stronger and kinder and gentler.

□ 1315

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I am here today to call on colleagues to support the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, legislation that is poised to be a lifeline to my constituents in Missouri's Second Congressional District during this pandemic.

This bill includes $310 billion in increased funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, a program that has helped keep open thousands of Missouri businesses, including Martha's Hands, a St. Louis-based home healthcare provider with over 200 employees. My office worked with Martha's Hands to secure these vital PPP funds so that they will be able to pay their employees and keep their doors open to help the most fragile in our community.

There are small businesses and workers just like them all over that are dependent. They are the backbone of our economy.

Madam Speaker, we fought to also include $75 billion for hospitals and healthcare providers so the frontline healthcare heroes are taken care of and $25 billion for critical COVID–19 testing so we can better understand the spread of this virus, to save lives, and to have the confidence to reopen our communities.

Madam Speaker, I urgently ask everyone to vote ''yes'' on this legislation.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER).

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, today's bill is critical for small businesses in my district that are desperately waiting for this financial lifeline.

The funding for testing is also critical as our country is woefully behind. We need 10 to 20 times current levels of testing to know who is infected and isolate them and to find emerging hot spots. Without that, we are flying blind, and we will see new surges. Widespread testing is key to moving forward.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE).

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of reopening the Paycheck Protection Program after an unnecessary lapse in funding.

In just 2 weeks after the launch, the program provided over 13,000 loans in Montana, totaling $1.4 billion. It has helped small businesses stay open and keep workers on the payroll.

But as the well quickly ran dry on this critical lifeline for small businesses and workers, the Speaker and the Senate Democratic Leader, CHUCK SCHUMER, stood on the sidelines and failed to work with Republicans to keep this program running.

When Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL moved to increase funding, Democrats objected, refusing to allow immediate action. That is outrageous.

At last, we are doing the right thing by small businesses and workers, but it is overdue, and it has been needlessly held up with partisan games.

I urge my colleagues to stand with small businesses and workers today and pass the Paycheck Protection Program.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, Utah families are suffering and worrying about how they are going to survive this crisis financially. This legislation provides additional funds for the Paycheck Protection Program to cover payroll and other essential expenses for small businesses, and it keeps paychecks coming for employees. We must make sure that this money makes it to the small businesses and hardworking families that deserve it.

This bill also provides critical support to our hospitals that are saving lives and money for testing so we can move safely and responsibly to reopen the economy.

This is critical economic support. I support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, for America's struggling small businesses, there is just no substitute for safely reopening the economy; but until that happens, the Paycheck Protection Program is a lifeline.

The first wave of funding delivered $350 billion in forgivable loans to 1.6 million firms nationwide, including over $4 billion to save jobs in my home State of Kentucky.

For the Wells family at Green Tree Forest Products, the funds meant that they could keep their sawmill open and retain 93 employees in eastern Kentucky.

For Upper Right Marketing, a Lexington tourism company impacted by the postponement of the Kentucky Derby and the closure of the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, funding arrived the day before the company was set to lay off 30 employees.

So it is unfortunate that some in this House dithered the last 7 days, making partisan demands after the program ran out of money and an additional 4½ million Americans filed for unemployment.

But today's replenishment of funding restores hope for workers, families, and business owners, including Dennis from Lexington, who has operated a car repair shop for 17 years, has 10 employees, but has yet to receive a loan.

Congress must ensure that, by flattening the curve, we don't flatten small business with it. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes.''

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, let me inquire as to how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 31 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 24½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today for America and Minnesota's small businesses.

Whether it is a florist in Apple Valley, the Cannon River Winery, or a food shelf in Eagan, I have heard the urgent need for funding assistance to survive the impacts of COVID–19. But we must do more.

I am grateful that we are going to add additional support to small businesses and nonprofits by funding the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program today to keep small businesses and the American Dream alive.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today where we should have been a

week ago when the Treasury warned us that the small business program needed refunding. It is a program we already authorized. It is a program that Americans need desperately to keep their payrolls whole during this crisis.

But, in predictable fashion, it was delayed. My colleagues will claim victory for this delay, claiming ''wins'' for additional funding. But they know that this vote today could have easily been agreed to last week.

We are asking our grocers to stock our shelves, truckers to drive, and nurses and doctors to risk their lives, but Congress can't even bother to vote to help small businesses in time. In fact, many want to vote from home or by proxy. If you think that is leadership, then I would encourage you to rethink what it means to be a Representative.

Leadership is courage to lead from the front. It is steadfast judgment free from cynical opportunism. Leadership means acting worthy of the people we represent. If we are to survive this historic crisis, we might collectively stiffen our spines and demonstrate to the American people what that looks like.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise to support this interim package.

I have spent every day in my district speaking to constituents and stakeholders battered by this health and economic crisis. I am grateful to Speaker PELOSI and Democratic colleagues who fought for additional money for small businesses, fixed problems we saw after the first round of funding, and added money for hospitals.

I am disappointed by Republican colleagues who refused to include local and State governments, but we will keep fighting for them and so many others who were left out.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican Whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding.

Most importantly, I want to thank all of those hardworking families across this country, people who are struggling through this crisis, who are adhering to the guidance from the President and their Governors. But they want us to get back to work. They want us to work together to help them through this critical time, to focus on finding a cure as we are seeing so many advances in medicine, on testing, and on therapies that may work.

In the meantime, we are all learning how to deal with this disease better, how to socially distance. Even if you go to the grocery store now, people are being more cautious.

We also need to make sure that we help those families hold on through this time, that we help those small businesses that are struggling through this time. The Paycheck Protection Program has been incredibly successful as a lifeline to those small businesses.

President Trump called on us weeks ago to come and replenish this fund that has been used by so many businesses to hang on, and yet there were cries from the other side. In fact, one of the leaders of the main caucus on the opposition side called the Paycheck Protection Program leverage, that they should hold out from re-funding to get other things.

This isn't about leveraging families who are struggling and hanging on and businesses that barely can make it while you try to go for other items. Help those people who are in need. Negotiate on other things that we can get agreement on, but don't hold hostages during this time.

I reached out to so many small businesses and heard from people in my district and all around this country. We saw another 4.4 million people lose their jobs just this week, and yet there were businesses holding on, waiting for this money that didn't get it for the last 2 weeks while this leverage game was played.

I just talked to one company, Delta Electronics in Harvey, Louisiana: ''We laid off two of our three employees. . . . We are about 7 days away from shutting our doors down for good and possibly declaring bankruptcy.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Louisiana an additional 1 minute.

Mr. SCALISE. ''We are about 7 days away from shutting our doors down for good and possibly declaring bankruptcy. We don't know what else to do. I'm tired of crying myself to sleep every night wondering what tomorrow holds. Will we lose everything we worked for? Our house? Our retirement?''

''Enough is enough.''

They had to wait an extra 2 weeks. Hopefully, that company can hold on.

MJ's Grill in Columbia, South Carolina: ''We are a small, family-run restaurant that has a staff of 16. We have had to cut our staffing down to eight and those employees work limited hours. I open and close the kitchen every day without taking a paycheck to try and keep the doors open. We are quickly approaching the hard-line decision of closing our doors permanently.''

These are stories that go on and on, heartbreaking stories from businesses that just want to hold on to keep their family business going, to keep those employees, that represent millions of people.

Stop thinking of them as leverage and start thinking of them as our neighbors. Just like we applaud our frontline workers, the men and women in the hospitals, the nurses, the doctors who are keeping us safe, let's work to keep everybody safe and get through this and open our economy back again. Let's pass this bill.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, the coronavirus has upended life as we know it.

Healthcare workers need personal protective equipment and hospitals need supplies.

Small businesses and small farmers need financial security to weather this storm.

America needs a national testing regime to safely and efficiently get this country back to work.

Underserved rural communities need doctors and increased access to care.

The Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act will provide much-needed relief to millions across the country and help save lives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from California another 10 seconds.

Mr. RUIZ. Because of the urgency, I urge you to vote ''yes.'' However, State and local governments and Tribal nations across the country need funding, too, to provide essential services for our essential frontline workers: paramedics, law enforcement, firefighters.

We must include the Coronavirus Relief Act, $250 billion for local government for populations less than 500,000 in the next act because small cities' firefighters and paramedics in my district matter, too.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, in New Jersey, 100,000 people have tested positive for COVID–19, with more than 5,000 suffering death. Forty percent of those who have died are women and men in nursing homes and veterans in long-term care homes. We grieve their loss.

My constituents have shown remarkable strength, resolve, and resiliency, especially those in healthcare, first responders, postal workers, truckers, supermarket employees, and more. Without their courage and sacrifice, things would be far worse.

Signs outside of CentraState Medical Center in Freehold say it all: Heroes Work Here.

For our hospitals, the $70 billion in this legislation, on top of the $100 billion for the CARES Act, is critically needed to sustain our overworked, cash-starved hospitals that risk insolvency, in large part, because they have been compelled by law to postpone elective surgeries.

A few days ago, Secretary Mnuchin said 30 million jobs have been saved by the Paycheck Protection Program, the PPP. Today's $310 billion replenishment continues and expands this historic bridge to assist businesses with forgivable loans to prevent layoffs and bankruptcy.

□ 1330

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New

York (Ms. CLARKE), the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand up for the 15,000-plus New Yorkers and thousands of Americans who have lost their lives due to the coronavirus and to stand up for the tens of thousands of healthcare and essential community workers whose lives are on the line as I stand here.

Today, we are voting on a $480 billion interim relief package that includes $370 billion for small business loans and grants, $60 billion of which will go to mom-and-pop, underbanked, and cash-and-carry, $75 billion for hospitals and healthcare facilities and $25 billion for a national testing strategy.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, how many of us have had the phone calls over the last couple of weeks where we are talking to that small businessperson, and you can almost hear the tears on the other side of the call? You can hear the stress, almost panic that they are about to hurt the very people that they work with, because their business is failing, because they are desperate for what we made a promise to do, that payroll protection money that functionally ran out a couple of weeks ago. We knew the math, and we engaged in a type of cruelty around here because we sat here and engaged in partisan—we are better than this. We knew what we had to do. Let's never do this again.

For Arizona, what we are about to vote on is 202,000 jobs. And the fact of the matter is, they should have had those two weeks ago. Let's make this happen.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, with all due respect to the President, if you want to make America great again, Mr. President, have the Senate pass a bill to protect first responders by sending money to local governments.

If you want to make America great again, put money in the pockets of the persons who are in food lines miles long so that they can feed their families.

If you want to make America great again, admit that what you said was a hoax and let the healthcare workers and advisors give the advice on healthcare.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, you may also remind Members that we are not to engage in personalities on the House floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALEZ), a leader in the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

Throughout this crisis, our small businesses have done everything we have asked, and it is past time that we add this necessary funding to help them maintain payroll and survive this crisis.

But we all know that this cannot be the end of our work in response to COVID–19. Local leaders across my northeast Ohio district have made it clear that their finances are in dire shape. This is forcing difficult decisions about essential services, including fire departments and police officers.

While we should not bail out badly run States and cities, it is vital that we provide targeted funding to municipalities like Parma, North Canton, Medina, Orrville, Rootstown, and Green, municipalities that have done things the right way and need our help.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on this.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN).

Mr. POCAN. Madam Speaker, I support the bill before us today, but we all know it is not enough. Much more must be done. In the next comprehensive aid package, we must put people first.

But something also must be done about the horrific Federal response to testing. FEMA and the Trump administration have been nonexistent in getting States like Wisconsin the test kits, reagents, and PPE we need to reopen.

If the President forces us to open too soon, more people will get sick and die, and the economy will suffer, and that will be on the President's hands.

This isn't a reality show. American lives are at stake. Get us our supplies now.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI), a key leader of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I want to give a shout-out to the healthcare workers in Indiana's Second District while I am standing here supporting this legislation. What a phenomenal job and risk they have taken.

I am supporting this legislation today, but this delay was long, too long, completely avoidable. Two weeks ago, Democrats blocked attempts to replenish PPP and ensure small businesses could continue making payroll and rent. They said there was no data supporting more funding, even though the program ran out of money only a week later.

PPP has helped so many small businesses across my district save jobs. But others have been waiting for loans they urgently needed while Democrats played games with workers' livelihoods.

As one frustrated small business owner wrote to me: I saw the Speaker laughing it up on late night television, showing off her stash of high-end ice cream, while I and other small business owners don't know how we will make the next payroll.

I tell you what, ladies and gentlemen: Times are tough. Small business needs everything we can give them in a bipartisan way. I strongly urge support of this bill.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I don't know what my friend from Indiana is talking about.

I do know this: Thank God the Democrats insisted that this bill help the small businesses intended to be supported. Too many big guys got supported over the little guys, and that is what we are trying to fight for today.

Second point, we have got to help State and local governments. They cannot be allowed to go bankrupt. That is social Darwinism at its worst.

And, thirdly, we have got to help our postal workers and the Postal Service who serve all Americans.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES), a key member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, my Republican colleagues and I asked for more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program. More than 1.6 million small businesses and their employees were helped before the money ran out, including $4.3 billion in PPP loans for more than 26,000 small businesses in Kansas.

Now, hundreds of thousands of applications sit, because Congress would not act in time. As a result, small business owners are laying off employees, they are losing the businesses that they worked so hard to build.

This bill will save 201,000 Kansas jobs. While late, this bill provides more funding to the program, representing a small step towards reopening America. This money will save businesses and jobs and allows more hardworking Americans to provide for their families.

Increased testing is a vital step in our return to normalcy. This bill provides $75 billion for healthcare providers and another $25 billion for testing capacity to combat the virus. Testing is critical to reopening Kansas and getting America going again.

Today, I am grateful for the Americans who stepped up to help their neighbors in this unprecedented time, and I will continue to show up for Kansas by supporting this legislation.

Mr. NEAL. I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, small businesses in my district are desperate for assistance, but stymied by a lack of funding and unfair treatment by the big banks and the SBA.

I support this legislation, because it is absolutely imperative that we get

small businesses a new round of funding and support.

I am also pleased this bill provides significant funding for hospitals and for expanded testing without which we cannot safely reopen the businesses and other establishments we are trying to save.

I am disappointed that despite the best efforts of my Democratic colleagues, the bill does not give State and local governments the funding and flexibility they desperately need.

We must provide for these and other unmet needs in the next bill. But right now, the funds in this bill are desperately needed, and we must vote yes.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, we are a body of 435 representatives. That is true. There is only one that can demand that that gavel go up and down.

And I have a very simple question for this body: Can anybody, will anybody, in this body stand and say that the Speaker has demanded that we act here with the urgency that our people require, with the urgency that this body is capable of?

You believe this body has acted with the urgency we are capable of, that our people require?

I think it is sad that there are people that believe that we have acted in urgency. There has been no haste by this body.

It will be said of this time that those who could do the most did the least.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman, I thank the Speaker, and I would say to my friend on the other side of the aisle, there was no urgency in February when this was first brought to the President's attention.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the fourth coronavirus stimulus. It is good to see both parties can come together to aid the country during a national crisis.

But we must have accountability for the money that we provide, and we must get it to the people that need it the most.

Like many Members, I was not happy to hear of small businesses that could not get funds. We must do a better job in getting the funds to the people that need it the most, and that should be our commitment.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, the last time I stood in this Chamber was the first day that my district reported a COVID–19 fatality. At that time, on March 27, my district had just 27 confirmed cases. As of today, the 12th District has 50 deaths and 862 confirmed cases.

COVID–19 has rattled our communities across this country, and our top priority should be and should always be keeping people safe.

But the virus has also forced our economy to a grinding halt. Our small businesses are desperate for a lifeline. And for many, that lifeline is the PPP.

In Illinois, almost 70,000 loans were approved before funding ran out. But funding should have never been allowed to run out. We should have done our job. We should have come back, and politics should not have been played.

The COVID–19 virus is not Republican; it is not Democrat. This hurting economy is not Republican; it is not Democrat. But yet we held it up, and we will never know how many small businesses failed because politics was played rather than getting our job done.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), the chairman of the Democratic messaging committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the interim relief package.

Thanks to the strong leadership of the Speaker and our outstanding committee chairs, this bill helps our smallest small businesses, our hospitals, and a national testing strategy, which were not included in Senator MCCONNELL's original bill. So thanks again for their leadership.

Madam Speaker, we also have to work hard to flatten this curve, and we have to do a lot more for America's working families.

In the next phase of relief, we need to include recurring direct cash payments to workers, additional small business relief, aid to States and cities to pay first responders and their healthcare heroes that are on the front lines, and even more in unemployment benefits.

Our response must meet the gravity of the moment. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join with us to make sure we respond to this issue in the way that is necessary and not resist efforts to help hospitals, to help workers, to help expand testing, all of the things we know we need to do to defeat this pandemic.

Thank goodness we stood up. Otherwise, we wouldn't have $75 million for healthcare workers, $25 million for testing, and all of the other things which are in this bill to help the smallest of small businesses.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SPANO).

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, as the sole Florida Member serving on the house Small Business Committee, I rise today in support of replenishing the Paycheck Protection Program.

While the program is far from perfect, it has been undeniably effective. Before the original funds were exhausted, 88,000 businesses in my home State of Florida received almost $18 billion in forgivable loans, money that saved jobs and businesses, all in just 13 days.

Beyond numbers, what is important is the people that this program serves. I think of a family-owned bowling alley that has been in my district for almost 30 years, one that I took my kids to when they were growing up. With their PPP loan, they are now able to keep and pay their 90 employees and stay in business, so now my grandchildren can go there, too.

I think of a home healthcare provider that cares for senior citizens. With their PPP loan, they have kept a dozen employees on the payroll and can continue to care for our Greatest Generation.

While no government program is perfect, this one undeniably helps people in difficult times, and for that I support it.

□ 1345

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The American people are generous and strong, and we will get through this if we stay united.

To the mom-and-pop businesses in my district that haven't received a dime and the community health centers struggling to help their patients, they are why I got on a flight last night, and they are why we need to pass this bill today.

In the weeks ahead, it should be everyone's priority in this government to help our heroes on the front lines and those most in need, regardless of what State or city they are in. We are the United States of America, and we must stay united.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), a key member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Steve called me recently. He has one of the businesses that has been hardest hit by coronavirus. He is down 90 percent. We talked through some issues. Steve decided to fight back. He got in line early for the Paycheck Protection Program and made a decision to bring his employees back, and then he had a virtual ribbon cutting where he announced his reopening.

Madam Speaker, our country is in dire need of some good news, and this PPP has been a bright spot in the trauma that we have all faced here.

Where I live, Madam Speaker, the banker knows the farmer, the banker knows the barber, the banker knows the cafe owner. CPAs, financial advisers, credit unions, we have all pitched in. This is what I call community solidarity.

It was clear from the beginning that this program would run out of money, and we have reached that point. This has been a bipartisan airlift, a lifesaver for so many people who make things with their own two hands and take care of others under their employ. I wholeheartedly support this bill.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, 5,000 of my fellow New Jerseyans have died and many more will in the weeks to come, and still we can't get enough tests for those who need it.

We are the richest, most powerful country in the world, and we are now tired of excuses. We need a national testing program to let us know if our loved ones are healthy or sick so we can reopen our country and help our small businesses.

That is our challenge. It is what history will judge us by. Let's get it done.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The current bill provides $12 billion to jurisdictions that specifically authorize and encourage the use of surveillance and contact tracing. The bill does not define these terms.

Does it allow big tech companies to surveil and trace American citizens and then turn that accumulated information over to the government?

How will this data be secured, stored, et cetera?

There are many questions that go unanswered. Not the least of these, however, is the question of how much longer the American people acquiesce to unconstitutional and crushing government action.

We need to open up America now. I call on our Governors to free their citizens immediately.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The true question we face in this pandemic is not when we will get out of this crisis, but how we will get out of this crisis. And the keys to our economic freedom lie in this bill: $25 billion for testing and monitoring; $75 billion for treatment, a national testing strategy; finally, additional business help for our small businesses, including $370 billion and $60 billion for our smallest, most vulnerable businesses.

If we commit to continue to focus on how to survive this pandemic, then, my fellow Americans, we will.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the leader of the Republican Conference.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his service.

Before I begin, I want to thank all of us for spending the time to be here today.

Madam Speaker, I want to say to the families who are battling this virus or to the families who have lost a loved one, if we would all pause to think about that, not only did they lose a loved one, but they couldn't even be near them or with them in their time of need. I want them to know, from a Republican and Democrat side, for the entire Congress: You are in our prayers, and you will stay in our prayers.

I also want to give a sincere thank-you to all of the essential workers on the front lines of this crisis, not from the Republican leader, but from a very grateful nation.

For the medical professionals, the doctors, the nurses, the receptionists, we thank you for going to work. We know the fear that it brings; we know the fear that it brings when you go home to your families; and we are grateful.

To the farmers who make sure we have food grown in America that is safe and the truck drivers who drive through the night to replenish the stores that we walk in and keep our distance to have the food; to the postal workers, the warehouse workers, the clerks inside those stores who every day go to work, you are making a meaningful and measurable difference in the lives of our entire Nation.

We will be forever grateful for those who kept us safe, kept us healthy, and kept us fed. They deserve a government that strives to meet that very same level of dedication.

That is the promise I will make: that we will bring the same dedication that you bring to help others that you don't even know, and we should rise to that occasion. This is a commitment we make to every American. We will fight this virus together until we defeat it together.

We did not ask for this virus. We did not invite it. It came from a distant land. But together, we will defeat it, not only for our country, but for the world.

To do that, Congress must act, and we will continue to act even if some in this body want to play politics. Even if we get something held up, we will stay at the table until we bring people together.

We want to put people before politics. Our entire effort will be bipartisan. After all, public health and a strong economy are not a Democrat or Republican issue.

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, we watched the other side within our own Speaker of the House interject politics where it did not belong: into an oversight body of our necessary relief funds.

Now I want everybody to understand what the CARES Act did, the CARES Act that got held up for more than a week. Yes, at the end of the day it changed from that one Sunday night. Kennedy Center and others got some more money, but it didn't change for what the work was going to be done, for the people who needed it.

Yes, some people, unfortunately, got laid off because it was delayed. It wasn't a bright moment for this body that week. But inside that CARES Act, not only did we provide resources, we provided accountability.

You see, every single committee in Congress has an oversight. We have a committee just designed for oversight. But we wanted to make something to make sure it was bipartisan, so we created three new entities in the CARES Act just for oversight.

The first is called the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. It is made up of inspectors general, not Republicans or Democrats. They are independent and professional.

The second is a Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. This individual is appointed by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and lasts for 5 years. And we gave $25 million to make sure they had the resources to make it happen.

But that wasn't enough. We created a third one. Now, this one is the Congressional Oversight Commission, with commissioners. This body is appointed by congressional leadership.

On our side of the aisle, we appointed FRENCH HILL. Why? First, he is a statesman. He worked at the Treasury Department. He knows things backwards and forwards, so they can't ever fool FRENCH HILL.

I was very excited when I heard, on the other side of the aisle, they appointed DONNA SHALALA, the former Secretary of HHS.

You see, this body won't be weighted by one side or the other. All four leaders, Republican and Democrat, appoint one, so it is equal.

And then you know what happens for a chair? MITCH MCCONNELL and Speaker PELOSI decide who to become the chair. I think the American public says that is right. But they don't go and hide inside a corner. They literally report to Congress every 30 days.

I was proud of that accomplishment. That is what America expects from us: no politics, but the very best on there, and report back.

But today, when we come back because it was delayed, to give small business the resources it takes to keep people employed, now we added a little politics to the game. You see, today, we will vote on a new Oversight Committee.

Will it be equal? Will it be the same number of Republicans and Democrats like the congressional one? No.

Will it be the same when it comes to the inspectors general, where it won't care about politics? No, sad to say not.

You see, this committee will be the only committee weighted politically. There will be seven Democrats and five Republicans. This committee was announced before they even told the mission of what this committee should do. They even announced the chair of the committee.

Now, I respect the chair greatly, Madam Speaker. He has one of the best political minds I know. Joe Biden will tell you that. You see, our dear friend Congressman CLYBURN should be credited with getting Joe Biden the nomination. While he failed in all the other States, South Carolina was critical.

He did politics very well in the endorsement. He turned the tide of the Democrat nomination. And they will have a nominee, and a lot of that will go to JIM CLYBURN, and he deserves the credit politically for what he was able to accomplish.

We do not question his political abilities. He is the majority whip. He knows how to gather votes. He knows how to make the political argument. But, Madam Speaker, this is the same individual who said that the pandemic presented the perfect opportunity to restructure things to fit our own vision.

I do not question his appointment. I wonder why this committee. If that was his view, why wasn't he put on the congressional oversight that was equal with the number of Republicans and the number of Democrats?

The public does not want to see politics. Why would we waste our time bringing people back to create a political committee? I guess the vote will tell us differently.

It is interesting to know why we are here. At 8:30 today, we actually found the reason, 4.4 million more reasons why we are here. How many of those 4.4 million would not have gotten a pink slip last week had we listened more than 2 weeks ago, on April 7, when we said the program we created that was so successful, that was able to do the number of loans in 14 days that it took the SBA to do in 14 years, that there was such a need out there that maybe we would overcome politics for that one moment. Could it be too much to read that it was one simple page?

I thought there was a moment in time it would happen. I thought we could say yes on a unanimous consent, this is a program we all had just voted for and surely just 2 weeks before.

Yes, that was tough to get that bill through. Yes, we had to have it held up on the other side. That was wrong that other millions were laid off. But this was the moment to learn from that mistake on the other side before. We did not learn. It was played again.

To those 4.4 million Americans who were laid off this week: Congress owes you an apology. You did not have to have that happen.

To the small business owner: I understand this greatly. At age 20, I created my first business. I know where you make these decisions. You make these decisions on the kitchen table.

If you ever had a small business, you realize you are the first to work, you are the last to leave, and you are the last to be paid. You know those who work with you are not just employees, they are your family. You know their children's names. You are there at their weddings; you are there when they graduated; and you are proud of them. You never want to have to say you are going to lay them off.

They put everything into their business to succeed, and government told them they had to shut down for the health of the Nation. They made a sacrifice. But they got sacrificed for politics last week.

Shame on this body.

I have listened to this debate thoroughly. I have listened to the other side.

□ 1400

When you look at what we accomplished in those 14 days alone, we saved 30 million jobs. We all could have put a tweet out today not having to be in here and say we saved 34 million jobs, but, no, 4 million more lost because somehow people felt good with politics.

I listened to debate on the other side. Some actually said they don't want to be here today: We shouldn't have folded and actually came together. We should have used leverage even further, used that political leverage to hold people up.

I have even seen some people on the other side of the aisle say they loved to see it when the price of oil dropped, when no one had seen it before, and the idea that millions in our energy industry are going to get laid off, too.

It doesn't matter about politics. There will be Democrats and Republicans both that get laid off.

Then I listened as we come back here, Madam Speaker, and I tried to listen to the other side. I tried to understand: Why would you hold it up? What is different?

I listened to the debates. I listened to the leadership talk. It was amazing to me. In listening to it, the only thing I could think is what Shakespeare would say: ''The lady doth protest too much, methinks.''

If you have to explain as hard as you can and spin with as much political might as you can why you laid 4.4 million people off because you felt better to tell MITCH MCCONNELL that a program that put out funds and saved 30 million jobs, that you were going to hold it up to prove a point, that is not what I would want to hear in history.

Madam Speaker, as I said earlier, it is our responsibility to act, to put our differences aside and do what is right for the American public.

Now more than ever, the American people deserve a Congress that acts with leadership, dedication, and resilience. Anything we do in this Chamber that deals with COVID should be bipartisan, from legislation to deliberation to voting.

Yes, I stayed up until 2 a.m. to see what the majority wanted to put forward. We all work hard to get here. We all almost have about the same size districts, because every 10 years we take a Census to figure that out.

Our constituents make a decision every 2 years to lend their voice to the person they want to represent them. They did not lend their voice to give that proxy to somebody else they cannot hold accountable. They did not lend that voice to wait until 2 a.m. to change more than 200 years of history because somebody wanted to have more power than the job of the majority themselves.

We are living in one of the greatest turning points in history. This is not a time for indifference, selfishness, or division.

We are going to help America get through this. We are going to do this together. In the end, we are going to be stronger, healthier, and more united than ever before. Why? Because we are Americans, and that is who we are.

This body will raise debates. This body plays politics many times, but now is not the moment for politics. Now is not the moment to say: Let's hold something up even if somebody is going to be punished, because somehow I will get a political advantage.

Finally, when people come together, the statement should not be: Let's hold more leverage, because it is okay because, when we come to the floor, we will spin it and say it was not us.

But when we are long gone, history will write about this day. They will write about that day on April 7 when America witnessed something they have never seen before, when one stood before the Chamber in the Senate and requested to add exactly what we are doing today to a program to keep people hired in all the places we know and love in our neighborhood, and one party sent two people, in the middle of COVID, onto the floor to raise a simple hand to say they object. That was the only thing holding the money up between the American public and those 4.4 million who unfortunately went to a different job today: the unemployment line.

I don't know how anybody could be proud of that, but, Madam Speaker, I am always an optimist. I know what has been before us. I know the challenge. Today, we are going to display to the American public that we can work just as those truck drivers, those medical professionals, the checkers at my local Vons, or the paramedic who comes when the call is requested. They are essential. I think it is essential to this country to show we can do our job not in a partisan way.

So when the moment comes, you will have two votes. You have already voted, all of us here in the Chambers, to add three more committees that are bipartisan for the accountability of this money going forward. The country is asking you to keep that together.

So you will have a choice. Now you can cast a new vote to put in something partisan that we have never seen before with an individual who is one of the best political minds around, who believes that this virus is more about restructuring government in their view than solving a problem. Then you are going to have another vote, a vote to continue the funding that we already asked for more than 2 weeks ago.

This time, after twice holding up money from the American public, I just ask all in this Chamber to learn from this. Let's not hold up again our ability to help and work in a bipartisan manner to not only open this Chamber, but to work for the American public and solve this problem once and for all.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, a reminder that our job here is never to acquiesce to the other Chamber. By any objective measurement, this is a much-improved piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), whose heartfelt expressions on behalf of her constituents this week were well noted.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, in days, we will lose more American lives than we lost during the Vietnam war, 26 million Americans unemployed from COVID, body bags piling up, and insufficient testing and PPE.

Democrats took a bad Republican proposal and we made it better, but this is far from enough. CARES four has to meet the scale of this crisis with a bold paycheck guarantee that stops mass unemployment, an essential workers package, and State and local government funding.

Every minute, Madam Speaker, is a death, a family devastated, a business shuttered. We must think and deliver better.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, we are here today to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program, and that is a good thing.

We should have been here last week when the program ran out of money, and we will be back in the same position next week if we don't fix the PPP.

There are over 700,000 applications currently in the queue, and if the Treasury Department does not establish guardrails to differentiate between well-capitalized brokerage firms and undercapitalized mom-and-pop shops, we will not be helping the people who need us the most right now.

We need to get these small businesses and nonprofits every single penny they need to survive, and we must hold China accountable for every single penny.

Madam Speaker, this is not the time to be attacking each other. We must get through this crisis together. We must have each other's back. Let's have each other's back. Let's think with our hearts and our heads, and let's march through this together.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this economic boost is desperately needed as our Nation sits on such a dangerous precipice.

The bill offers hope to millions and millions of Americans, our small businesses, hospitals, and those on the front lines, yet I am troubled by the limited insight into how the last $2 trillion was spent and why so much has yet to be disbursed. It seems little went to those who need it most, while those with access had their takings.

Unfortunately, today's bill drastically shortchanges America's local communities and first responders as calls and pressure to reopen mount. Without data, it is shortsighted. It also offers no assistance to our postal service, whose jobs hang in the balance.

Madam Speaker, Congress must move America forward a step at a time. Lives are at stake. I urge my colleagues to vote for this important bill.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

This bill is a Band-Aid, and it doesn't even cover the wound. It is better than no bandage, but it won't stop the bleeding in our economy, and it won't stop this virus.

In light of COVID–19 and the reaction to it, Congress urgently needs to lead by example and get into full session safely, but fully functional, laser focused, 24/7, in full compliance with the House rules for debate, amendment, and voting.

Every one of us has a duty to balance and consider public health and our economy, but every single one of us swore an oath to support and defend our Constitution, to defend freedom and represent our constituents.

It is time to support and defend it. It is time for us to occupy this House and man our duty station and win.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, today I will vote to extend a lifeline to small businesses, shore up our hospitals, and expand testing so we can reopen our economy, but it is unacceptable that it has taken this long.

Supporting hospitals and small businesses is not partisan, but, again, politics is obstructing policy.

This bill fails to ensure relief goes only to small businesses that need it most instead of large corporations, nor does it help States respond to this unprecedented crisis.

We cannot wait until the next disaster forces both sides to the table. Our constituents deserve more from their Representatives. Let's come together and get our country back to work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida). Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) controls the time of the gentleman from Texas.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support a lifeline for our small businesses, for our first responders, for our hospitals, but I also rise today to say now is the time to stop writing checks on money we don't have that is mortgaging the future of this great country. I was not sent here to bankrupt this country.

Secondly, we need to get our businesses to open the doors and do what Americans have always been allowed to do, which is go to work. Now is the time. There is one person who can do that, and that is the Speaker of the House. I urge her to get us back to work.

We are getting paid; many Americans are not.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have heard a number of people, including my friend, the minority leader, stand up and say we need to act in a bipartisan fashion, and the next statement is a partisan attack on one of our Members. It is either schizophrenia or a lack of understanding of what this Congress has been doing over the last few weeks.

I don't know about you, Madam Speaker, but I have been working 6 hours, 7 hours on the phone and another 3 or 4 hours reviewing the materials that have gotten us here today.

Why did it take so long? Because it took 2 weeks for my Republican colleagues—and this is a partisan statement, I understand that, but I think we ought to all be realistic.

We are all trying to get to a place where America and Americans are safe and where our economy is working, because the statistics we see are statistics of pain and of fear and of anxiety about tomorrow.

□ 1415

So what have we been doing? We have been on the phone with one another. I have talked to the minority leader numerous times over the last 2 weeks, not only on this particular piece of legislation, but on the process going forward.

So if anybody on that side is saying that Congress is not working, they must be speaking for themselves, because every one of these colleagues on my side of the aisle—and I believe on their side of the aisle—has been working very hard: in touch with their local government, in touch with their Governor, in touch with their healthcare delivery people, anybody who works in a hospital or a healthcare center or a federally qualified health center. They are working hard.

Let us not denigrate ourselves or this institution or our commitment to the American people because that is blatant partisanship.

We waited 2 weeks, Madam Speaker, that is correct. What for? So that the proposal that we made 2 weeks ago—or 3 weeks ago—which has now effectively been accepted by the Republicans would be accepted. That is what we waited for.

And what did we get? $120 billion additional money for small business. And be assured, we are talking about for the small business. What this bill does is puts $120 billion, in addition, $370 billion, for small business.

Now, we are talking about bipartisanship. The first bill we did dealing

with coronavirus on this floor passed 415–2. It doesn't sound like partisanship to me. It sounds like we came together and agreed on how we could help. And it wasn't enough.

And then on phase two, which we passed on March 14, 10 days later, is Congress not working? Ten days later, we passed 363–40. It doesn't sound like partisanship to me.

And then phase three we passed on March 27, 13 days later, on a voice vote, with only one Member in the Senate or the House demurring.

It doesn't sound like partisanship to me, Madam Speaker, and I don't think today's vote will be a partisan vote. I certainly hope it will not be.

Why? Because for the last 2 weeks, we have been working with one another to try to get to a place where we think we are giving the needed resources, because we think the initial request was shortchanging hospitals, shortchanging testing. It still shortchanges our States and local government, and so we will need another bill to try to get there.

Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the Senate came together to pass this legislation in a bipartisan way. Now, unlike the House, no Senators came to the floor except three or four. They did it by unanimous consent. We are not able to do that—although I think this bill will pass overwhelmingly—because some of our Republican friends wanted to vote.

Fine. We are here. We are wearing masks. I am not wearing a mask while I am speaking, but as soon as I stop speaking, I am going to put my mask back on as I turn around to go among us. Congress is doing its job.

And I want to tell the American people one more time: Members are working daily to respond to the coronavirus that is putting our people and our country and our economy at risk.

Last month, we enacted emergency legislation that included more than $2 trillion in assistance for workers, veterans, small businesses, healthcare systems, and communities dealing with the spread of coronavirus. One of the programs we created together was the Paycheck Protection Program to try to keep people on a payroll, even if they could not go to work because health professionals say don't congregate.

The Paycheck Protection Program provides loans to small businesses that will be forgiven—that will be forgiven—if they keep their workers on the payroll. The need was so great that the initial $350 billion, as has been pointed out, in funding, Madam Speaker, was exhausted in a matter of days. So, today, we are providing another $310 billion for that program, and an additional $60 billion for the most at-risk small businesses.

Critically, $60 billion of that, as I just said, will be set aside for smaller banks where they focus on community development financial institutions that service businesses in rural and minority communities that were left out of the initial program.

I bet if you ask your small businesses or rural people, your hospitals or those State officials who are saying testing is essential, I bet they would say: I am glad you waited because you got us resources that we needed.

That wasn't in the initial proposal, of course, that came from the administration, and it was objected to, and the leader in the Senate would not provide for such sums.

More help is still needed, of course, for nonprofits as well as small and minority-owned businesses, those in underbanked communities and the self-employed. Those must be, Madam Speaker, priorities in the next bill that, clearly, is going to be necessary.

In addition to the increased funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, Democrats insisted on recapitalizing economic injury disaster loans as well, providing an additional $60 billion for this program, which can be leveraged to $300 billion.

Yes, we asked for, we worked for, we negotiated to get small businesses, minority businesses, businesses that couldn't get into the system that the other bigger businesses got in—some so big that they were ashamed and gave the money back.

We are also providing an additional $75 billion for hospitals and, crucially, $25 billion for testing.

I guarantee you, not one of your hospitals is going to call you up and say: You should have acted sooner and not had the hospitals in there—not one of them. And no Governor or county executive or mayor or county commissioner or county council person is going to say: Gee whiz, we didn't want that money for testing.

We will not be able to return our economy to normal operations, Madam Speaker, without a robust testing system in place to know we can safely go to work without putting workers at risk and to identify those who have coronavirus so we can take necessary steps to isolate them and trace those with whom they came in contact, because that is how we win this battle.

This bill is an interim step, the fourth interim step as we continue to work on the next major piece of legislation. I hope we can include, by the way, Madam Speaker, in the next bill, provisions that, unfortunately, we were unable to secure in this bill.

First of all, we shortchanged—we are all in the Nation's Capital. Millions of Americans come here, and we gave Wyoming and Vermont—small States, less population than the District of Columbia, the Nation's Capital, to which millions of your constituents will come. We shortchanged them by giving them 40 percent of what we gave the smallest States, smaller than the District of Columbia.

We wanted to add that $700 million in this bill. Unfortunately, we couldn't get agreement on that. I think that was penny-wise and pound-foolish for those of us who want our constituents to visit Washington to see their government.

We also must include more help for State and local governments. They have been on the front lines of fighting this scourge and, as a result, have spent a lot of resources they budgeted for other issues, including employees, including police and fire and health workers. We need to do that. We wanted to do it in this bill. But those of you who argue for delay, I will bet that you are going to vote in the next tranche for additional State and local help—maybe not all of you. Why you are delaying that help is beyond me.

This, by the way, is not an abstract accounting problem. We are talking about States and counties across the country being able to keep teachers, first responders as tax revenues collapse due to the necessary social distancing.

This pandemic, Madam Speaker, has shown a spotlight on the stark disparities in health status and treatment of African Americans in particular and minority communities in general. That reality is an indefensible and unacceptable one.

While we do include new ways of tracking certain data relating to racial disparities in this pandemic, there is more we must do, not simply for those who are at greater risk, but for all of us who wear a mask; not because we don't want to be with one another, but because this pandemic has made us a risk to others, to our neighbors, our friends, our family.

Furthermore, we need to do more to protect our elections. My Governor has ordered that an election that is coming up next Tuesday be all by mail. Now, in Wisconsin, the Governor tried to do that and Republicans fought us. The Republican speaker of the Wisconsin House was covered from head to toe in a gown, super mask, and gloves.

Do we want to ask all of our citizens to be so at risk because they are exercising their franchise to vote in America? I surely think that is not the case.

And so we need some additional money to facilitate, because they didn't plan on it, because they didn't plan on this pandemic, to allow our citizens to vote, to encourage them to vote, to facilitate their vote, to welcome their vote, and to provide for a way that they can do it safely without endangering themselves or others.

Furthermore, we need to do more to protect our elections in this administration. I am glad that the House is moving forward today with the creation of a select committee to oversee the coronavirus response.

Now, my friends on the other side of the aisle had eight different partisan commissions overseeing what happened in Benghazi where four American lives were tragically lost. 44,575 Americans have lost their lives. Is it too much to ask that we would have a special committee to make sure that the money that we are appropriating in historic amounts is spent correctly?

Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the extraordinary sums we have authorized and appropriated are disbursed efficiently and consistent with our intent. Such great sums can not only be a source of economic recovery, but, surely, everyone on this floor knows that that sum of money on the table can also be a magnet for waste, fraud, abuse, and, yes, criminality. We owe the American people, as we appropriate unbelievable sums, to make sure that the American people are the ones advantaged.

Any time Congress spends taxpayer money, particularly in such large amounts, we owe it to the American people to know where that money is going and to ensure that it is being spent as directed.

Now, I know the President of the United States said he is going to do the oversight. I don't think that is what the Framers had in mind in terms of checks and balances.

And in the most efficient and ethical ways possible, we must know which programs are working best, which aren't, and that way we can modify what we do in the future.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Speaker PELOSI. I want to thank the chair of the Small Business Committee, and I want to thank the chair of the Financial Services Committee. I want to thank the chair of the Education and Labor Committee.

I want to thank Mr. NEAL, who is on the floor, and many other chairs, Mr. PETERSON, who is very nervous about not having a nutrition program in this bill, which we wanted. That would have delayed it further because, of course, we didn't get support on the other side of the aisle for that. But people are in incredibly long food lines because their nutritional health, as well as their psychological health, is at risk because they can't get food.

□ 1430

I thank Speaker PELOSI for having the courage and the wisdom to stand up and say, ''We need these items.'' And we have gotten a lot of them. We asked for $500 billion total. This is $484 billion total.

My, my, my, you held out for 2 weeks for a $16 billion savings.

I also thank our Members who have been working—let me repeat this once again, Madam Speaker. These Members, those Members, have been working round-the-clock to make sure their communities are safe, to make sure their hospitals are getting what they need, to make sure that their teachers are teaching kids at home. Everybody has been working hard. You may not see us, but millions and millions and millions of Americans are working at home. They are teleworking. That is essentially what we have been doing—teleworking. And don't tell them they are not working, because they know they are working. They have been a credit to their districts. Every Member—Republican, Democrat—I presume, and I only know about the Democrats—225 of our 234 have been on the phone 2½ hours a day talking back and forth between one another to see what policies we need. They have been a credit to their districts, to the institutions of the House and this Nation, spending hours on the phone, through videoconference, making sure that Congress is doing its job, and talking to State and local leaders and healthcare providers.

Let me thank the Members and staff who volunteered to be here on the floor. We will go off the floor and we won't be as exposed as they are. They are all wearing masks. They are wearing masks because they know there is a risk. Perhaps not as great a risk as those courageous individuals who work in our hospitals and our healthcare providers in many different modes, but courageous and patriotic, nonetheless. Thank you, staff.

I thank those who are working in our grocery stores, our police, our fire, our truck drivers, who are getting food and products from here to there; EMS personnel who respond to emergencies; delivery workers. And every time I go to the grocery store—and I hope all of you do it—I thank those people who are stocking the shelves. I thank those people who are checking us out. I thank those people who are putting the carts where they need to be. They are the best of America, and we owe it to them to do all we can to bring this pandemic to an end as quickly and safely as possible. We all want to go back to work in the regular fashion. The Democratic-led House will continue to do everything possible, working with our Republican friends, who we believe want the same objective, a safe America, a working America.

We want to help small businesses, workers, and their families get through this crisis, and to ensure that our courageous healthcare workers who are on the front lines have all the support necessary to win this fight against COVID–19.

Madam Speaker, I hope, and I pray that every Member of Congress will vote for America and Americans, and vote for this bill. We may need more, but we certainly need to do this this day and get more assistance to the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) controls the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds. Let me fact-check the absurd claim that Congress has left State and local governments behind.

We fund one-third of State budgets year-to-year. We have already given $150 billion direct aid to State and local governments. Some Democrat governors haven't even sent it down to their local communities.

$260 billion in State unemployment; $100 billion for State and local hospitals in healthcare; $45 billion for State and local disaster aid; $30 billion for State and local schools and colleges; $25 billion for State and local mass transit; and more Medicaid money for our State and local governments. That claim is simply absurd.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, a month ago we stood on the floor and we authorized a $2.2 trillion stimulus package. Today, we will authorize another $480 billion to keep it going. By law, the U.S. economy is mostly shut down. As long as that is the case, we have an obligation to facilitate relief. So with anxiety, I will support an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program.

Madam Speaker, most of the Members have not been here the last month. We have been working, but we have been working from home due to health concerns. And by most of Congress not being here, that means only a few negotiate the deals, and these are very big deals.

Madam Speaker, our job is here. No more bypassing of regular order. This virus may threaten our health, but when all of us aren't involved in the work of Congress, our Republic is threatened.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, the gentleman has already said that he intends to visit the issue immediately of more aid for State and local governments, and be assured, based upon the negotiations and discussions we have had in our caucus, that opportunity will present itself in the near future.

Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, families are in crisis, food pantry lines around the block, rent is due again in 8 days. The community health centers and hospital workers in my district are desperate. This is a crisis within a crisis, exacerbating every inequity that already existed. This Chamber will determine how many more lives we are robbed of. Now is not the time for a back-pass.

Our Nation is crying out. The people are crying out, and we must answer their cries in the CARES package with a bill that puts the people first. Now is not the time to rest. We took an oath. People are counting on us. They deserve healthcare and economic housing justice. We cannot continue to leave out our immigrant neighbors and minority-owned small businesses.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation. This very important legislation, the Paycheck Protection Program, has proven to be a great program that has saved many small businesses in the First Congressional District of Georgia, and there

are many small businesses that still need this program. Therefore, the extra funding that we are sending here today is going to be utilized and utilized in a great way by these small businesses.

Also, there are $75 billion in there for hospitals, and hospitals—particularly rural hospitals—are extremely important in this scenario as well. We need to make sure that money gets to them.

Oh, by the way, speaking of hospitals, Madam Speaker, heroes come and go but legends last forever. We have heard that before. Today, our heroes are wearing white lab coats. They are our doctors, our pharmacists, our healthcare workers, our nurses, who are providing healthcare services, risking their own health in order to provide these healthcare services to our citizens. I thank them for that. Our country thanks them for that. Their service will be legendary.

And finally, Madam Speaker, for all of those in the First Congressional District and throughout our country who have lost loved ones, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in the Bronx and Queens, New York's 14th Congressional District, the most impacted district in America, calling people losing their families every day, it is a joke when Republicans say that they have urgency around this bill.

The only folks that they have urgency around are folks like Ruth's Chris Steak House and Shake Shack. Those are the people getting assistance in this bill. You are not trying to fix this bill for moms and pops. And we have to fight to fund hospitals, fight to fund testing. That is what we are fighting for in this bill. It is unconscionable. If you had urgency, you would legislate like rent was due on May 1st and make sure that you include rent and mortgage relief for our constituents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the ranking member yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, since the establishment of the PPP, I have heard from countless local, small businesses that the application process was difficult to navigate. In response to these revelations, I submitted to leadership a letter asking that any future funding for PPP loans contain a set-aside for the truly small businesses, like the mom and pops.

I was pleased to see this take its form in today's funding package that sets aside funds for small community banks and credit unions, which have a good track record working with our small businesses.

Madam Speaker, it would be a tragedy if we lost these mom-and-pop businesses. I have a business in my district. It is Faklis' Department Store and Shoe Repair. They have been around since 1912, Madam Speaker. I don't want to see them go. The store was established by Greek immigrants and passed on from generation to generation. It would be a great tragedy if we lost them. They survived World War II, of course, World War I, and the Great Depression. Let's save our small businesses. They are the backbone of America.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This urgently needed legislation will help provide almost $700 billion in additional grants and loans to small businesses and farmers reeling from the coronavirus crisis. It invests $75 billion in providers, $25 billion in testing, and requires the administration to develop a national plan for testing, so once our businesses reopen, they can stay open.

Congress has more to do. Frontline workers need PPE. Families and communities need relief. But this bill is a necessary interim fix to keep needed-funds flowing to small businesses and our health system.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB).

Mr. LAMB. Madam Speaker, a Senator said yesterday he would let local governments go bankrupt. And while he said that, our local county executive was busy loading food into people's cars. Cars that had toolboxes and work boots in them, and people who were nonetheless hungry.

If the Senator has his way, it is these people whose towns will go bankrupt. He talks about the economy. And I asked, ''What happens to an economy where entire towns of firefighters and teachers and others lose their paycheck or their pension?''

We are moving the ball today, but no one should mistake this for a touchdown. The Senator would send our best players off the field. The American people will never accept that, and neither should we.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI).

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. As a small business person, I am glad that it helps small businesses. As the husband of a physician who is treating COVID patients today, I am glad that it helps hospitals. But as an American, I am glad that we are coming together to help those whose lives are falling apart. We must do more, but let's come back together again and resolve to do this in a bipartisan fashion once again.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL).

Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL. Madam Speaker, South Florida is hurting. My community is calling me in tears because they don't know how they are going to make payments or keep their businesses afloat, and hospital workers are afraid of losing their jobs. And to make matters worse, Floridians—over 1 million Floridians—still cannot access unemployment benefits.

Although I am happy to support this legislation to support our small businesses, we need to make sure that it is those small mom-and-pop businesses, minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, veteran-owned businesses, that receive that funding. We have not done enough for America. We need to continue to work.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE).

□ 1445

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today because I agree with my colleagues across the aisle. We should have been here weeks ago: weeks ago to get more money for our hospitals, weeks ago to protect testing, weeks ago to improve this program for small businesses.

But, alas, only in Washington, D.C., would we wait weeks when we all agree. But let's move forward because our frontline workers right now cannot afford for us to stand by for politics.

Leader MCCONNELL said to our cities and States, to our cops and firemen and teachers, he told them to drop dead. Well, why don't we put politics aside, rise up, and tell him that we put the country first.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I am going to vote for this bill because it provides desperately needed money for small businesses and hospitals. But we have got to do better by our State and local governments. We must support the work of our cops, firefighters, EMTs, and teachers.

New Jersey is critical in the fight against this virus. We have more scientists and engineers per square mile than anywhere in the world and the best education system in the country,

so supporting our State and local governments in New Jersey is key to beating this virus and taking care of Americans.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I support this legislation as a critical lifeline to small businesses coping with the crisis and the hospitals on the front lines of this war.

SBA loan programs are vital to Main Street businesses across my district, and I am proud to support them. But this must-pass bill should also include support for America's smallest and medium-sized communities who face the very real possibility of eliminating basic services without our support.

The same police and fire, health department and sanitation workers who are risking their lives every day now have their jobs at risk. They deserve better. We should give them better. Let's do it.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, shame on those who would not tell the truth during a pandemic. Though more help is needed, I rise in support of this interim funding bill.

These dollars must actually make it to those who need it: small family businesses, minority- and women-owned businesses, so many I have talked to over these last few weeks. Their future and our economy depends upon it.

For healthcare workers saving lives, we have the responsibility to do all we can to help protect those who are saving our families' lives.

To reopen our country, we need testing, testing, testing. I look forward to the next more robust and even more equitable bill of relief for the people.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES).

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the aid that we will deliver today.

My small State of Connecticut will soon pass 2,000 fatalities. These are our neighbors. These are people we know and love.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the bipartisanship that will be demonstrated today. It will save lives.

Our small businesses are critical to our economy and to opportunity, but so are our hospitals and the heroes who work in those hospitals. So are our EMTs and our paramedics and our police officers and our firefighters. I say that not to make a political point, but to say that they will need our help in the coming days, and we need to tease out more bipartisanship to get that done quickly.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROUDA).

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation.

But let's be clear: 50,000 of our fellow Americans have already died. We have 26 million Americans out of work. We have tens of thousands of small businesses that will not be able to participate in this legislation because we haven't funded it enough, and we have cities clearly looking at the prospect of bankruptcy.

So we do have a lot more work to do, and I hope we can continue to work in a bipartisan fashion, stop the partisan sniping, and do what we were meant to do here to protect our country.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, healthcare workers and small businesses are struggling to stay alive. That is why Democrats fought to ensure hospitals and Main Street get this jolt of relief.

We walled off billions in new Paycheck Protection Program funds for smaller community banks and credit unions so Wall Street doesn't vacuum it all up.

Let's face it: If healthcare workers cannot safely protect us, America's economy stops. So Democrats secured $75 billion for healthcare providers and $25 billion more for testing. Without mass testing, we can not fully reopen, and we end up voting for endless relief packages.

Without Democrats' push for truly small businesses, big business would have continued to cut the line.

We will rescue schools and local governments in CARES Act 2. Right now, this is the adrenaline shot that the healthcare system needs.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, we need to shift from the economic to the biological focus on defeating this disease.

Everyone should wear a mask, including you, Mr. President, whenever you might be within 6 feet.

And we need to provide free masks to the homeless and others.

We need more money for better paid sick leave so all those with symptoms can stay home.

And so far, only one-tenth of 1 percent of the coronavirus money has gone for medical research to prevent and treat the virus.

Now, I am pleased this bill has money for testing and to develop new tests. The next bill needs $5 billion to research therapeutics.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and to highlight the need for reliable testing.

Last week, Pastor Joseph Owes succumbed to COVID–19. He was a pillar in our community, hosted food banks, health fairs, job and financial literacy workshops to help his community.

He tried repeatedly to get tested but was denied time and time again because testing hasn't been available in my community. If he had been tested and treated earlier, he would still be here with us today.

Without tests, we don't know who has COVID and we can't open up our economy.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, people in my State of Minnesota are hurting, and I am sure everyone represents a State that is hurting.

It is indefensible for us not to support to replenish the PPP, but it is also indefensible for us not to focus on replenishing the coffers of Americans and focus on making sure they are able to support paying their rent, making sure that our cities and States are not going bankrupt, and making sure American families are not dying of hunger.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL).

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise to get Americans the support to keep them safe and make sure New Mexicans and rural communities get their fair share. By refilling small business forgivable loans and dedicating money to small lenders, this package will help New Mexicans who were crowded out of the first wave of funding.

I am also voting to save rural hospitals and to get testing and masks and gloves and gowns, all the things we need to keep us safe and to rebuild our economy.

There is still so much work to be done, and let's do that next step together.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, might I inquire as to how much time is remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 12½

minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, in the Northwest Bronx, in Washington Heights, Inwood, in Harlem and East Harlem, this pandemic is still ravaging Black and Brown lives. The economic plight this virus will leave will be unprecedented.

I am glad we are providing $60 billion for small businesses and fought for funding for hospitals and testing, but we must come back.

MITCH MCCONNELL's words are equivalent to Gerald Ford's words: Drop dead, New York.

But we will come back.

We must support State and local governments. We must support our communities. Our people are dying.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan relief package. The funds we are adding to the PPP and EIDL programs will go a long way in providing necessary support to small businesses. I am glad that small farms and ranches will now be eligible for the EIDL program and that we have secured additional resources for hospitals, workers, and testing.

While this is another great bipartisan step forward, more must be done, especially for our States, cities, and local governments. People are hurting. Time is of the essence. We must act now.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, this bill is only necessary because, in the last bill, Republicans prioritized a half-trillion-dollar gift to corporations that turned around and laid off workers who bailed them out.

Our people need us to prioritize public health and testing, and they need recurring monthly relief payments now.

This is Skylar Herbert. You need to see her face because there needs to be a human face to this pandemic. She is 5 years old, died from coronavirus. Skylar loved dressing up and performing, and she loved and adored being in kindergarten. Her death should be a wake-up call that we must act in urgency.

Her father, a firefighter, her mother a police officer, first responders, and the amount of guilt that they feel because maybe they didn't have access to testing, that is exactly why they are out there telling her story every single day.

Please, let's act now in urgency.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Michigan an additional 1 minute.

Ms. TLAIB. I urge my colleagues to please do more to save lives. It is immoral for us to walk away and take a month off when people, our neighbors, are dying and losing loved ones.

So, in memory of Skylar, in honor of her, please let's expand public health funding and testing for everyone.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. COX).

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I hear my colleagues on the other side today, one after another, crying about the replenishment of the PPP. They wanted to keep it as originally designed, where 4 percent of the borrowers got 45 percent of the money. I think the farms and dairies and small mom-and-pop shops in my district and across the country should get loans before big steakhouses.

I am proud of the work my Caucus has done to make the PPP a more equitable program, plus getting sorely needed funds for hospitals and testing, which we all know is what is required to reopen our economy.

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume as I prepare to close.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank many Members and staff who made sure this final product conveyed the values of the Democratic Caucus and will bring real life and relief to the American people.

First, I want to thank the Speaker, who has provided tremendous leadership to get this deal over the line.

Next, our deepest gratitude to fellow committee chairs and their contributions and shrewd negotiation of this package.

Small Business Committee Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Financial Services Committee Chairwoman WATERS deserve our thanks for securing funding for small businesses that will need it the most.

Thanks to FRANK PALLONE from the Energy and Commerce Committee for fighting for national testing as a strategy and securing funding to combat this public health crisis.

Each coronavirus relief package has been a herculean effort, and this one is no different.

With that, I want to close and wish good health to our colleagues and our fellow Americans, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume. I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman NEAL for his leadership and close working relationship on these key issues.

Look, this bill is 16 days too late, despite all of the denials you heard. We could have agreed on this bill in 16 minutes, Republicans and Democrats, but it got held up for all sorts of extracurricular stuff. We should have come together. It was delayed. Real people lost their jobs as a result.

Secondly, I want to thank President Trump, Vice President PENCE, the entire Cabinet, and everyone in the government who has done a remarkable job standing up the small business program in 7 days, in sending out individual rebate checks in 18 days rather than 70 months that it took the last time there were rebate checks. I want to thank that leadership in this coronavirus crisis, both on the healthcare side and with the economic challenges we face.

I want to thank Minority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY, who has done a remarkable job leading the Republicans in the House through each of these key emergency aid bills. I want to thank the leadership that supports him, ranking members who work with our Democratic colleagues to put together a bill we think is critical and urgent.

There is a guiding quote that I have kept as my computer screen saver for many years here in my office. It reads: ''I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure, which is: Try to please everybody.''

This bill doesn't try to please everybody or do everything. It focuses on replenishing small business loan programs that local businesses and their workers desperately need. It provides more funding for our hospitals and healthcare workers who man the front lines of this pandemic. It commits more of your tax dollars producing and distributing tests to communities that need them. These are immediate, urgent priorities right now, and we need to act right now.

I would point out, also, Mr. Speaker, that those who say we are not committed to State and local communities, this Congress, Republicans joined Democrats, sending $150 billion down to our State and local communities.

Unlike some Democratic Governors who are holding their dollars at the State capitol and refuse to share it with local communities, our Governor in Texas announced more than a week ago he was developing an approach to make sure all of our communities on the front line are getting help. Governors who are withholding that aid to small communities ought to be ashamed of themselves.

Finally, let's continue, after this work is done today, to work together with President Trump to apply maximum pressure to the coronavirus, help businesses create safe, healthy workplaces. Let's jump-start the economic rebound and accelerate a return to

work for those who are jobless or furloughed.

I urge strong and bipartisan support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we need to establish clarity in the RECORD.

This legislation is much improved over what came over to us from the Senate. This includes an additional $75 billion for our hospitals, $60 billion that is directed at people at the bottom end of the small business community.

In addition, we all agree in this Chamber that the following has to occur: testing, testing, testing. That was not in the legislation until we decided on this side to establish that as a marker. This legislation, on every basis, has been improved.

And let me just say this: President Trump has said more money for State and local governments, Republican Governors across the country and Democratic Governors, including the Republican Governor of Massachusetts who has spoken to me personally on this issue, as we go forward.

This is about the police, the fire, the EMTs. This is about the schoolteachers. This is about those individuals who make a difference in our lives, the postal workers every day, and not to forget those individuals whom we depend on and we have come to see just how important they are to all of us in the last few weeks. That is what the additional phase four will look like.

And with that, Mr. Speaker, with gratitude, I want to recognize the gentlewoman from New York. I must tell you that not only did she do a great job with authoring this legislation, but her patience in answering questions from colleagues during the course of the last 2 weeks has been remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, by providing $310 billion for PPP, this bill will allow the program to reopen and more small businesses to secure capital and keep employees on payroll—$310 billion.

When the Senate passed their bill, they passed $250 billion for small businesses. So it is not enough to pour funding into a program if loans are not reaching the intended businesses. All of us have been concerned by reports of big banks prioritizing large firms for this assistance.

Over 80 publicly traded companies have received loans through the PPP. Examples like this come to mind: Ruth's Chris Steak House restaurant got two loans for $20 million. And we have all this, 80 publicly traded companies. This underscores the need for oversight.

If the administration's implementation means giant companies secure loans while small businesses are left waiting, that problem must be corrected promptly. That is not what Congress intended, and the American people expect better.

By the way, today, this morning, as the chair of the House Small Business Committee, I held a hearing entitled, Member Day Hearing on COVID–19 Response and Recovery. Fifty-six Members of this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, all of them, came before the committee today, and every one, Republican and Democrat, expressed the fact that we needed more transparency, that we needed data, and that we needed to fight to make sure that this program serves every small business in every part of the country.

That is why my colleagues and I fought in this package to secure $60 billion in PPP funds set aside specifically for mission-based, community-oriented lenders. With this set-aside, more underserved small businesses will get loans.

In addition, this bill provides $60 billion for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, the EIDL program. Again, when they sent the bill from the Senate to the House, it didn't have any money for the EIDL program, for the disaster loan program.

Everyone who testified today before my committee was asking how we are going to make sure that their businesses, their constituents, will get disaster loans. Well, we have good news for them. The Democrats fought and secured not only $50 billion, but $10 billion in grants.

And I heard complaints about the fact that the grants program ran out of money and that people really like that program, the grants program. Well, I wanted $100 billion; we secured $10 billion. Again, we are putting in $10 billion in this bill that was not part of what Senator MITCH MCCONNELL sent to us.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Minority Leader SCHUMER, and Chairwoman WATERS for their efforts to include all these provisions, particularly the $60 billion carved out for minority businesses, for women-owned businesses, for veterans' businesses, for farmers to have a chance to secure a loan.

While this legislation is a building block, more must be done. In future legislation, we must help businesses shuttered for longer than 8 weeks.

This bill also does not address problems that let big companies snatch up loans meant for small businesses. To those large publicly traded companies who have already benefitted, I would suggest now would be a time to exhibit some good corporate citizenship by returning those funds.

To the small businesses out there who have not yet received help, whom my office hears from daily, I say this: We are not finished.

Getting these programs restarted and loans out the door is critical. Because of the improvements that we made to this bill, I will say that help is on the way and that we will hold the agencies accountable, that we must adhere to transparency, and that we must provide the data that we need in order to assess if this program is working as it was intended.

As chair of the Small Business Committee, I will fight tooth and nail for small businesses that have not yet received any assistance.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Senate majority leader that there are two Chambers. You can be sure that in this Chamber, I will be fighting nonstop for hard-hit States like New York.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I will be supporting this bipartisan relief bill.

It will give small businesses access to additional funds that will help them keep their doors open.

And, it will also assist hospitals overwhelmed by this virus, get health care workers the protective gear they need, and help expand rapid testing nationwide.

While this bill will do a lot of good, it still does not go far enough for my state of Texas and people across America.

Texas is 49th out of 50 states for testing per capita, and in large cities like Houston nearly 60 percent of COVID–19 related deaths were of African Americans and nearly 20 percent Latino.

We need to do more to help community health clinics helping poor people, expand mobile testing sites in hard hit communities, and deploy rapid testing nationwide now.

And we also need to ensure that we are getting more direct aid into the hands of folks across America.

This is critical as we work to responsibly open our country.

We must put working families first and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us in getting this done in the next package.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. This interim legislation is critical to support our small businesses and healthcare systems, but we must do much more to support families, communities, and our economy.

In the wake of the unprecedented COVID–19 pandemic, Congress acted swiftly to provide funding for hospitals and healthcare facilities, schools, states and localities, and small businesses. Unfortunately, the funding was not sufficient to meet the need and too many small businesses are left wondering if they can survive. I have heard from small business owners from across Northwest Oregon who were unable to access the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Grant funding. They described their frustration as the money was quickly exhausted; a significant amount going to large restaurant chains while small mom and pop businesses were left out. The pandemic continues to ravage communities and our economy remains largely shut down through no fault of the small business owners and workers who need our help in this unprecedented time. The bill before us today will provide the assistance those businesses need. The bill includes $310 billion in additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, with $60 billion of that funding dedicated for lending by community-based and small- and mid-sized lenders, including credit unions, community banks,

and other institutions that are prepared to lend to that small businesses that have traditionally been overlooked, such as minority-owned businesses, businesses owned by women and veterans, and small businesses in our rural communities. We must make sure this money gets to mom and pop businesses.

The bill also bolsters the Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Grant programs by providing $60 billion in funding, and expanding the program so farmers and many agricultural enterprises are eligible. The programs provide funding for small businesses to cover operating expenses, but were similarly underfunded for the demand.

H.R. 266 also provides $75 billion in much-needed funding for our hospitals and healthcare facilities. We know that these facilities are operating without the resources they need, and are unable to cover expenses because they can't perform elective procedures during stay home orders. The bill also includes $25 billion to expand testing, including funding for states and localities, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, and the Food and Drug Administration. We need to vastly expand testing capabilities if we are going to be able to get a handle on this pandemic, so I am thankful that this funding was included.

The funding included in this bill is critical to help our country, but we must do so much more to support workers, small businesses, and communities. Our work is far from done. I am continuing to fight for robust child care support, increased funding and capabilities for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, funding for workers and our workforce system through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and expanded access to capital through our credit unions to make it easier for them to lend to small businesses. I am also fighting to make sure that our state and local governments receive more funding, students and teachers have the resources they need, that people receive additional economic impact payments, and that our immigrant community is included in future relief efforts. I'm also advocating for workplace protection standards and essential pay for frontline workers during this pandemic. I am extremely disappointed that this bill doesn't recognize the increased number of people who are now food insecure and lack additional SNAP benefits that individuals and families desperately need. As we move forward, I will continue to fight for robust legislation to help individuals, families, and our communities and small businesses around the country.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I support this imperfect interim agreement. But I want to be clear, while it funds some key priorities, it leaves behind additional key assistance that we can provide to households, individuals, and state and local governments that are the tip of the spear in the fight against COVID–19. As we take up this bill, I recognize that it is a much better bill than the one Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL tried to ram through the Senate last week. Thanks to those who worked so hard to help accomplish that.

That being said, it is clear that this Congress has much more work to do to support the American people, our heroic public health and health professionals on the front line of this pandemic while fighting to get basic protective equipment, and to help support state, local, and tribal governments that are leading this response.

This legislation will temporarily refill the Paycheck Protection Program but if the experience of the first week of this program is any indication, demand will again quickly overwhelm this program and the program's funds will be quickly depleted. And while I support the changes to direct funds into the hands of some of the most vulnerable small businesses, that addresses just one of the numerous concerns about this program that my office has heard. And I know other Members have heard as well. More changes are needed not only to increase transparency and protect the taxpayer, but also to help this program work better for more vulnerable small businesses, not just larger corporations or friends of the Trump Administration.

I am also pleased that the bill includes additional funding to support our hospitals and other health providers that daily work to test, diagnose, treat those affected with this illness. They have saved countless lives. However, so far, the Administration has only released $30 billion of the first $100 billion provided by Congress a few weeks ago, with little if any of that money shipped out so far going to children's hospitals, community health centers or Medicaid providers, among others who are struggling.

The Administration needs to be more transparent about how it will distribute the remaining funds from the first round and the additional funding in this bill and how it will determine key terms, such as hot spots that it reportedly wants to target. And it needs to get these dollars out soon. Weeks more of delay is not acceptable.

Additional funding provided for our public health efforts through CDC, HRSA, and NIH is appreciated. But since this is a public health emergency, much more funding is needed especially as state and local governments are challenged by an economic slowdown that has imperiled their revenues.

There is more to be done and that must be done soon. We need another strong comprehensive bill in line with the CARES act that responds to emerging needs. Access to Personal Protective Equipment remains a struggle and testing remains a challenge even while the Administration pats itself on the back on both fronts.

Additionally, we need to ensure that critical programs that serve populations that will be hit the hardest by any economic downturn, like TANF and SNAP, are granted funding and flexibility to help people through these trying times. Having tried to take care of everybody else, our next package needs to look out for the least, the last, and the lost.

Lastly, one of the truly missed opportunities is funding to support safe and secure elections in this environment. Unfortunately, my state of Wisconsin has become an unwelcomed example of what happens when partisanship, rather than people's well-being, guides decisions about holding elections in this environment. In the city of Milwaukee, the largest city in the State, there were only 5 polling stations available. You can guess the result . . . long lines that both discouraged voting and raised a potential health threat to both voters and poll workers.

We know more elections will be held soon and regardless of decisions about reopening states and cities, they must take place in the safest and securest possible environment we can ensure. That requires funding. Funding to support a full panoply of voting options including absentee ballots and extended early voting periods. We also need funding to ensure localities have an adequate number of polling places and funds to ensure that all votes cast are counted accurately and fairly. And that's just to list a few of the reasons why funding to protect our election security is so fundamentally needed. In the recent Wisconsin election, nearly 80% of the ballots cast were absentee. But even there you had issues as you had people request a ballot who did not get one or had one sent after the elections, there were also issues with stacks of undelivered absentee ballots, and ballots returned because they did not have a postmark. The longer we delay providing these funds, the less likely we will get, despite the best efforts by hardworking state and local officials, a fair election.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the interim emergency corona virus package being considered today.

The last two months have been some of the hardest in our nation's history. The toll that this virus has taken on our economy and, more importantly, on American lives, has been staggering. Over the last few weeks, my office has received thousands of calls and emails from constituents who need help obtaining the important economic relief provisions secured by Congress.

While some small businesses and nonprofits in my district were able to access programs like the Paycheck Protection Program, many more were shut out from these critical funds.

Let's be clear—large companies and corporations never should have been allowed to receive funds meant for small businesses.

Now, it's up to us to begin to make this right and ensure that those small businesses most in need get access to replenished relief funds. Countless American jobs—and lives—are on the line.

The legislation before us today would provide an additional $310 billion in funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, including billions intended for businesses in underserved rural, urban and tribal communities. It also provides $50 billion for additional emergency disaster lending, translating into more than $350 billion in loans, and another $10 billion in emergency disaster grants.

In addition, this package continues our efforts to provide health care workers with the life-saving protective equipment they need to do their jobs safely and effectively by directing $75 billion toward hospitals and other health care providers.

Also of great importance to me is the $25 billion this package secures for testing, which is key to quickly and safely reopening the country. These funds will be critical in facilitating the large-scale production and rapid deployment of precise coronavirus testing—which public health experts agree is necessary to determine when people can get out of their homes and back into schools, the workforce and society.

Despite these important provisions, this package falls short in a number of areas.

For one, it is unacceptable that Republicans blocked more funding for state and local governments on the frontlines of this crisis. Right now, every American is benefiting from the

tireless work our local officials are doing to keep us safe.

However, without additional support from the federal government, the costs of the coronavirus response—on top of the reduced tax revenues caused by the economic fallout of the pandemic—threaten to bankrupt our communities and undermine public health efforts.

The fact that some in Congress and the Administration would rather bail out big corporations than support the local governments working day and night to keep us safe is unacceptable. We will not stop fighting until our communities get the support they need.

We also must continue fighting for the most vulnerable among us. Our immigrant communities, incarcerated individuals, undocumented people, poor families and many others are still being left out of important relief provisions.

If there's one thing we've learned throughout this pandemic, it's that we're all in this together. We have to look out for each other, and we have to do our part to take care of one another.

While I urge my colleagues to come together to pass today's package to bring additional relief to our small businesses and health care providers, we must continue working to ensure all those suffering from this pandemic can be made whole.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act. This emergency funding is the fourth bipartisan aid package to address the tremendous needs of the American people as we fight COVID–19 on both the public health front and the economic front.

The Democratic House has led the way to respond to this emergency. On March 4th, when the Administration refused to acknowledge the magnitude of this crisis, the House passed bipartisan emergency legislation providing four times the amount of funding for public health purposes than the Trump Administration originally requested. A week later, the House passed the bipartisan Families First Act, which recognized the importance of free coronavirus testing and the need for paid sick leave and nutrition aid for working families. On March 27th the House passed the bipartisan CARES Act putting families and workers first, instead of a corporate, trickle-down approach offered by the Senate.

Today, the bipartisan Paycheck Protection and Health Care Enhancement Act continues the House's work to respond to the pandemic. It flips an insufficient Republican proposal that left hospitals, Community Health Centers, and health care workers behind by nearly doubling the resources to provide badly needed assistance to them.

The legislation contains the following:

Small businesses: Adds $310 billion to replenish the Paycheck Protection Programs, reserving $60 billion of that funding for community-based lenders, credit unions and small to midsized community banks that work with the smallest of businesses. The bill also adds an additional $50 billion in disaster loans at the SBA and $10 billion in grants to small businesses and nonprofits.

$75 billion for hospitals, health systems, Community Health Centers, and other health care providers, including funds for Personal Protective Equipment for frontline workers.

For all Americans: $25 billion for testing, the key to reopening the economy. Today, approximately one percent of Americans have been tested. This legislation calls for a national strategic testing policy focused on increasing domestic testing capacity, including testing supplies.

This interim funding package will assist workers, families, small businesses, hospitals, and all our health care workers. The American people have tremendous needs and I'm proud to support this legislation to help meet them. There's so much more to do and I stand ready to work to meet our historic challenges. I support this legislation and will continue to support swift action by a Congress that aids a scientific public health response to the pandemic and a worker-first response to the economic crisis.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the sorrow being felt across the country as families mourn the loss of their loved ones to this terrible disease. In tribute to them, we do our work today.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

Our nation's health and economic recovery are inextricably linked during this pandemic. Today's vote is another win in the fight against the coronavirus. This legislation strengthens the Paycheck Protection Program by allocating an additional $310 billion in funding, with money reserved for community-based lenders, small and medium-sized banks, and credit unions to reach more small businesses. It also includes vital funding for our hospitals and health care workers and money for much needed testing.

While today's additional funding is a win, much more needs to be done. Without additional measures for testing, tracking, treatment, and ultimately a vaccine, we won't overcome this crisis. We must also do more to help individuals suffering from the impact on the economy, as well as non-profits not covered under the CARES Act, and state and local governments who have been devastated by lost revenues and protect essential workers.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than two weeks ago, I called for more funding for the Paycheck Protection Program, which has provided more than 1.6 million loans to small businesses across the country. I strongly support rapid passage of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act to support small businesses and our nation's health care professionals.

With this fourth Coronavirus response package, we have secured an additional $310 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program, and $60 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, to help more small businesses survive and continue to pay their employees.

In order to reopen our country, more testing must be made available so Americans can safely return to their normal lives and jobs. There is a dedicated $25 billion in this legislation to prepare and ramp up necessary testing to equip state and local decision makers with critical information to reopen our communities and reignite our economy. Finally, the $75 billion in additional funds will help hospitals and health care workers on the front lines continue to take care of those that are battling this illness.

It is critical that Congress continue working in a bipartisan manner to provide aid, relief, and economic security to the nation. With this in mind, I oppose passage of a resolution to establish a select subcommittee that is duplicative, unnecessary, and most likely a politically motivated tool to attack the President during an election year. Continuing to work across the aisle to provide our country the resources it needs is the only way forward.

I remain grateful to the incredible health care professionals, first responders, and essential service employees who are working tirelessly to keep our nation healthy. I also salute Americans who are following guidelines and doing their part to flatten the curve for not only their own health but for their neighbors.

The past few weeks have seen our nation unite to fight the Coronavirus. While these times have been challenging for all, I know that we will get through this.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I support the bipartisan agreement reached on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

Many California small businesses were unable to access the first round of loans made through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) established under the CARES Act (H.R. 748) because the initial round of funds was insufficient to meet the dire needs of our community during this time. Even more concerning, the Administration's bungled rollout of PPP has sown frustration and confusion at every point of the application process, denying many Santa Clara County small businesses a lifeline. I outlined my concerns regarding these flaws in my testimony to the House Small Business Committee on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

This bill will provide $310 billion in additional funding for PPP. More importantly, it will reserve $60 billion for small- and medium-sized banks, credit unions, and community-based lenders to ensure our relief efforts are reaching all communities. It also adds $10 billion to Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Grants and $50 billion to the Disaster Loans Program for our small businesses.

Our hospitals, health centers, and county health officials need the additional $75 billion in assistance to maintain necessary resources and procure more protective personal equipment for our healthcare workers who continue to give and risk so much.

Additionally, the nation needs the $25 billion for testing to guarantee a science-based transition for when communities are ready to reopen. A nationwide strategy with a focus on increasing domestic testing capacity will be critical for reopening the economy and for preventing a second outbreak.

Four bills and $2 trillion in emergency relief later, more is still needed. Specifically, we must provide additional direct funding for state and local governments and perform robust oversight on the allocation of funds for pandemic relief to prevent fraud and abuse. State and local governments need and deserve federal assistance. In CARES 2, we must make whole the state and local governments on the frontlines of this crisis and ensure our state, county, and city officials are equipped to preserve the health and safety of our community.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in the House and Senate to address specific community needs in any future legislation.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this economic boost desperately needed by

our communities. Our nation is on a dangerous precipice, an experiment with thousands of lives in the balance. This bill offers hope for thousands more small businesses, hospitals, and perhaps most importantly those on the frontline, with an infusion of $25 billion to ramp up desperately needed means to advance widespread testing. Testing is the key that offers containment of this virus.

I am troubled. Troubled by the little insight we have into how the last two trillion dollars approved by these hallowed chambers was spent by the Trump Administration. We must ask why so much has yet to be disbursed. We must question why little help was provided to those who need it most, while those with access had their takings.

I am proud of the work of my colleagues, particularly Small Business Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, Financial Services Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS, and our dedicated Speaker, who fought for $60 billion in community lending and a $310 billion infusion into the Paycheck Protection Program. This bill provides a great step forward and a vital lifeline to small businesses across Northern Ohio.

Unfortunately, this bill drastically shortchanges the localities now forced with overwhelming burdens, huge losses of revenue, huge cuts to budgets, forced decisions of laying off first-responders or cut back on other life-sustaining services. It also offers no assistance to our postal service workers whose jobs hang in the balance.

Calls to reopen without science and data are short sighted. Shame on Republican elected leaders who lead their constituents into the fire. What our constituents need is real leadership to keep them safe and supported until a bridge to the future for America can safely lead to reopening. Lives are at stake.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, in the last few weeks, my office has been flooded with calls from small business owners desperate for assistance but stymied by the slow response, unfair treatment, and limited funds of the small business programs set up by the CARES Act. I support this legislation because it is absolutely imperative that we recapitalize and improve PPP and EIDL to get small businesses the resources and support they need as fairly and efficiently as possible. I am also pleased this bill provides significant funding for hospitals and expanded testing, without which we cannot safely re-open the small businesses and other establishments we are trying to save. I am, however, all too aware that this infusion of money simply will not be enough to meet demand, and many of the problems my constituents have raised with PPP and EIDL are not addressed by this legislation.

I am disappointed that, despite the best efforts of my Democratic colleagues, this bill does not give state and local governments the funding and flexibility they desperately need to support their fights against COVID–19 and fill the massive revenue gaps they are facing. New York State faces a $10 billion loss of tax revenue. While we are the epicenter of the pandemic, we're not alone in our budget shortfalls. Oklahoma faces a $415 million gap, Arizona is looking at a $1.1 billion deficit, and Maryland could face a $2.2 billion shortfall. My Republican colleagues must come to the table and support additional resources for states and cities and give states additional flexibility in how they use the funds, including replacing lost revenue.

That being said, it is absolutely necessary that we pass this bill today and provide the SBA additional resources to support small businesses and ensure they make it through this pandemic. Of course there is more we need to do. Transit systems need billions in resources to stay afloat. Cultural nonprofits need funding and flexibility to re-open their doors when this pandemic passes. Renters desperately need emergency assistance to stay in their homes even with the eviction moratorium. The U.S. Postal Service is on the brink of collapse. Families need food assistance to keep their kids healthy. Hospitals and providers desperately need PPE. Our work is not done, and we cannot stop here. But today, we must pass this bill and get this small business funding flowing again.

I appreciate the efforts to get this interim bill done as quickly as possible, and I look forward to continuing our efforts to stop this pandemic, keep our country safe, and, when public health experts agree, thoughtfully and carefully re-open our economy.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's small businesses. As many of my colleagues are aware, our country's economy is built upon and benefits from the millions of entrepreneurs and innovators who go to work every single day for a small business. Without these small businesses and their employees, the United States would not be the economic hub it is today.

However, Mr. Speaker, these small businesses, along with our entire nation, have been presented with an unprecedented enemy. The 2019 novel coronavirus has wreaked havoc on our health, our economy, and our day-to-day lives. Everyday activities like visiting our loved ones, dining at our favorite restaurants, or cheering on our favorite teams have been placed on hold as we combat this virus. I believe the steps taken by this Administration and governors around the country, including Governor DeWine in my home state, to minimize the destructiveness of the coronavirus should be noted and applauded.

In Congress, we have worked to provide the necessary aid and relief sought by so many. We have extended health benefits—placing public health at the forefront of our battle. We have ramped up our equipment production to levels unseen for nearly 80 years, when we were fighting the Second World War. And perhaps most importantly, we have funded aid programs within the Small Business Administration to lift up America's small businesses.

The bill before us, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, will continue to support these critical efforts through much-needed supplemental funding. Earlier this week, I introduced my own resolution to recognize the enormous strain being placed upon our economy's engine, the small businesses that are the foundation of all our communities. To say that this Congress has come to the aid of small businesses would be fair; but, to say that our job here is done would be far from true. In fact, it is important now more than ever to double down on our support and ensure unwavering commitment to Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution specifically requests Congress to increase its support for America's small businesses. I am extremely pleased to see that programs such as the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program will receive the money needed to continue aiding our nation's small businesses. Of the $349 billion appropriated by Congress in the CARES Act for small business relief programs, my home state of Ohio received over $14 billion. These dollars are going to real businesses and helping communities, both large and small, across my district. I hope even more dollars make their way to Ohio as we get set to pass this relief bill before us.

This week, Congress will pass the fourth aid bill to help Americans. And much like the previous bill, the CARES Act, the bill before us increases funding levels for the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, while also ensuring our health care system receives the support it needs.

In addition to providing $370 billion of relief to small businesses, the bill includes $75 billion more for hospitals; the first tranche of this money from the CARES Act's fund has already gone out. Hospitals in my district have let me know how critical it was to receive this support. They have also let me know that more is direly needed. This is why we are here today; to respond to those calls for more help. The PPP and Health Care Enhancement Act also includes $25 billion for testing. I know from Ohio's governor that this is a key piece of the puzzle in safely reopening economic activity.

Congress must not hesitate in its efforts to combat the novel coronavirus. Congress must not hesitate in its appropriation of additional funds to support America's small businesses. It is imperative we use our time here as Representatives of our communities and the full capabilities of the federal government to protect Americans—both in terms of health and economic security. We will defeat this virus and we will emerge from this unprecedented time a stronger, more resilient nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and stand with small businesses and those on the front lines—without which, our nation would most certainly not be the global beacon of opportunity and freedom it is.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this emergency legislation makes key investments in programs that are critical to helping our hospitals and health providers continue to respond to COVID–19.

It also improves our testing capacity, which will be critical to combating the pandemic and reopening out economy.

This is not a perfect package, but no bipartisan agreement ever is.

It does not include clearer metrics for the hospital funding that I think is necessary to ensuring that funding is distributed in a way that is fair and equitable, transparent, and responsive to the areas that are treating the highest number of COVID–19 patients.

I also do not believe that the COVID–19 testing strategy is as strong as I would have liked. Right now, the Trump Administration has no clear plan, no clear benchmarks, and no clear timelines for setting up a national program that will reopen our economy. We must hold this Administration accountable for its abysmal response to testing, and I hope that we will be able to do more in the next package.

Having said that, I want to acknowledge the good in this bill, because I do believe it will provide some additional relief and guidance

that our states and local governments, territories, tribes, hospitals, and providers desperately need. We simply could not afford to wait, and thanks to our efforts we are providing some critical relief.

First, we include another $75 billion for the CARES Provider Relief Fund, or the hospital fund. This is $75 billion in addition to the $100 billion funding provided in CARES.

These funds can be used to reimburse hospitals or providers for expenses or lost revenues as a result of COVID–19.

The language remains the same as the CARES Act, so it will be critical that we continue to fight for clearer metrics for how future funding allocations will be distributed so that health care entities receive the funding they need to continue to treat patients and keep their doors open. We will also fight for transparency so that we have more real-time accounting of who is receiving these dollars and how much funding they are receiving.

We also address the critical issue of testing by making an additional investment of $25 billion. As the Speaker has been saying, testing is a essential component to how we respond, treat, and stop the transmission of this virus. Valid, widespread testing is going to be necessary if we are to reduce social distancing efforts and reopen parts of our economy.

The $25 billion investment in testing will be used for expenses related to all different areas of testing, including: research, development, validation, manufacturing, purchasing, administering, and expanding capacity for COVID–19 tests. This includes rapid point-of-care tests and serological tests.

Of that $25 billion, $11 billion will go to states, localities, territories, and tribes to develop, purchase, administer, process, and analyze COVID–19 tests. It will also fund scaling-up laboratory capacity, contact tracing, monitoring and surveillance, and supporting the workforce.

$2 billion of this $11 billion will go to the States consistent with the Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant formula, ensuring every state receives funding, and $4.25 billion will be allocated based on a state's relative number of COVID–19 cases. Tribes, tribal organizations, and urban Indian health organizations will receive $750 million for testing activities.

This $25 billion also includes key investments in our federal public health agencies—

$1 billion is provided to CDC for surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity expansion, contact tracing, public health data surveillance and workforce to support the expansion and improvement of COVID–19 testing;

$1.8 billion is provided to NIH to develop, validate and improve testing, including further development of rapid point-of-care and serological testing;

$1 billion is provided to BARDA for advanced research, development, manufacturing, production, and purchase of diagnostic, serologic, or other COVID–19 tests or related supplies.

$22 million for the Food and Drug Administration to support activities associated with diagnostic, serological, antigen, and other tests; and

$600 million to support testing activities at Community Health Centers, and $225 million to support testing activities at rural health clinics.

Finally, the package also includes up to $1 billion to cover the costs of testing for the uninsured.

And there are some other key Democratic priorities that were included in the package—reporting on demographic information related to testing, diagnoses and hospitalizations, and the requirement of a testing plan.

While the Republicans would not support real-time reporting of demographic data, we were able to include regular demographic data reporting—that is to be de-identified and disaggregated. This includes data on race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, and other factors for COVID–19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, and epidemiological analysis of such data.

We also were successful in adding a requirement for the Administration to submit a COVID–19 strategic testing plan that will detail how the Administration will increase domestic testing capacity and testing supplies, address disparities, and provide assistance and resources to states, localities, territories, and tribes. The plan is also required to include estimates of testing production and guidelines for testing, as well as an outline of Federal resources that will be able to support the testing plans of States, localities, territories, tribes, and tribal organizations.

This is an important provision—the Administration has been running away from trying to come to develop a federal testing plan. This requires them to do so.

While I would have required a more detailed report, with clearer benchmarks for the activities I just mentioned, including specific plans for adequate testing in underserved areas and populations, and expanding surveillance and contact tracing, this is a good first step.

We will all have to work together to hold this Administration accountable to produce a clear strategy for testing that will help us to reduce the spread of this virus, clearly identify cases and individuals with immunity, and expand capacity so that testing can help inform what communities may be able to reopen safely and without a surge in new cases.

These will be a priority as well as we draft the next package.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. Though this bill is far from perfect, it provides much needed temporary assistance to small business owners and hospitals impacted as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.

This bill includes additional funding for the Paycheck Protection Program and makes several vital corrections to loopholes in the program from the CARES Act. A lack of proper oversight in the previous package gave lenders the ability to pick and choose their loanees, therefore leaving smaller businesses like hair salons, independent restaurants, and dry cleaners, who may not have an established banking relationship, left without sufficient financial assistance. I am proud that House Democrats fought to include $60 billion in funding designated specifically for small and medium-sized lenders, which will go a long way in supporting small businesses bearing the brunt of this crisis.

Additionally, this bill provides critically needed funding and resources to support our hospitals, medical clinics, and local testing capabilities. We must ensure that when our communities are faced with this public health emergency, our healthcare system can provide the urgent medical attention they need. Included in this bill is $75 billion in funding to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to provide resources to the medical frontlines, including for personal protective equipment and health provider reimbursements. It also designates $25 billion in funding for COVID–19 testing expenses and mandates the development of a national strategic testing policy, focused on increasing domestic testing capacity, including capacity for testing supplies.

I am fighting for the city of Dallas, and all of the incorporated municipalities in my district, that are getting hammered by the necessary stay at home orders, to make sure that we receive funding to provide for essential services like fire and police.

As I mentioned before, this bill is far from perfect. Two priorities that must be addressed in upcoming packages are the need for increased funding to SNAP, due to the exponential need for food assistance in our communities, and expanded federal assistance to smaller municipalities like the cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville, and Lancaster, in my district. Now, more than ever, we must ensure that the most vulnerable among us are protected and that our local governments have the resources to support them.

At the same time, I am inspired to see organizations step up to the plate and help people in this time of need. Just last week, the North Texas Food Bank, along with the Texas National Guard, Fair Park First, Spectra, and In the City for Good distributed 6,500 boxes of food to over 2,200 households across the region. Looking at images of cars lined up for miles waiting to receive food should serve as a reminder of how much more we must do to ensure our constituents are successfully able to navigate through this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to provide critical funds and support for our neighborhood businesses; owners and employees. Now is the time for us to provide critical funds and support to the hospitals who will be fighting to keep our friends, family, and neighbors alive through this pandemic. It is my sincere hope that the next COVID–19 bill will better serve all of our constituents. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, as we continue the fight to help our constituents and all Americans as they face the devastating coronavirus crisis, I am voting today in strong support of H.R. 266, The Paycheck Protection Program and Healthcare Enhancement Act, to help protect American families, workers, and small businesses.

Democrats successfully fought to improve today's interim emergency relief package by ensuring greater access for small businesses in underserved areas, and by successfully adding billions more in funding for testing, hospitals, and the PPE for health care workers who are caring for those infected by the coronavirus.

For small businesses, this final agreement strengthens the Paycheck Protection Program with $310 billion in additional funding, more than the $250 billion initially requested. Democrats were able to set aside $60 billion to help unbanked and underserved businesses get access to PPP funding, including minority-owned businesses, urban and rural businesses, small ''mom-and-pop'' businesses,

and smaller nonprofits. This $60 billion includes $30 billion for community-based lenders and small banks and credit unions, and another $30 billion for medium-sized banks and credit unions. The agreement also expands small business support beyond PPP by securing $50 billion for Small Business Administration disaster lending, which translates into more than $350 billion in loans, and $10 billion in SBA disaster grants.

For hospitals and health care workers, Democrats secured $75 billion to help pay for Personal Protective Equipment and other resources. The Trump Administration has also agreed to key improvements to be made in CARES 2, including significantly lowering the interest rate on advance payments, lengthening the repayment schedule, and distributing payments from general revenues instead of the Hospital Insurance Fund.

For all Americans, we added $25 billion for testing, which is pivotal to reopening the economy and resuming our lives. The Trump Administration has agreed to a national strategic testing policy focused on increasing domestic testing capacity, including testing supplies.

I am also voting today to establish a bipartisan House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis, which will help ensure we fight this pandemic with an efficient, effective, and science-based federal response which saves lives and spends taxpayer dollars wisely.

The legislation we pass today will protect countless American lives and livelihoods.

However, we have much more to do. Next, we must pass a CARES 2 Act that builds on the bipartisan CARES Act we passed last month, so we can keep helping our families, workers, and small businesses to stay safe, stay healthy, and make ends meet.

And because the Trump Administration made the unconscionable decision to reject more funding for state, local, and tribal governments so they can pay their essential workers, we must redouble our commitment to include that funding in CARES 2. If governments cannot pay first responders, transportation personnel, and other crucial workers, we are all put at grave risk.

In these troubling times, the American people are looking to Congress for support, guidance, and leadership in the fight against the insidious COVID–19 virus. Today, tomorrow, and every day, I will continue to do all I can to keep my constituents and my country safe, and to provide the resources needed for the development of a vaccine that will defeat this virus for good.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today, I will vote in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266—the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

This legislation builds upon and makes a number of important improvements to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which Congress passed less than a month ago to help our country continue the fight against COVID–19.

Specifically, this legislation adds more than $300 billion to the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which has provided a critical lifeline to small businesses around the country as we continue to deal with the economic fall-out from this global pandemic. I am proud that Democrats stood our ground and were able to carve out $60 billion from this fund for small and mid-sized banks, credit unions, and community-based lending institutions to help ensure that unbanked and underserved businesses can access the PPP. This includes minority-owned businesses, rural businesses, small 'mom and pop' businesses, and smaller nonprofits that too often have been pushed to the back of the line for this program, while billion-dollar chains have accessed funding.

I am also pleased that this legislation includes $60 billion for SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Grant program. I have heard from dozens of businesses who applied for EIDL relief only to never hear back from an overwhelmed and underfunded SBA. This funding will allow these emergency programs to provide flexible assistance to small businesses and nonprofits.

Again, thanks to congressional Democrats, this legislation also includes an additional $75 billion in relief to hospitals and health care providers for expenses or lost revenue attributable to COVID–19. While I believe we need much more than $75 billion, these additional funds will be crucial for helping providers who are bearing the brunt of this crisis, including Community Health Centers and rural providers who are facing layoffs and massive revenue shortfalls due to cancellation of 'elective' procedures.

Congressional Democrats also fought for and secured $25 billion to expand our nation's COVID–19 testing capacity, $11 billion of which will go directly to states, localities, territories, and tribes to help them bolster testing shortfalls in their communities. Widespread testing is the key to fighting this virus, reopening the economy, and protecting the health and wellbeing of Americans so that we can safely begin to resume our normal lives. We also successfully inserted provisions to require the Trump administration to finally create a national strategic testing plan that details how our country will increase domestic testing capacity, address disparities, and provide assistance and resources to states, localities, territories, and tribes.

This legislation is not without glaring omissions, though. Unfortunately, despite bipartisan support for additional funding, the Trump administration and congressional Republicans refused to add any additional funding for state, local, and tribal governments. These entities—who are on the front lines of this crisis—are in a dire financial position. I will continue to push for this desperately-needed investment and to ensure that funding flows directly to smaller localities.

Future legislation must also ensure strong support for families with an increase to SNAP benefits to help put food on the table. Republicans stonewalled all efforts to include this increase in this legislation.

For our front-line workers, we are simply not doing enough to support them. We need to ensure that any additional legislation mandates that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) implements a robust emergency temporary standard to strengthen protective measures for our health care workers, first responders, postal carriers, retail employees, grocery workers, transportation workers, and more. We should also be supporting these individuals with hazard pay as they continue to report to work and risk exposure to COVID–19 in order to perform their essential duties for the betterment of our communities.

Congress must also address the critical situation the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is in. Despite bipartisan support for stronger relief, the administration forced weak and restrictive aid for USPS into the CARES Act. Without significant steps, the Postal Service could cease operations by June. For the millions of people who count on the USPS every day—including seniors and veterans—this is not an option.

We can and must also give additional, direct support to the American people. This includes additional economic impact payments, more comprehensive relief for homeowners and renters, stronger steps for the millions of student loan borrowers, and more.

Congress should also finally take up legislation to reform enormously important issues like prescription drug costs and surprise billing. These issues have long plagued our broken healthcare system, and they will continue to do so once we beat this virus.

Lastly, we must begin moving to the next phase of this crisis: economic recovery. Congress must pass legislation that creates jobs and rebuilds our decaying infrastructure. As Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will continue to push for an infrastructure package that repairs the breach left by years of neglect—that rebuilds failing bridges, restores crumbling highways, and puts people to work on projects with jobs that cannot be exported.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESPAILLAT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 266.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H.RES. 935, ESTABLISHING A SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 938) providing for adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 212, nays 182, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 103]

YEAS—212

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
Deutch
Dingell
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Loebsack
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Yarmuth

NAYS—182

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Bacon
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McKinley
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—35

Babin
Baird
Barragán
Brooks (IN)
Cárdenas
Carter (TX)
Cook
DeSaulnier
Doggett
Grijalva
Hastings
Johnson (TX)
Kelly (PA)
Lawson (FL)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Marchant
Marshall
McHenry
Moore
Napolitano
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shimkus
Veasey
Visclosky
Webster (FL)
Wilson (FL)
Wright

□ 1639

Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. JOYCE of Ohio, STIVERS, and DAVIDSON of Ohio changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. LYNCH changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I was absent during roll call vote No. 103. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on agreeing to H. Res. 938,—Providing for the adoption of H. Res. 935, Establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

ESTABLISHING A SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida). Pursuant to House Resolution 938, the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, is considered as adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 935

Resolved, That there is hereby established a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform called the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis (hereinafter referred to as the ''select subcommittee'').

SEC. 2. (a) The select subcommittee shall be composed of not more than 12 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner appointed by the Speaker, of whom not more than 5 shall be appointed on the recommendation of the minority leader. The Speaker shall designate one member of the select subcommittee as its chair. Any vacancy in the select subcommittee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) Each member appointed to the select subcommittee shall be treated as though a member of the Committee on Oversight and Reform for purposes of the select subcommittee.

SEC. 3. (a) The select subcommittee is authorized and directed to conduct a full and complete investigation and study and issue a final report to the House of its findings (and such interim reports as it may deem necessary) regarding—

(1) the efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and transparency of the use of taxpayer funds and relief programs to address the coronavirus crisis, including through Federal agencies, State and local government entities, financial institutions and other private businesses, contracts, grants, loans, loan guarantees, investments, cooperative agreements, or any other means;

(2) reports of waste, fraud, abuse, price gouging, profiteering, or other abusive practices related to the coronavirus crisis;

(3) the implementation or effectiveness of any Federal law applied, enacted, or under consideration to address the coronavirus crisis and prepare for future pandemics;

(4) preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis, including the planning for and implementation of testing, containment, mitigation, and surveillance activities; the acquisition, distribution, or stockpiling of protective equipment and medical supplies; and the development of vaccines and treatments;

(5) the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis on individuals, communities, small businesses, health care providers, States, and local government entities;

(6) any disparate impacts of the coronavirus crisis on different communities and populations, including with respect to race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and geographic region, and any measures taken to address such disparate impacts;

(7) executive branch policies, deliberations, decisions, activities, and internal and external communications related to the coronavirus crisis;

(8) the protection of whistleblowers who provide information about waste, fraud, abuse, or other improper activities related to the coronavirus crisis;

(9) cooperation by the executive branch and others with Congress, the Inspectors General, the Government Accountability Office, and others in connection with oversight of the preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis; and

(10) any other issues related to the coronavirus crisis.

(b) The select subcommittee may report to the House or any committee of the House from time to time the results of its investigations and studies, together with such detailed findings and legislative recommendations as it may deem advisable.

(c) The select subcommittee may not hold a markup of legislation.

SEC. 4. (a) Rule XI and the rules of the Committee on Oversight and Reform shall apply to the select subcommittee in the same manner as a subcommittee except as follows:

(1) The chair of the select subcommittee may authorize and issue subpoenas pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI and rule 12(g) of the rules of the Committee on Oversight and Reform in the investigation and study conducted pursuant to section 3, including for the purpose of taking depositions.

(2) The chair of the select subcommittee is authorized to compel by subpoena the furnishing of information by interrogatory.

(3) Subpoenas so authorized may be signed by the chair of the select subcommittee or a designee.

(4) The chair of the select subcommittee may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena, by a member of the select subcommittee or a counsel of the select subcommittee. Such depositions shall be governed by rule 15 of the rules of the Committee on Oversight and Reform. For purposes of such rule, references to ''the Committee'' shall be construed as references to the select subcommittee.

(5) The chair of the select subcommittee may, after consultation with the ranking minority member, recognize—

(A) members of the select subcommittee to question a witness for periods longer than five minutes as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(B) of such rule XI; and

(B) staff of the select subcommittee to question a witness as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(C) of such rule XI.

(6) Agenda and reports required by rule 2(f) and rule 4(c) of the rules of the Committee on Oversight and Reform shall be required on the third calendar day before a meeting, hearing, or consideration of a report, as applicable.

(b) The provisions of this resolution shall govern the proceedings of the select subcommittee in the event of any conflict with the rules of the House or of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

SEC. 5. Any committee of the House having custody of records in any form relating to the matters described in section 3 shall transfer copies of such records to the select subcommittee within 7 days of the adoption of this resolution or receipt of such records. Such records shall become the records of the select subcommittee.

SEC. 6. Service on the select subcommittee shall not count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2)(A) of rule X.

SEC. 7. The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the ''successor in interest'' to the select subcommittee for purposes of clause 8(c) of rule II.

SEC. 8. The select subcommittee shall cease to exist 30 days after filing the final report required under section 3.

SEC. 9. (a) For further expenses of the Committee on Oversight and Reform for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives an additional amount of $2,000,000.

(b) Payments under this resolution shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Committee on Oversight and Reform, signed by the chair of that committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 10. Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6494

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 6494.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1650

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CASTOR of Florida) at 4 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 266) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 5, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 104]

YEAS—388

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doyle, Michael F.
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hartzler
Hayes
Heck
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Keller
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Loebsack
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (NC)
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Olson
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Vela

Velázquez	Waters	Williams
Wagner	Watkins	Wilson (SC)
Walberg	Watson Coleman	Wittman
Walden	Weber (TX)	Womack
Walker	Welch	Woodall
Walorski	Wenstrup	Yarmuth
Waltz	Westerman	Yoho
Wasserman Schultz	Wexton	Young
	Wild	Zeldin

NAYS—5

Biggs	Hice (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Buck	Massie	

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Amash

NOT VOTING—35

Babin	Kelly (PA)	Napolitano
Baird	Lawson (FL)	Rogers (KY)
Barragán	Lewis	Rooney (FL)
Brooks (IN)	Lieu, Ted	Sensenbrenner
Cárdenas	Lipinski	Serrano
Carter (TX)	Lofgren	Shimkus
Cook	Lowenthal	Veasey
DeSaulnier	Lowey	Visclosky
Doggett	Marchant	Webster (FL)
Grijalva	Marshall	Wilson (FL)
Hastings	McHenry	Wright
Johnson (TX)	Moore	

□ 1810

Messrs. WENSTRUP, FLORES, and STEWART changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. NAPOLITANO. Madam Speaker, I was absent during roll call vote No. 104. Had I been present, I would have voted ''YEA'' on concurring in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266—Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act.

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, due to COVID–19 concerns, I was not able to be present on the House Floor to vote on Senate Amendment to H.R. 266—the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed the votes today because of an illness. The House doctor recommended that I not fly. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 103 and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 104.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, today, April 23, 2020, I missed roll call votes 103 and 104.

Had I been present for roll call 103, on Agreeing to H. Res. 938, Providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, I would have voted ''Yes.''

Had I been present for roll call 104, on Agreeing to the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, I would have voted ''Yes.''

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6494

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor from H.R. 6494.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6494

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 6494.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

HOUSE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles:

January 24, 2020:

H.R. 583. An Act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and for other purposes.

January 27, 2020:

H.R. 263. An Act to rename the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge as the Congressman Lester Wolff Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

H.R. 434. An Act to amend the National Trails System Act to provide for the study of the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

January 29, 2020:

H.R. 5430. An Act to implement the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada attached as an Annex to the Protocol Replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

March 3, 2020:

H.J. Res. 80. A joint resolution approving the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a waiver under section 1703E(f) of title 38, United States Code.

H.R. 504. An Act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and for other purposes.

March 6, 2020:

H.R. 6074. An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

March 12, 2020:

H.R. 4998. An Act to prohibit certain Federal subsidies from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks, and for other purposes.

March 13, 2020:

H.R. 5671. An Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Merchant Mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

March 18, 2020:

H.R. 5214. An Act to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees.

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

March 25, 2020:

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

SENATE BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills and joint resolutions of the Senate of the following titles:

January 27, 2020:

S. 457. An Act to require that $1 coins issued during 2019 honor President George H.W. Bush and to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to issue bullion coins during 2019 in honor of Barbara Bush.

February 6, 2020:

S. 3201. An Act to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

February 11, 2020:

S. 153. An Act to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, scientific research, and for other purposes.

March 2, 2020:

S. 375. An Act to improve efforts to identify and reduce Government-wide improper payments, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 65. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 67. A joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

March 3, 2020:

S. 394. An Act to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

S. 2107. An Act to increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

March 21, 2020:

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

March 23, 2020:

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

S. 1822. An Act to require the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules relating to the collection of data with respect to the availability of broadband services, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 7(b) of House Resolution 891, the House stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, April 24, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4256. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's temporary final rule — Relief for Form ID Filers and Regulation Crowdfunding and Regulation A Issuers Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) [Release Nos.: 33-10768; 34-88492; 39-2531; IC-33832] received April 21, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4257. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendments to the Accelerated Filer and Large Accelerated Filer Definitions [Release No.: 34-88365; File No.: S7-06-19] (RIN: 3235-AM41) received April 21, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4258. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Updated Disclosure Requirements and Summary Prospectus for Variable Annuity and Variable Life Insurance Contracts [Release Nos.: 33-10765; 34-88358; IC-33814; File No.: S7-23-18] (RIN: 3235-AK60) received April 21, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 938. Resolution providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform (Rept. 116–419). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6598. A bill to preserve national security by providing guarantees to investors for investments in businesses at risk of predatory economic tactics by the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. POSEY, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina):

H.R. 6599. A bill to provide for coordination of research and development for pandemic disease prediction, forecasting and computing and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6600. A bill to authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on point-of-care testing for the detection of current or past infection with COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 6601. A bill to require a particular jury instruction in Federal civil actions that include a claim for damages based on negligence arising from the transmission of COVID-19; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. CROW, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 6602. A bill to provide assistance under programs relating to COVID-19 of the Small Business Administration to cannabis businesses and their service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. CASE (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 6603. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Kaena Point National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 6604. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 6605. A bill to provide additional amounts to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 6606. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations establishing emission standards for emissions of greenhouse gases from aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 6607. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, in coordination with the Director of the strategic national stockpile, the National Emergency Biodefense Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 6608. A bill to provide for the availability of menstrual hygiene products for homeless individuals under the Federal Emergency Management Agency emergency food and shelter grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. VELA):

H.R. 6609. A bill to provide for the immediate procurement of COVID-19 medical testing components, materials, and supplies under the Defense Production Act of 1950; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROSE of New York (for himself, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H.R. 6610. A bill to establish the Cabinet-level position of Director of Pandemic and Biodefense Preparedness and Response in the Executive Branch with the responsibility of developing a National Pandemic and Biodefense Preparedness and Response Strategy, to prepare for and coordinate the response to future pandemics, biological attacks, and other major health crises, including coordinating the work of multiple government agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. BOST, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BACON, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. YOHO, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DUNN, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6611. A bill making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Agriculture to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 6612. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prescribe the technical qualifications for licensed hearing aid specialists of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 6613. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to strengthen the United States commitment to the security of the Indo-Pacific region and to increase military readiness to defend the homeland and underwrite United States national interests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. COMER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. SPANO, Mr. DUNN, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FERGUSON, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 6614. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that sums in the Thrift Savings Fund may not be invested in securities that are listed on certain foreign exchanges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H. Res. 939. A resolution supporting the World Bank Group to lead a worldwide COVID-19 economic recovery effort; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. PORTER):

H. Res. 940. A resolution recognizing the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting and spiritual renewal, and commending Muslims in the United States and throughout the world for their faith; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 6599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

''The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 6601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 6602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 6603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 6604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 6605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. LEVIN of California:

H.R. 6606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 6607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 6609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ROSE of New York:

H.R. 6610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 6611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 6613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 6614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 3 and 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 587: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 613: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 1137: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 1266: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1325: Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 1923: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 2150: Mr. PETERSON.

H.R. 2236: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 2245: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2457: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 2478: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 2687: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2720: Mr. CLAY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2903: Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 2931: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 2999: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 3235: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 3563: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 4189: Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 4222: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 4341: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 4439: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 4542: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Ms. SHALALA.

H.R. 4681: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YOHO, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 4867: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 4870: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 4960: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 5149: Mr. KENNEDY and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 5231: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5485: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 5491: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 5552: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 5696: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SIRES, Ms. MOORE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NEAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 5797: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 5801: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 5890: Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 5919: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 5920: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5934: Ms. NORTON and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 6067: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 6195: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 6203: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 6204: Ms. NORTON and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 6324: Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 6336: Mr. CLINE and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 6364: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 6365: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 6393: Mr. WRIGHT and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 6399: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 6408: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 6414: Mrs. HAYES and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 6425: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 6427: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 6431: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 6433: Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 6437: Mr. MCEACHIN and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 6440: Mr. MCCAUL and Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 6449: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 6471: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 6484: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 6485: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. DEAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 6487: Ms. OMAR, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 6491: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 6495: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CASE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 6509: Mr. KIM and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 6515: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 6531: Mr. ENGEL.

H.R. 6560: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 6563: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 6565: Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 6569: Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COMER, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. WILLIAMS.

H.R. 6573: Ms. SPEIER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 6580: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ROY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ESTES, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 6592: Ms. HAALAND and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 6594: Mr. COSTA.

H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. DELGADO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H. Res. 285: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia.

H. Res. 574: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 835: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 913: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. LAMB.

H. Res. 917: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia and Mr. WENSTRUP.

H. Res. 930: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr. STIVERS.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6494: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. SOTO.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *116th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020 *No. 77*

Senate

The Senate met at 5:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICK SCOTT, a Senator from the State of Florida.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The Parliamentarian read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK SCOTT, a Senator from the State of Florida, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020, AT 8 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 8 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2020.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:30 and 39 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 27, 2020, at 8 a.m.

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

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EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF BISHOP Z.L. GRADY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the life and legacy of a great leader in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, Bishop Zedekiah LaZett (Z.L.) Grady who transitioned on Sunday, April 19th. Bishop Grady was one of my spiritual and political mentors and—like many others—I will always cherish his memory.

Z.L. Grady was born the son of Walter and Sylvira Bynum Grady in Loughman, Florida. Education was extremely important to him, and he was a life-long learner. He was educated in Sanford, Florida public schools and graduated from Crooms Academy. He attended Florida's Edward Waters College and the B.F. Lee Theological Seminary, where he earned A.A. and B.Th. degrees before earning a B.A. degree from Allen University, in Columbia, South Carolina, and a M.Div. degree from Dickerson Theological Seminary. He continued his theological studies at the Union Theological Seminary in New York and the Urban Training Center in Chicago, Illinois. Bishop Grady was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Kittrell College, Allen University and Edward Waters College.

While Bishop Grady was a highly respected AME church leader, his influence spread far beyond the church walls. He was a pastor and an astute administrator who excelled and had many great successes in both roles. He also wore the mantle of civic organizer, social reformer, and teacher. These roles enabled him to make indelible marks on many communities.

I met Bishop Grady when I was a young public-school teacher in Charleston, South Carolina. Although I was born and had grown up in a Church of God parsonage, and my wife, Emily, had been born and grew up in a United Methodist Church family, we were drawn to and often attended Morris Brown AME Church where Z.L. Grady was pastoring at the time. It was under his influence and tutelage that we became AMEs.

He demonstrated to us what the Bible means by "faith without works is dead." Not only did he preach the Word on Sundays, he often played instrumental roles in civic and community activities throughout the week. His role in the infamous 1969 Charleston Hospital Workers strike was pivotal. He joined with ministers at Emanuel and Ebenezer AME churches to build affordable housing on Johns Island, a sea island near Charleston. He instituted a daycare center and kindergarten at Morris Brown and our first-born began her formal education in that kindergarten. He began a radio broadcast of the church services.

During his time in South Carolina, he served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Juvenile Parole Board, Chairman of the Charleston Community Race Relations Committee, Member of the Charleston Housing Authority, and a Board Member of C&S National Bank and NationsBank. And he served as an advisor to elected officials on the municipal, state and federal levels.

As he rose in church and civic leadership, Bishop Grady's work took him outside South Carolina to share his talents with the world. He was elected the 111th Bishop of the AME Church in 1992, and served in the 16th, 9th and 1st Episcopal Districts.

One of my most memorable experiences was arriving at the AME University in Monrovia, Liberia with the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, NANCY PELOSI, and us being greeted by Bishop Grady. He wanted it to be a surprise and it was.

Bishop Grady retired from his official role at the AME General Conference. His civic memberships included being a life member of the Beta Mu Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and a life member of the NAACP.

Bishop Grady leaves to cherish his memory his wife Carrie Etta Robertson Grady, a native of Winnsboro, South Carolina, who served admirably at his side throughout their leadership journey with the AME Church. The two were parents of four children and five grandchildren, one of whom Carey has followed him into the ministry and was my first Congressional Intern.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of this religious and community leader and recognizing the tremendous positive impact Bishop Z.L. Grady made in South Carolina and around the world. Although he will be sorely missed, we are all better for his service among us.

MIAKODA SEYBOLT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miakoda Seybolt for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Miakoda Seybolt is a 10th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miakoda Seybolt is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miakoda Seybolt for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 935, CREATING A SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter in support of the creation on the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. STENY HOYER,
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. CLYBURN,
Majority Whip, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, LEADER HOYER, AND WHIP CLYBURN: I write today to express my strong support for the creation of the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis, and to thank you for your leadership of the House of Representatives' ongoing work in response to the unprecedented public health and economic crises we are facing. I also thank you for your continued focus on ensuring effective oversight of the trillions of taxpayer dollars that are being directed to support our nation's recovery.

As work continues on the establishment of the Select Committee, I write to recommend specific cross-cutting issues regarding implementation of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, and other legislation addressing the coronavirus pandemic that require sustained oversight from the Select Committee. My comments encompass three broad areas, as described in more detail below. I appreciate your consideration of these recommendations and look forward to working closely with you and the Select Committee to address these urgent issues.

STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, AND FIRST PRIORITIES

To be most effective, the Select Committee must be capable of producing hard-hitting findings and concrete recommendations in near real-time to help shape the course of the Federal response. The Select Committee must be organized quickly, and it must be allocated the robust budget necessary to ensure it is staffed by experts in such fields as public health, economics, public finance, and the operations of Federal programs.

As there may be sustained efforts to impede oversight of the Federal response to the pandemic, the Committee must quickly establish effective working relationships with the oversight entities created in CARES and other legislation and with agency Inspectors

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

General. However, the Committee must also be prepared on day one to seek relevant documents and information, particularly regarding those programs deemed to be at high risk, and it must be agile in responding to the information it receives.

I strongly agree the Committee must work to eliminate ''waste, fraud, and abuse'' and ''price gouging and profiteering.'' The Select Committee must also be the central mechanism the House uses to measure Federal expenditures against two critical, over-arching benchmarks: their effectiveness in supporting recovery among those most affected by COVID–19 and their effectiveness in preventing and preparing for future waves of infection. In addition to examining specific expenditures, the Committee must also closely examine the responsibilities, authorities, and capacities of both Federal and state agencies charged with implementing the CARES Act and other legislation related to the pandemic, and hold senior agency leadership accountable for managing programs in ways that will achieve national recovery and preparedness objectives while effectively stewarding taxpayer resources.

There are two key priorities that require immediate attention. First, the Select Committee must conduct comprehensive oversight of the supply chains through which personal protective equipment (PPE) and essential medical supplies and equipment are distributed to states. The Committee on Homeland Security has written to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) seeking basic information on distributions of PPE and essential medical supplies and equipment from the Strategic National Stockpile, as well as the subsequent Federal role in acquiring PPE and medical supplies and equipment, supporting private supply chains, and actively managing the sale of PPE and essential medical supplies and equipment to states and counties.

To date, DHS, HHS, and FEMA have failed to provide the documents and information sought by the Committee. Ensuring that all health care workers have the PPE and medical supplies and equipment they need to test and treat patients with COVID–19 is one of the most urgent issues facing the nation at this time, and yet Congress has little visibility into the opaque and evolving roles of DHS, HHS, and FEMA in the acquisition and distribution processes. The Select Committee must quickly initiate oversight over this issue.

Similarly, the Select Committee must conduct thorough oversight of testing processes, particularly as the country prepares to begin relaxing social distancing protocols. The availability of testing kits and effective contact tracing procedures when new cases of COVID–19 are diagnosed will be essential to enabling the nation to safely resume near-normal economic activity, and oversight of these processes must be a key priority for the Select Committee.

FOCUS ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY COVID–19

Although additional data are clearly needed, emerging evidence indicates that communities of color are disproportionately affected by COVID–19, and that mortality may be much higher among minorities than among other groups. For example, in my state of Mississippi, approximately 38% of residents are African Americans. However, the State Department of Health has reported that, as of April 9, 2020, 54% of those diagnosed with COVID–19 are African American while 35% are white. Further, 67% of those who had died from COVID–19 in the state as of April 9 were African American, while 33% were white. African Americans who died from COVID–19 were also far more likely to have had underlying health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. These infection, morbidity, and mortality statistics demonstrate the disproportionate effect of COVID–19 on communities of color.

Unfortunately, the trends observed in Mississippi appear to be prevalent across the nation. For example, according to the New York Times, ''The coronavirus is killing black and Latino people in New York City at twice the rate that it is killing white people'' according to preliminary date released last week by the City of New York. And an analysis by the Washington Post found that ''counties that are majority-black have three times the rate of infections and almost six times the rate of deaths as counties where white residents are in the majority. Keeping in mind that minority communities may have more limited access to testing for COVID–19, it is also possible that rates of infection, morbidity, and even mortality among minorities are being under-reported.

The Select Committee must document the disproportionate impact of COVID–19 on communities of color. All aspects of the Committee's work must be informed by this data so that the Committee can maintain a laser-focus on detailing how Federal policies are responding to this disproportionate impact by addressing the many factors that leave minority communities so vulnerable to this disease.

The Select Committee must review public health strategies to ensure that they address the heightened risks of infection and death from COVID–19 in minority communities. The Committee must also rigorously assess the extent to which under CARES and other legislation, Federal expenditures in the healthcare, education, social welfare, and industry rescue sectors address the pandemic's disproportionate effects on minority communities, including the extent to which expenditures narrow or exacerbate the inequality prevalent before the crisis, and whether expenditures improve resilience among at-risk communities. Similarly, as part of its review of small business lending, the Select Committee must carefully review lending patterns to disadvantaged business enterprises.

Finally, it is likely that highly vulnerable populations—such as children, individuals with special needs, and the elderly—may face unique and especially difficult long-term consequences as a result of the pandemic and the economic displacement it causes. Of particular concern is addressing the impact of the crisis on children. Just over 16% of children in the U.S. lived in poverty in 2018—and, sadly, that figure is likely to spike as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Science is also clear that adverse childhood events (ACES) can ''have lasting, negative effects on health, well-being, and opportunity.'' While poverty is not itself an ACE, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies it as an associated condition and warns that together, ''ACES and associated conditions, such as living in under-resourced or racially segregated neighborhoods'' and ''experiencing food insecurity'' can lead to ''toxic stress,'' which ''can change brain development'' in ways that have life-time consequences. At a time when millions of families are losing employment and struggling to make ends meet—and children may be unable to attend school for as long as half a year—the Select Committee must examine the unique needs of children during this crisis and assess how Federal aid efforts are meeting these needs.

PRIORITIZING THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS

Obviously, the Select Committee must carefully review the loans, loan guarantees, and other investments made in eligible businesses in distressed economic sectors under CARES and other legislation, including the covenants, representations, warranties, and other requirements imposed as conditions of aid. However, because of the Senate's unwillingness to impose stricter worker-protection criteria, the CARES Act has only limited protections to ensure that businesses receiving aid prioritize the retention of workers ''to the extent practicable.'' The Committee must therefore document the full impact of Federal aid to industry on job retention, workers' wages and benefits, and economic recovery among low-income and middle-class Americans, including assessing the trajectory of recovery among different income brackets and the long-term consequences of potentially uneven recovery on economic inequality among Americans.

The Committee must also closely assess whether Federal aid is comprehensively addressing what may be the profound cascade of economic harms that the prolonged shutdown of economic activity needed to slow the spread of coronavirus will impose on low-income and even middle-class families. According to the Federal Reserve, even before the pandemic hit, approximately 40% of Americans reported that they would have ''difficulty'' covering an extra expense of $400, and minorities were more likely than other groups to report they would face such difficulty. The harms suffered by those who were already living on the margins as a result of this crisis are likely to be severe and multi-faceted.

The direct payments and expanded unemployment benefits provided by CARES and other legislation will provide essential support in the short-term, but the disruptions workers and their families face will likely lead to unforeseen conditions that may continue to destroy household wealth. Newly unemployed Americans will also be facing challenges unique to this moment, including the need to seek new work at a time when the national economy will likely be contracting. The Select Committee must assess whether Federal expenditures address in a comprehensive manner the full spectrum of harms families may face.

Finally, many of those who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic will also lose their employer-sponsored healthcare. While newly unemployed individuals and families could seek insurance on the exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act or may even qualify for Medicaid, as you well know, the ''Trump administration in recent years has also added more red tape and obstacles for people looking to sign up for those programs and hasn't shown any signs it will waive those requirements because of the pandemic. It is imperative that the Select Committee examine how the hurdles intentionally placed in the way of accessing health care under the Affordable Care Act are affecting those who lose health insurance when they become unemployed as a result of the coronavirus.

CONCLUSION

I truly appreciate your leadership in these unprecedented times. A Select Committee is urgently needed to conduct oversight of the issues of greatest concern to the American public during our ongoing effort to combat COVID–19 and restore our economy, and I thank you for the opportunity to share these observations and recommendations regarding that Committee's work. Please do not hesitate to contact me whenever I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

BEST WISHES TO MICK MULVANEY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the people of South Carolina are so appreciative of the achievements and success of former Congressman Mick Mulvaney serving as White House Chief of Staff for President Donald Trump.

I include in the RECORD a deserved tribute published by John Feerhery with his column entitled ''Mulvaney fit for Northern Ireland Post'' in The HILL on March 10, 2020.

To the untrained eye, Mick Mulvaney's departure as White House chief of staff and appointment as the president's special envoy to Northern Ireland might seem to be a bit curious and a big demotion for the former congressman from South Carolina.

But those who know Irish politics understand that this new assignment is very important to the United States and that Mulvaney is well suited to take it on.

For his entire time in the White House, Mulvaney has developed deep relationships within the Irish government and with key actors in Northern Ireland. These relationships became critical as Great Britain negotiated its departure from the European Union and created a special status for Northern Ireland and its border with the Republic.

Most analysts expect that Great Britain and the United States will start negotiating a free trade agreement once the dust settles on Brexit. But any FTA must acknowledge Northern Ireland and the reality of the all-Ireland economy, a reality that some negotiators might want to ignore. It all gets very complicated.

Ireland has done well over the last decade, bouncing back from the dark days of the 2008 financial crisis. Unemployment is at historic lows, property values are at historic highs, and growth is the strongest of any country in Europe. Multi-national corporations from around the world, especially the United States, choose to headquarter in Ireland because of its highly trained workforce and its very favorable corporate tax rates. Those corporate tax rates cause heartburn in Brussels, but all political parties in Ireland support them, even the left-leaning Sinn Fein.

Northern Ireland has a good story to tell, as well. They have a highly educated population, a favorable regulatory regime and increasingly close economic ties to their island neighbor. But they also have the lingering legacy of the Troubles, pockets of persistent economic hardship, border communities that lack access to any infrastructure and a fragile political structure that hasn't been functioning for over three years.

And the reality is that Northern Ireland and Ireland are, at the moment, two different countries with two different outlooks, two different attitudes towards the future, two different views of the past. Integrating these two different countries economically while respecting their different political and cultural traditions is not going to be easy.

The Good Friday accords, negotiated by George Mitchell, another special envoy from the United States, are the basis for the current power sharing agreement in Northem Ireland. It has been two decades since that agreement was reached, and for the most part, they have held up pretty well. That the United States was central to bringing an end to the Troubles was no accident. No other country has the ability to serve as an honest broker to both sides, a role that continues to this day.

Making sure that the United Kingdom continues to vigilantly honor the Good Friday accords is one of Mick Mulvaney's central tasks. Another is to make certain that Ireland doesn't get ahead of itself when it comes to talk of a unified island. Sinn Fein, the dominant Catholic political party in the North, surprised observers and gathered the most votes in the last election in the Republic. Talk of a new border poll, a vote to see if the majority in the North would want to unify with the South, immediately ensued.

But time is not ripe for those discussions. Let's see how things develop in the post-Brexit world first.

Mick Mulvaney, whose grandparents hail from Country Mayo, knows the players and knows the issues that separate them. He knows that America must play the indispensable role in continuing to broker peace and to make sure that Ireland as an island succeeds both economically and socially.

Serving as chief of staff to President Trump undoubtedly had its challenges. This new assignment will prove to be challenging too.

JESLYN TERAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jeslyn Teran for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jeslyn Teran is a 10th grader at Pinnacle Charter School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jeslyn Teran is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jeslyn Teran for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hot Springs Village. The largest gated community in North America with land spreading across 20,000 acres of Garland and Saline Counties, Hot Springs Village has long been a community vital to the Fourth District of Arkansas. April 20, 2020 marks 50 years since the community's founding by local developer John Cooper Sr. and his family.

Boasting an extensive list of recreational activities, a deep appreciation for local art, culture, and history, beautiful scenery of the Ouachita Mountains and nearby Hot Springs National Park, Hot Springs Village has become one of the premiere retirement communities and tourist destinations in the United States.

Using the expression ''Proud Past and Strong Future,'' the Hot Springs Village 50th Anniversary Planning Committee strives to make this year-long ''party'' a celebration of the Village's rich history and a platform to discuss its future successes. While the Village leadership has already hosted several celebration events throughout the early part of this year, local citizens can expect a schedule of events to celebrate the founding of this close-knit community until December 2020.

I take this time to recognize the work of this citizenry's leadership, their commitment to community, and their 50 years of success. For many in the Fourth District of Arkansas, Hot Springs Village serves as a model reminder of the values we all hold dear and the homes we all strive to create.

HEALTH CARE HEROES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, all communities are grateful to all our health care heroes in the State of South Carolina. Throughout this national emergency, they have been on the front lines working long hours to keep our communities safe. Hospitals and community medical centers are unselfishly serving patients with the Wuhan Virus.

Citizens correctly appreciate Aiken Regional Medical Center led by CEO Jim O'Loughlin, Lexington Medical Center under the leadership of President and CEO Tod Augsburger, Prisma Health Richland Hospital under guidance of President and CEO Mark O'Halla, Providence Health of Columbia with Terry Gunn's leadership as CEO, Regional Medical Centers Orangeburg Hospital and Bamberg-Barnwell Emergency Medical Center, both under guidance of CEO Charles Williams, and Rural Health Services Inc. led by CEO Carolyn Emanuel-McClain.

From performing tests to helping patients recover, they have been and remain leaders in our community. I am grateful to have worked with my colleagues in the 116th Congress to provide needed funding for vital personal protective equipment and ventilators.

EVARISTO ''KIDANE'' ARCE III

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Evaristo ''Kidane'' Arce III for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Evaristo ''Kidane'' Arce III is a 10th grader at Prairie View High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Evaristo ''Kidane'' Arce III is exemplary of the type of

achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Evaristo "Kidane" Arce III for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MAC JARAMILLO

HON. GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a man from my district and to mark, in his passing, both what we have lost and what we must refuse to lose as our country faces a great crisis. This man was not lost to the COVID–19 pandemic. But his memory almost was. Mac Jaramillo was born on March 10th, 1927 in Hanford, California, and died peacefully a few miles from his La Habra, California home on March 22nd of this year. Mr. Jaramillo was not a great statesman, not a wealthy man, at least in material things, nor was he any kind of dignitary except to his family, his community, and his church. I only learned about Mac from his children who reached out to my office asking for help in remembering him because in the midst of our public health crisis, Mac's family and friends were denied a funeral mass. They were nearly barred from his burial altogether. On April 7th, Mac, a man who was rich in friends and family, was buried by his parish priest and nine family members. The many more people who loved him and wanted to render their respects were denied that opportunity. That is why I felt the need to speak, so that an American who came from the humblest of roots, who carried himself with great humility and dignity, who sought little for himself, who served his country in the Second World War, and who not only exemplified the American dream but helped build and expand it for his children, could be remembered and honored. This is not then merely a gesture to a grieving family; it is a reminder of the great stock of which our country is made and how the example of men like Mac give us strength when we are called to answer our own challenges.

Mac's father and mother, Fortino and Sotera Jaramillo started their family in the State of Guanajuato where, like many other peasant farmers of the revolutionary era in Mexico, they had trouble feeding themselves between harvests. Like my ancestors, they sought greater opportunities in an Estados Unidos that was often hostile to them even as it profited from their labor and skill. The City of Hanford became their home, but they really lived across California's great Central Valley and out to its lush Central Coast. The seasonal rhythm of migrant farm work brought the family out of Hanford every March and down to the lettuce and bean fields in coastal Nipomo and Santa Maria. Then it was north to San Jose to pick cherries and pears. By August, the family would find work back in the central valley grape regions and only return to Hanford in September for the cotton harvest.

The Jaramillos worked hard for little. Tough times in the 1920s became unimaginably harsh by the early 1930s as the country sank into the depths of the Great Depression and the winters left the children hungry. For the family, the winter of 1934, when the average temperatures in Hanford hovered in the low 40s, was the worst of the Depression. It was that year that the family lost Mac's youngest brother who succumbed to a combination of cold and influenza. But even in the face of such tragedy, the family carried on. For meager wages, they lent their backs to the agricultural colossus of the Central Valley that fed and clothed so much of the nation in those lean years. It was a system of work that cost Mac a formal education as he left school in the eighth grade to join his parents and siblings in the fields.

It was the body he developed in those fields that gave him the physical strength to carry his two brothers out of their bedroom during a 1941 house fire. The fire had engulfed their bedroom and the two brothers were already unconscious from smoke inhalation when Mac, a mere boy of 14, saved their lives without even a thought for his own. In the summer of 1945, Mac was inducted into the US Army. He served as an infantryman and a firefighter in the Second World War. Though he was garrisoned in Panama and never saw combat, on at least two occasions he showed his courage again fighting fires, first aboard a heavily laden ammunition ship and later rolling barrels of oil down the side of a mountain before they were engulfed in flames. Heroism and quick action in the face of fire seemed to be a theme in Mac's life. Even in middle age, when a neighbor's house was set ablaze by fireworks, he instinctively jumped into action putting out the fire and saving the house before the La Habra Fire Department arrived.

Like most men of his generation, Mac Jaramillo came home from the war with wider eyes and bigger ambitions. Building on skills he had acquired in the service, Mac no longer worked in the fields but as machinist running cotton gins. In 1955, he joined his brother Dave in La Habra, working first in a packing house, then in manufacturing plants in La Habra, Brea and Placentia. He purchased a Texaco gas station and ran it for three years. Until, with his GI Bill benefits, he decided on barber college. He worked in a variety of shops until founding his own barbershop in downtown La Habra. Then in 1969, searching for better benefits, and perhaps looking for something to distract him from the recent loss of his child Lucy Lita to Leukemia the year before, Mac started a new chapter. At the age of 42, he became a Teamster and drove RC Cola deliveries for 19 years until he finally retired to tend a modest garden of roses and fruit trees.

But Mac Jaramillo's real ambitions were always to be a faithful servant to his God and family. In 1956 he met and married his wife of 63 years, Lucina Quintero. Together they used his GI Bill benefits to buy a home in La Habra where they raised eight children. All eight children received their baptism, first communion, and confirmation in La Habra' s Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, where Mac and Lucina were married and Mac remained a parishioner until his passing. The couple taught their children to revere God, protect the family, and love their country. They also taught their children to seize opportunities. Mac and Lucina's proudest achievement was to see all eight of their surviving children graduate from La Habra High School and to watch two of them graduate from the California State University at Fullerton.

Mac Jaramillo left this world as the beloved patriarch of a large and proud family, he regularly entertained groups of 30 to 40 at Christmas and other holidays. Indeed, it is a great irony that this family man, this veteran of the greatest generation, this partner in America's post-war prosperity, who loved his church, his family and his community so much more than he loved himself, was denied a public mass and a large burial reception. He is survived by his wife Lucina, brother Greg, sisters Lita and Mary, children Carlos, Dona, Mack, Eileen, Inez, Joachim, Peter, Lucy, 24 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren, seven of whom have followed in the patriarch's footsteps by serving in the Army, Air Force or Marines.

With this, we have tried to ease the hurt of this one family by helping to remember Mac Jaramillo and the life he led. I feel we all gain from learning about him. He isn't the kind of man who history will normally take note of. But if we can remember him and the millions like him who built the American and Californian dream out of the ruins of the Great Depression and the Second World War, if we can remember their courage as well as their kindness and humility, then how can we despair for our future. God bless Mac Jaramillo, his family, Our Lady of Guadalupe where he worshipped, his adopted city of La Habra, the people of my district, and the country we all love.

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT ELFORD LIVINGSTON, SR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during this extraordinary period of national emergency with the Wuhan Virus, there is time to cherish the service of citizens who have made America great.

In South Carolina a true Southern Gentlemen is Robert Elford Livingston, Sr., who justly has been recognized by the obituary below:

Robert Elford Livingston, 90, of West Columbia passed away Tuesday, April 14, 2020. He was born on September 18, 1929 in Columbia, SC to the late Gerhard Elford Livingston and Essie Culclasure Livingston.

He is a life-long member of Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, founder of Livingston Insurance Agency, and a founding board member of Lexington State Bank. His service to his state and country includes the South Carolina Army National Guard, where he retired as a Colonel. He was also a member and served in leadership positions on the Lexington District 2 School Board, State School Board, Boys and Girls Club of the Midlands Board, Glen Forest School Board of Directors, Columbia Convention Center Board of Directors, Independent Insurance Agents of America, Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of South Carolina, Lexington County Planning for the Future, Board of Directors for South Carolina BB&T, Lexington County Water and Sewer Commission, River

Alliance. Board of Directors, Old Charleston Insurance Company Board, American Legion Post 79, and numerous other community organizations. Bob is a member of the Sinclair Lodge, Columbia York Rite Bodies, and Jamil Shriners.

He was predeceased by his wife of sixty-seven years, Raye Hutto Livingston. He is survived by his son, Bob Livingston, Jr. (Barbara), his daughter, Marilyn Gray (Billy); seven grandchildren, Acy Flora (Blair), Bob Livingston, III (Katie), Betsy Sippel (Patrick), Rachel Popkowski (Joe), Anna Bryant (Tom), Rebekah Morris (Alex), and Roxanne Rich (Auston); thirteen great-grandchildren, Jack Sippel, Joe Popkowski, Jr., Connor Bryant, Margaret Raye Flora, Emily Sippel, Barbara Popkowski, Georgia Popkowski, Ford Livingston, Greyson Bryant, Court Morris, Foster Rich, Mary Lane Livingston and Baker Morris.

A private graveside service will be held at 9:00 on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at Mount Tabor Lutheran Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mount Tabor Lutheran Church, 1000 B Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169.

ALICIA QUINTANA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alicia Quintana for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Alicia Quintana is a 10th grader at Adams City High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alicia Quintana is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alicia Quintana for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY CANNABIS SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT OF 2020

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic has upended life as we know it and has impacted every aspect of American society. The abrupt health and economic turmoil caused by COVID–19 has left businesses, workers and families questioning the security of their futures. Our nation's small businesses are among those who have felt this pandemic most acutely. To prevent workers from choosing between their health and a paycheck we passed sweeping and unprecedented legislation to shield American businesses from the full economic consequences of COVID–19. However, state-legal cannabis small businesses were excluded from this economic relief and remain ill-equipped to respond to the health and economic crisis before them.

Small businesses across the country are being asked to do their part in keeping their workers, customers, and families safe. To support these efforts, on March 27, 2020, the President signed into law the CARES Act, which contains $376 billion in relief for American workers and small businesses. However, many state-legal cannabis small businesses are not eligible for this-relief and are being asked to protect workers and their families without the federal support available to other American small businesses. State-legal cannabis entrepreneurs and their workers are no different from those of other industries, and since COVID–19 does not discriminate, the inability of certain groups to protect themselves could inadvertently jeopardize the health of us all.

The Emergency Cannabis Small Business Health and Safety Act would open access to SBA assistance relating to COVID–19 to state-legal cannabis businesses and their service providers. Specifically, this legislation would allow state-legal cannabis businesses to be eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and Economic Injury Disaster Loans emergency advances. Among other things, this support is specifically designed to be used to pay workers, group health benefits and paid sick leave.

The health and safety of the American people must be put first during the COVID–19 pandemic. Without doing so, we risk undermining the efforts of us all.

SUPPORTING H.R. 266, THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM, AND H. RES. 935, THE HEALTH CARE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, today the House will consider the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, crucial legislation to deliver resources our small businesses and health care providers need to confront the coronavirus outbreak. I will not attend House proceedings today but if present would have voted YEA on H.R. 266 and YEA on H.Res. 935 to establish a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

This public health crisis has upended businesses in my community and across the country. Additional resources for the Paycheck Protection Program will ensure these businesses can retain employees and are ready to participate in our economic recovery. Further, additional resources for our healthcare system—including $825 million for Community Health Centers—will make sure these essential organizations can continue to serve our communities during this pandemic.

I am proud of the efforts of House Democrats to strengthen this legislation, including securing key resources for testing and allocating small business loans to community-based lenders that have strong relationships with local small businesses.

While I am proud of this bipartisan agreement, we must re-double our efforts in the weeks ahead to develop a relief plan that paves the way for our economic recovery.

AMANI ABDALLAH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amani Abdallah for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Amani Abdallah is a 10th grader at Aurora West College Prep Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Amani Abdallah is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amani Abdallah for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

BATTLING THE PANDEMIC—A POEM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, at a time of national emergency, it is inspiring that the positive ''It Can Be Done'' American Spirit is appreciated.

I include in the RECORD a meaningful contribution by Joan M. Lacombe, the Poet Laureate of Aiken, South Carolina, published in the Aiken Standard.

BATTLING THE PANDEMIC

They have closed the building, but not the church!
We will continue to reach out to the needy and distressed,
Vowing not one soul left to be missed.
For the church is not a building constructed by man.
It is made of ''we the people,'' God's message to bring.
The church embodies the God-crafted Temples of the Holy Spirit
Where we all lovingly dwell within.
The cancellation of liturgies, a dramatic move,
New rules or worship set in place, health conditions to protect; we to obey.
Heartbreaking—as it disrupts our Lenten Journey
To have this taken away when we need it most—a bitter irony.
Together we will get through this—
It is not for us to fall into a faithless abyss.
For we Christians are persevering
As our Easter goal we are nearing.

With 2000 years of History behind us,
Our current effort to worship, an added plus.
We can recall times and places
Where we have endured persecution and trouble.
We can still pray, worship, and commune with God—all together in the great outdoors,
While maintaining social distancing and
Greeting each other with hands folded in prayer, fingers pointing to heaven, a simple bow of the head—the Namaste greeting—
Acknowledging, ''I recognize the Spirit of God within you.''
Our Faith still alive and flourishing, carrying us through difficult times.
Our effort shows our resiliency and resourcefulness—
To be together, yet apart, as we cope with our current distress.
We are up to the challenge—Praising God in new and creative ways.

Our prayers and sympathy for the tragic loss to the Wuhan Virus of Nursing Student Joshua Bush of the University of South Carolina-Aiken. Our community is blessed with the determined leadership of University Chancellor Sandra Jordan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KRISTIN JACOBS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I, along with Representative DEUTCH, rise to honor the life of our dear friend, Florida State Representative Kristin Jacobs.

We were heartbroken to learn of her passing and join Floridians in mourning this tremendous loss to Broward County and the state of Florida.

Representative Jacobs began her career in public service on the Broward County Commission, eventually serving as Mayor in 2012. She served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2014 until her passing on April 11, 2020.

She was a groundbreaking environmental leader and fierce protector of Florida's lakes, streams, and oceans. She spearheaded the development of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, created the Broward Water and Climate Academy, and during her term as Mayor, was selected to serve on President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Representative Jacobs fought her illness just as she fought for our community—with determination, resilience, and grace. She was smart and tough and stood up for her beliefs, always backing them with facts and data.

Even while she underwent chemotherapy treatment for cancer, she remained an active member of the Florida State Legislature, serving her constituents from her hospital bed.

Kristin was the most genuine, decent, caring, and effervescent person. She was a loyal, real, and true friend, and we will miss her deeply.

Our hearts are with her three children, three grandchildren, and all her extended family. May her memory be a blessing.

SAVAUGHN CROOKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savaughn Crooks for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Savaughn Crooks is a 10th grader at Kearney Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savaughn Crooks is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Savaughn Crooks for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RABBI ALAN MAYOR SOKOBIN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker. I rise today to honor the life of Alan Mayor Sokobin, Rabbi Emeritus of The Temple—Congregation Shomer Emunim in Sylvania, Ohio. Rabbi Sokobin suddenly passed from this life on Friday April 3, 2020.

Rabbi Sokobin was a giant in our community. Learned, faith-filled, a family man, loving, a leader, compassionate, a World War II veteran, funny, high-spirited, reverent, a community leader and so much more. As we mourn Rabbi Sokobin's passing, in the midst of Passover, as the Jewish people commemorate the exodus from Egypt to the promised land, they recognize the importance of welcoming the stranger, to opening one's home and the Passover dinner table to the other. Rabbi Sokobin spent his life welcoming the stranger and his imprint on our community is writ large, his contributions invaluable.

Alan Mayor Sokobin was born on March 8, 1926 in Newark, New Jersey, to parents Pauline and Max. At the age of fifteen he slipped away from his family to join the Navy, honorably serving in Europe and Japan. After the war he graduated from Syracuse University, and then pursued rabbinic studies at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. He went on to receive his Doctor of Theology degree from Burton College. Marrying the love of his life on May 19, 1957, together he and Mickey raised two children and eventually presided over a family including five grandchildren.

Rabbi Sokobin came to our community in 1972 to join the congregation as co-rabbi with Leon Feuer. He soon established himself as an intellectual and ecumenical community leader, pairing with Toledo's mayor to improve Toledo Municipal Court, chairing the Labor-Management-Citizens Committee, and working with Promedica Health System. Rabbi Sokobin's greatest gift to the faith community was the partnerships he formed with Toledo's faith leaders in the Catholic, Muslim, and other religious traditions.

After officially retiring in 1992, Rabbi Sokobin decided to go to Law School and graduated in 1996. He was named outstanding student of his class by a vote of faculty members. Rabbi Sokobin remained a constant figure not only in his congregation, but our community as the years passed into this decade. His wise counsel was sought and carefully considered regarding issues of the day. His thoughtful countenance and astute observations were treasured. Yet, it was always the most charming sight to see Rabbi Sokobin pull a balloon ever present in his pocket and fashion an animal as children—and adults—watched in wonder.

The young Anne Frank noted ''Our lives are fashioned by our choices. First we make our choices. Then our choices make us.'' Rabbi Alan Mayor Sokobin chose to live his life serving God with his whole heart,'' a choice that made many all the richer. He spent his days putting the pieces of the world back together, he worked to fix the disconnected, to repair the world—he truly embodied tikkun olam. Today we mourn at his passing, but we celebrate his life and the progress he made to fix our broken world. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family as they mourn this great man.

ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Enrique Hernandez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Enrique Hernandez is a 10th grader at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Enrique Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Enrique Hernandez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

NEVER FORGET SMOLENSK MASSACRE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this month, the people of Poland

mark 10 years since the tragic Smolensk plane crash, which killed 96 people including President Lech Kaczynski and Polish First Lady Maria Kaczynska. On April 10, 2010, a Polish state delegation was heading to Smolensk, Russia, to commemorate the murder of nearly 22,000 innocent Polish citizens by the Soviet secret service NKVD in the spring of 1940 during World War II. The gruesome crash in the thick fog near Smolensk in western Russia was Poland's worst air disaster since World War II and completely stunned the country as scores of military political leaders were killed in one fell swoop.

The American people stand with the people of Poland in solemn commemoration of this horrible national tragedy that still reverberates throughout Polish society to this very day. The Soviet Union was complicit with Nazi Germany in the oppression of the courageous people of Poland. Despite the ongoing Wuhan Virus, senior Polish officials laid wreaths at the monument to the victims of the Smolensk air disaster at the Pilsudski Square in Warsaw earlier this month.

Unfortunately, questions relating to the cause of this tragedy still linger. Although an official Polish government investigation concluded that the crash was caused by pilot error, suspicions of foul play persist. At the memorial earlier this month, Polish President Andrzej Duda said, ''After 10 years, it's difficult to say anything or predict whether the case can ever be resolved.'' This is mainly because Russia has consistently refused to turn over basic evidence to the Polish state. The Russian government is still in possession of the plane wreckage including the black boxes that could provide more clarity.

In a press statement from earlier this month, Poland's Foreign Ministry renewed demands that Moscow return the wreckage of the Tupolev aircraft that crashed so that the Polish people can finally find some closure. Russia's refusal to turn over evidence raises many suspicions, despite claims by Russia's Investigative Committee that crew errors led to the accident.

The American people support the Polish Foreign Ministry's calls to return the wreckage to Poland, as well as the Ministry's assertion that ''no norm of international law gives grounds for Russia to impound Polish property.'' We stand with the people of Poland in remembering the victims of this awful tragedy and supporting efforts for a transparent investigation into its cause to provide a measure of justice to the victims and their families.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington is well represented by Ambassador Piotr Antoni Wilczek, promoting the message to never forget this catastrophe. President Andrzej Duda is appreciated in America. Democratic Post-Communist Poland is the only country in Europe to have 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth, which I saw firsthand in January. I particularly know the significance of America's beloved Polish-American Community of 10.5 million citizens. My daughter-in-law Jennifer Miskewicz Wilson is grateful for Krakow heritage and her association with Poet Adam Mickiewicz.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. (JACK) BARRY

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of one of my longtime constituents from Millis, Massachusetts, John F. (Jack) Barry, and to congratulate him on his retirement this coming April after 40 years of service with the American Hospital Association.

Jack has held several leadership positions at the AHA since 1980, including a temporary assignment from 1993 to 1995 in Washington, where he directed the association's regional operations during the Congressional deliberations over national health reform legislation. Since 1996, Jack has served as the AHA's regional executive in New England. He has worked with the region's six state hospital associations and hundreds of member hospitals to direct grassroots advocacy on issues of importance to hospitals.

Jack has long had ties to both Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. Born in Newton, he earned a B.A. in journalism from George Washington University in 1976 and an M.B.A. with a concentration in health care management from Boston University in 1991.

Jack looks forward to enjoying his retirement with his best friend and spouse of 38 years, Ellen Kelly, a retired nurse; his daughter Elizabeth; his son Patrick; and the host of friends and colleagues he has amassed over the years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jack Barry and wishing him and his family much happiness as he begins the next chapter of his life.

MINDY FREEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. Perlmutter. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mindy Freel for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Mindy Freel is a 10th grader at Northglenn Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mindy Freel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mindy Freel for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SELFLESS AMERICANS WORKING ON THE FRONTLINES TO BATTLE THE CORONAVIRUS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the brave men and women of this country who are risking their own lives every day to help our nation get through this terrible coronavirus pandemic. They are our emergency first responders, doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, members of the postal service and those who work in the shipping and delivery industries. Their continued service throughout this crisis means life or death for some patients fighting off this disease, and it also means that our families can continue to have the food and products we all need to survive.

Our local newspaper, Florida Today, recently highlighted the efforts of fifteen Brevard County nurses as they rushed to aid Americans suffering from COVID–19 in the town of Taunton, Massachusetts, a hard-hit community just south of Boston. These brave nurses, currently on staff with Rockledge Regional Medical Center, answered the call for help and volunteered to go for two weeks to treat seriously ill COVID–19 patients. Since being there, they have vowed to stay as long as they are needed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the selfless acts of nurses Jennifer Nelson, Lorraine Blake, Tandy Beck, Allison Salidino, Betty ''Joanne'' Crespo, Deidra Gansel, Jill Barrett, Amanda Tebault, Lisa Colon, Arlene ''Solly'' Salzwedel, Kris Smith, Nora George, Linda Fleming Dutton, Kara Ehrhardt and Gena Gillespie. These are real life heroes.

''When I first walked into ICU, I thought, 'Oh, my goodness. What is this?' It looked like, to coin a phrase, a war zone,'' Nurse Arlene ''Solly'' Salzwedel was quoted describing the situation saying in Taunton. ''The housekeepers do not come in to clean the rooms at all. That's the job of the nursing staff. So not only are you the patients' nurse, you're their cleaner. You're their spiritual support system, even though they're intubated and heavily sedated.''

Andy Romine, President of Rockledge Regional Medical Center, said originally thirty nurses had volunteered to go to Massachusetts, but our own needs in Brevard County required some to stay and care for patients in our own community. ''Our organization is very proud of them for their willingness to put their safety at risk to care for others—their courage and selflessness is a source of pride for us,'' said Romine. Since then, forty-five other nurses have traveled to Boston to treat the surging cases of COVID–19 putting their lives at risk.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting these brave nurses, and all of the selfless Americans who are risking their lives every day to help the American people overcome this serious coronavirus pandemic.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, after consulting with physicians about traveling during the COVID–19 pandemic, I was not able to make it to Washington for this vote, but I would have voted YES on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 266. Our local small businesses are facing unprecedented circumstances due to the COVID–19 crisis, with many struggling to keep all of their employees on payroll. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was a solution passed unanimously by the House just a few weeks ago, providing loans that keep Americans employed across the country. It was no surprise that demand for these loans was high, but it was a surprise to see members of Congress hold up more funding for the PPP over partisan political demands. I am glad to see my colleagues on the other side of the aisle finally bring up this vital bill for a vote today to provide the relief that so many businesses and workers need. Estimates already predict that this additional funding will keep over 103,000 workers on payroll.

Unfortunately, the Speaker's push for the creation of a new select committee to conduct oversight of the response to COVID–19 is another attempt to use taxpayer dollars to fulfill partisan goals. There are already eight different mechanisms in place for the House to exercise oversight over the response to this virus, making this new one completely redundant. It is clear that this committee is intended to score political points against the President rather than improve our pandemic response. If that is the goal, it should be funded by their campaigns, not by American taxpayers. That is why I would have voted NO on the Resolution Establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

DOUBLE DOWN ON HEALTH TIES WITH ISRAEL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, we are fortunate our alliance with Israel has never been stronger with the leadership of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Amid international lockdowns and cancellations due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the U.S. and Israel quietly marked a major milestone in our militaries' bilateral defense relationship. For the first time ever, on March 29 U.S. and Israeli F–35s trained together in Israel in a combined air-power exercise dubbed ''Enduring Lightning.'' Despite coronavirus-related cancellations across the globe, this exercise over Israeli skies illustrated the strength and endurance of the military cooperation between our two nations. Our militaries have worked together for years to fight the threat of terrorism and defend our way of life from those that seek to threaten it. Today, as we all face the universal threat of COVID–19, it's time we ensure that our cooperation with our friends in Israel relating to public health is as prioritized as our strong defense ties.

It's no surprise that defense has long been at the forefront of our bilateral cooperation with Israel. But our collaboration with Jerusalem spans all sectors of our society and our government-to-government collaboration on public health goes back decades. In 1985 when the Department of Health and Human Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Israeli Ministry of Health. The MOU provided for the exchange of information between the two countries, joint training and education, conferences, and collaborative projects.

But our bilateral work on public health is certainly not limited to government-to-government cooperation. The nature of cooperation between the United States and Israel, in every field, is based on the deep respect, friendship, and affection between Americans and Israelis. Just last month, the Israeli pharmaceutical company Teva announced it will donate more than six million doses of the anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine sulfate to hospitals across the United States. More than ever, we can appreciate person-to-person friendships as evidenced by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) so ably led by President Betsy Berns Korn and Chief Executive Officer Howard Kohr.

It is no secret that for years Israel has been at the forefront of breakthrough scientific research and technology. Just last week, the Galilee Research Institute in Israel announced it was on the cusp of developing a vaccine for the coronavirus, with estimates that it could be ready within a few weeks and available within 90 days. The Israel-based company Pluristem developed a placenta-based cell therapy treatment that has shown a 100 percent survival rate among severely ill COVID–19 patients and has just begun treating American patients days ago. During this crisis, Israel has also developed new, more affordable methods of producing ventilators and personal protective equipment that could change the way we respond to epidemics in the future. As we move forward in the fight against COVID–19, we would be wise to double down our health cooperation with Israel. There is no doubt that our two countries will benefit from information sharing related to the virus' spread, treatment, and containment.

I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to support deepening our health ties with the Jewish State. As Ranking Member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I work closely with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to prioritize the U.S.-Israel relationship. I'm grateful to be the lead Republican with Chairman TED DEUTCH (D–FL) on H.R. 1837, the United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act which among other things seeks to deepen our collaboration with Israel on health issues.

The bill calls for close collaboration with Israeli institutions on research and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, with which Israelis have, unfortunately, had a lot of experience given their current security situation. It also authorizes and funds a bilateral cooperative program with Israel for the development of health technologies, including artificial intelligence, biofeedback, and kidney care. Importantly, the bill, which passed the House of Representatives in July of last year, also includes language support for setting up a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regional office in Israel to facilitate joint work on critical issues relating to health. Last November, I was grateful to co-lead a letter with the Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, ALCEE HASTINGS, to HHS Secretary Alex Azar underscoring that the establishment of an FDA office in Israel, ''would facilitate collaboration in life-saving research and is a natural step for strengthening the special relationship between our countries.''

There has never been a better time to invest in robust bilateral health cooperation between the United States and Israel. Victory against the Invisible Enemy will require close collaboration with partners across the globe, especially with true friends like Israel. It's time we deepen the ties between Washington and Jerusalem for the sake of global public health.

SHANE COLLIN BRASHERS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Shane Collin Brashers for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Shane Collin Brashers is a 10th grader at Mapleton Early College High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Shane Collin Brashers is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Shane Collin Brashers for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

THANKING THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER MOLECULAR SPECIALISTS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the tireless efforts our caregivers and healthcare professionals are exciting patriotically to combat coronavirus. Those on the frontlines are bravely caring for sick patients. Those behind the scenes are working to find a vaccine or expand testing of the virus. Today in particular, on a day when Congress has recommended to pass additional legislation to heal our nation and unlock the mystery of COVID–19, I want to recognize the seven female molecular specialists at the University of Toledo Medical Center who have been instrumental in bringing in-house testing capabilities to our city and Northwest Ohio: Heather

Byrd, Michelle Lewandowski, Nicole Ortiz, Heather Kvale, Holly Mohon, Shauna Rasor, and Ji-Youn Yeo.

Not many hospitals have a molecular department, but UTMC does. Thanks to the work of these highly trained women specialists, and the UTMC lab capabilities, COVID–19 testing was made available for our entire region and results dropped from an 8 day wait period to just 48 hours. And the lab is poised to invent even better results with the research funds Congress has passed.

These swift test results have had a priceless impact on the lives of people in our community. Quick test results help us identify sick patients, get them the care they need, and prevent further spread. Their work brings our community great pride in their accomplishments at the precious labs of UTMC. I will continue to support their efforts at UTMC as the country works to ratchet up production and make widespread testing more available.

In the difficult circumstances Americans find ourselves in, hope must not be forgotten. The rays of hope we see in our researchers and caregivers' dedication to heal and find solutions to this virus serve as a reminder of the resiliency of our community and the strength of America as a whole in an interdependent world. Today, America thanks you—the Toledo Rocket women of science—who helped bring testing to our region. To quote Abraham Lincoln—you are "the better angels of our nature."

[From the Blade, Apr. 1, 2020]

HOW UTMC SPECIALISTS WORKED SWIFTLY TO BRING CORONAVIRUS TESTING TO AREA

(By Brooks Sutherland)

Around the same time the United States reported its first case of coronavirus, molecular specialists at the University of Toledo Medical Center had already begun discussions to bring in-house testing capabilities to its pathology lab.

It was that foresight that paved the way for coronavirus testing capabilities at UTMC, the former Medical College of Ohio hospital, under a U.S. Food and Drug Administration Emergency Use Authorization, to sprout in just weeks.

Testing in Lucas County previously took up to eight days for results to finalize even as concerns around the global pandemic continued to heighten and the number of confirmed cases skyrocketed nationwide.

But today, the lab at UTMC can test up to 180 samples a day and returns take 48 hours or less. That quick turnaround is possible thanks to efforts from molecular specialists such as Ji-Youn Yeo and Heather Kvale and a handful of others at UTMC, according to Cynthia O'Connell, the administrative director of the medical center's pathology lab.

''We have a molecular department, and not many hospitals do,'' she said. ''So we have a lot of specialists and they worked tirelessly to make this happen.''

Understanding its impact during a health crisis, Ms. Kvale added: ''We really wanted to bring this in house, so it would reduce the turnaround time for our patients.''

''I'm really glad that we're able to decrease that time so that people don't sit there in limbo,'' she said.

But in order to bring testing capability to UTMC, the molecular diagnostics specialists had to validate a testing kit to show it was accurately providing results. Thankfully, the lab was already equipped with the correct machine and the kit before they became in short supply.

In order to validate testing, lab workers collaborated with Beaumont Health, which is based in Royal Oak, Mich., and the Ohio Department of Health to gather known positive and negative specimens which were in turn used to test accuracy.

Ms. Yeo's expertise in molecular genetics then helped the lab modify the test to keep employees safe during the process, Ms. Kvale said. But that modification then had to be validated, she said.

''She's really brilliant,'' Ms. O'Connell added of Ms. Yeo.

Ms. Yeo declined to be interviewed, but in a prepared statement said members of the pathology team ''worked fast together,'' to put all the pieces in place to bring testing to northwest Ohio.

Dr. James Willey, a UT professor who specializes in pulmonary medicine, said Ms. Yeo trained and performed her thesis in his National Institutes of Health-funded lab, where she learned lots of unique skill sets.

''I'm proud of all those guys,'' he said. ''This is really important.''

Dr. Thomas Blomquist, deputy coroner at the Lucas County Coroner's Office, helped set up the molecular diagnostics lab and hired Ms. Kvale and Ms. Yeo. He said the two ''deserve a ton of credit,'' and said he was proud that the specialists were able to fend off any challenges that stood in the way of bringing testing to the area.

''Molecular testing is really critical for society,'' he said. ''It allows people to have quick results so they can be quarantined as quick as possible to prevent the spread. This is going to have a huge impact.''

HEROES IN THE WUHAN VIRUS PANDEMIC

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in the midst of the national emergency being successfully faced by President Donald Trump and Vice President MIKE PENCE, there have been so many citizens stepping forward to help fellow neighbors in need. I am grateful to recognize heroes who are making a difference.

Journalist Kara Gormley Meador has initiated highlighting innovative citizens efforts to address the Wuhan Virus with former S.C. Revenue Director Burnie Maybank of the Nexsen-Pruet Law Firm. There is free streaming at www.buzzpodcast.com. The first conversation was with President Lou Kennedy of Nephron Pharmaceutical where she explained retooling her operation almost overnight to respond to the virus. She has been welcomed to the WVOC Radio in the Midlands with Gary David and Christopher Thompson.

Dale Hatchell and Elizabeth Burt of Lexington have organized Support a Nurse to provide "Light of Love" care kits to nurses on the front lines. These kits are donations of nutritional and immunity products with a support message helping the Dorn Veterans Administration Hospital, Lexington and Prisma hospitals, and Department of Juvenile Justice.

Talk radio host Kevin Cohen has been relentlessly providing important updates for the Midlands of South Carolina, fulfilling his goals on The POINT promoting charities and local events.

Halsey Cook, Chief Executive Officer of Milliken & Company of Spartanburg is continuing the visionary tradition of the late Roger Milliken. Milliken & Company of Spartanburg is developing the manufacturing process for a new nanofiber with antiviral properties.

Scott Gottlieb of the American Enterprise Institute in The Wall Street Journal (April 12) has thoughtfully presented a plan to reopen the economy for jobs with companies diagnosing coronavirus cases in the workplace. He understands healthy citizens need a healthy economy.

Ambassador Andre Haspel of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has thoughtfully forwarded encouragement to members of the. Congressional Caucus of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The alliance of the Netherlands and the United States is strong and appreciated to defeat the Wuhan Virus.

General Milford Beagle, Commander of Fort Jackson, with Army Chief of Staff Major General James McConville have been pro-active to protect the lives of new recruits and the dedicated personnel at Fort Jackson. The installation trains nearly 50 percent of all Soldiers and more than 60 percent of all women entering the Army each year.

Cecil Staton, President and CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners of America, with Vice President Chirag Shah have worked tirelessly to promote the gruesomely impacted hospitality industry. AAHOA is the largest hotel owner's association in the world with 20,000 members owning half of hotels in America.

Walgreens Drug Stores with the dedicated staff in West Columbia is appreciated for featuring "Thanks to our frontline heroes". On Saturday, first responders, law enforcement, doctors and nurses will receive 30 percent off Walgreens brands and 20 percent off other brands. Drug stores, grocery stores, convenience stores and grocery stores, truckers, and other essential enterprises have been vital services for communities.

SAMANTHA LIEGGI

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Samantha Lieggi for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Samantha Lieggi is a 10th grader at Northglenn Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Samantha Lieggi is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Samantha Lieggi for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate met at 5:30:00 p.m. in pro forma session, and adjourned at 5:30:39 p.m. until 8 a.m., on Monday, April 27, 2020.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 17 public bills, H.R. 6598–6614; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 939–940 were introduced. **Pages H1956–57**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1957–58**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 938, providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform (H. Rept. 116–419). **Page H1907**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Castor (FL) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1907**

Providing for the adoption of H. Res. 935: The House agreed to H. Res. 938, providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 935) establishing a Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis as a select investigative subcommittee of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, by a yea-and-nay vote of 212 yeas to 182 nays, Roll No. 103, after the previous question was ordered without objection. Subsequently, H. Res. 935 was adopted.

Pages H1907–20, H1952–54

Order of Business—Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 266: Agreed by unanimous consent that debate under clause 1(c) of rule 15 on a motion to suspend the rules relating to the Senate amendment to H.R. 266 be extended to two hours. **Page H1920**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:41 p.m. and reconvened at 4:51 p.m. **Page H1954**

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to H.R. 266, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 5 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 104. **Pages H1920–52, H1954–55**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1952–53 and H1954–55. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MEMBER DAY HEARING ON COVID–19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Member Day Hearing on COVID–19 Response and Recovery: Committee on Small Business". Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, and Representatives Case, Barr, Cisneros, Bilirakis, Escobar, Budd, Gomez, Amodei, Haaland, Byrne, Horsford, Carter of Georgia, Curtis, Lee of Nevada, Burgess, Luria, Griffith, Malinowski,

Johnson of South Dakota, Neguse, Johnson of Louisiana, Norcross, Fitzpatrick, Phillips, Keller, Rose of New York, Pence, Schiff, Rice of South Carolina, Schrier, Katko, Sherrill, Roy, Slotkin, Smucker, Spanberger, Tipton, Stevens, David P. Roe of Tennessee, Thompson of California, Wagner, Womack, and Thompson of Pennsylvania.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

8 a.m., Monday, April 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10:30 a.m., Friday, April 24

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Blumenauer, Earl, Ore., E387
Cisneros, Gilbert Ray, Jr., Calif., E386
Clyburn, James E., S.C., E383
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E388, E390
Kennedy, Joseph P., III, Mass., E389
Lowenthal, Alan S., Calif., E387
Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E390
Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E383, E385, E385, E387, E387, E388, E388, E389, E390, E391
Posey, Bill, Fla., E389
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E383
Wasserman Schultz, Debbie, Fla., E388
Westerman, Bruce, Ark., E385
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E385, E385, E386, E387, E388, E390, E391

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