of governance, with the limited duties and powers of the federal government spelled out clearly in our Constitution. Over the years the federal government has crept into the responsibilities of the states, but the 10th Amendment stipulates that if those duties are not listed they are the responsibility of the states. We are partners and all have to play our respective part. I think the Congress, in passing three response bills in twenty-three days, has done its part.

I am also a capitalist and believe that free markets provide the highest quality goods and services at the lowest cost. I also believe in risk and reward—the power of individuals or groups raising capital and assuming risk with the hope of earning a return on that investment. Notice I say ''hope'' because in a free market a return is not guaranteed. During the financial collapse of 2008 I voted against the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). I did so because the market collapse was due to bad management and those responsible should have borne the cost. I also believed allowing this to occur would speed up the recovery.

This market involvement is fundamentally different. For me and many conservatives this is a takings debate. The government—whether federal, state or local—is forcing businesses to freeze economic activity. In essence, the government is depriving businesses of income they would otherwise be free to earn. What we have done in the third coronavirus bill is attempt to keep the employee and employer afloat until economic activity can resume, and to compensate those who have been ordered to forgo the fruits of their investment and labor.

As a retiring Member I have the ability to step back and observe the big picture while still having access to some inner rooms, or in this case some inner (and many) conference calls. The crying and gnashing of teeth has occurred on both sides. Whether it was Republicans attacking Speaker PELOSI for delaying the process with her attempt to jam in Green New Deal inspired provisions, or Democrats attacking Congressman MASSIE who thought it was not too much to ask for a recorded vote on an unpaid-for $2 trillion spending bill that would immediately increase the national debt to $25 trillion.

Members were thrown into a real quandary by the looming request for a recorded vote on this bill. Some were hunkered down in D.C. Most, like myself, were hunkered down in our home districts. Many Members would make a long drive to D.C. while others would risk air travel. To some it was an impossible commute with the limited time. I have the concern of an elderly parent living with me. Emotions were running high for everyone.

I think that what we observed is Congress working at its best. A recorded vote was requested by Congressman MASSIE, which was his right. Democrat Whip CLYBURN and Republican Whip SCALISE did their jobs and counted to ensure that a quorum of 216 Members were present. If my inside information is correct, 130 Democrats along with 120 Republicans were present. But while the Rules of the House dictate that any Member may ask for a recorded vote, his or her request must be supported at least one-fifth of a quorum. No one joined Congressman MASSIE in support of his request.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will pass by voice vote and signed into law that same day. Members were also given the opportunity to include in the RECORD how they would have voted, should a recorded vote have been ordered. I would have voted yes.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BEN McADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, as I continue to receive treatment in a Utah hospital for COVID–19, I am not able to vote on H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Had I been present and able to vote, I would have voted 'aye'. This bill is certainly not perfect and raises significant concerns about fiscal responsibility and appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

Nonetheless, we have a responsibility to protect the health and economic well-being of our state and our country. This bill provides critical support for working families, our frontline health care providers, community workers, state and local governments, and Utah small businesses and their employees. Coronavirus remains a danger to our lives and our livelihoods. I am proud to have championed a key oversight provision—a Treasury Department Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery—to track and account for disbursement and spending of taxpayer dollars. I will work to ensure we fix problems as they arise and focus on doing what is best for Utahns.

I believe we will get through this by giving communities, health care providers and local governments the tools they need to respond quickly and efficiently to what's happening on the ground with maximum flexibility and accountability. I believe in Utahns and I believe in Americans; everyday heroes will help us overcome and as a Representative, I must do my part to get urgently needed resources to Utahns.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, America is facing a very serious public health crisis that also has the potential to affect the long-term health of our economy.

The people on the front lines fighting the spread of COVID–19—our doctors, nurses, first responders, and other health professionals—need help. Congress should be stepping up to ensure America's health care system has access to needed personal protective equipment—like masks and face shields—and testing supplies to identify those infected and to help stop the spread of the virus. Businesses and employees affected by this virus also need help. Congress should be providing short-term financial assistance such as loans and in the form of a tax holiday. I recognize these needs and fully support action to provide resources to stem the damage being caused in the present crisis.

There is no question that this crisis is a direct result of the Chinese government's cover up of the dangers posed by COVID–19. The Chinese government failed to heed the early warnings of medical professionals, going so far as to persecute individuals like Dr. Li Wenliang, who was among the first to raise concerns, forcing him to sign a confession that his concerns were false. China ordered destruction of early research samples of the virus. The Chinese government also denied World Health Organization (WHO) investigators access inside the country's borders and they withheld critical information. The Chinese Communist Party falsely denied the evidence of human-to-human transmission. Contrary to WHO guidelines, Chinese officials manipulated statistics by failing to report infected individuals who tested positive for the virus if they exhibited mild to no symptoms. China's authoritarian government also allowed up to 5,000,000 people, including potentially tens of thousands of infected individuals, to leave Wuhan and travel across the globe, spreading the virus. The reality is that China was more interested in saving face than stopping the problem before it became a global pandemic. China was more interested in waging an international public relations campaign than getting the necessary help from the world community.

The United States and countries across the globe are now dealing with the fallout of China's deceit and misdeeds. We are wrestling with how to address a public health crisis, contain this deadly virus, and respond to unprecedented economic fallout. To address the current situation, Congress must act responsibly and thoughtfully but also with urgency. We must work together to support doctors, nurses and other health professionals. We need to also help suffering families, assist businesses and non-profits that have been ordered to close, and to set the stage for yet another American comeback.

Nearly every American has been affected by this virus. All levels of government have asked our citizens to stay home. Government has asked businesses to shutter their doors, and for America's health care professionals to courageously work longer hours, sometimes without the necessary supplies to protect themselves. Americans are tired, fearful, and distancing themselves from friends and neighbors when what they truly desire is community. The American people have been told this was necessary and that if they made these sacrifices we could ''bend the curve'' and stop the spread of the virus.

While President Trump and Republicans have been trying to lead, and the American people have been doing their part, Democrats have engaged in political games. The House Democratic Whip told his colleagues that this crisis was a ''tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.'' In the Senate, all but one Democrat voted to hold up debate on this bill for several days, simply to extract as many political concessions as possible. In response to the tremendous and patriotic sacrifices by the American people, Democrats have played politics. They saw a crisis that they did not want to let go to waste and chose to exploit the American peoples' fear and misery for political gain. That is unconscionable.

Today, we finally reached the point where we could debate the merits of this bill in the