Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (''CARES Act''). This bill is incredibly important to all of our citizens and communities. Our country is going through a war with this new virus, and we need to get every resource possible out into our communities to help fight this pandemic. We also need to protect our workers and keep them paid so they can purchase the food and supplies they need to get their families through this crisis safely.

That is what I want to speak to. One of the last provisions added to this bill was Title VI, which establishes a Coronavirus Relief Fund that provides $150 billion for the Secretary of Treasury to disseminate to States, Tribal Governments, and units of local government in fiscal year 2020. These funds are to alleviate severe financial pressure these governments are under during this public health emergency.

Specifically, the funds are intended to cover expenditures that were not accounted for in the budgets of these governments prior to the COVID–19 virus outbreak. For most of these governments, their budgets are based on the revenues they accounted for over the course of the fiscal year, including from revenues anticipated to be generated from business enterprises. These anticipated revenues are what these governments use to pay the wages of their employees.

I want to memorialize that it is the intent of this Chamber that the funds in the Coronavirus Relief Fund are intended to help cover the loss of revenues that would have otherwise been collected and generated by these governments to cover the wages of their employees. We need to make sure these employees continue to be paid and that every effort is made to prevent them from losing their jobs during this pandemic.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, America is in the middle of a crisis, and our constituents are looking to us for help.

COVID–19 has shuttered businesses, closed schools, left millions of Americans without the means to pay rent or put food on their tables, and worst of all, killed over a thousand of our neighbors.

Congress has passed two bills to address the stubborn lack of testing that still plagues our health system, and to provide Americans with federally guaranteed paid sick leave for the first time ever.

However, it's clear that the scope and impact of this pandemic is far greater than we could have imagined.

So today, we take another step towards giving Americans a helping hand and some needed relief from an emergency that has changed life as we know it.

I support H.R. 748, the CARES Act, because it reflects a bipartisan compromise that will allow our elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools to pay their faculty and staff, and continue providing nourishment to their students.

I support the CARES Act because it will put money directly into the pockets of working Americans who aren't looking for a handout, but who need assistance to make it through the next few weeks.

I support the CARES Act because it provides billions in assistance to our number one job creators, our small businesses, as they look to make payroll and keep their workers employed.

It was the author William Feather who said: ''The prizes go to those who meet emergencies successfully. And the way to meet emergencies is to do each daily task the best we can.''

The American people have done their best to meet each day of this crisis with resolve.

Now it is up to Congress to meet this crisis with the same kind of moral fiber.