to join in this effort to support one of our country's core economic drivers.

Loggers and forestry industry professionals were rightfully deemed essential workers during this public health crisis, and we must ensure that they receive the support necessary to emerge from this downturn.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. JONES, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4237. A bill to extend zero interest rate benefits and payment suspension to all Federal student loan borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, along with Senator MURKOWSKI, we are introducing legislation to provide relief to all Federal student loan borrowers during this public health and economic crisis. The bipartisan Student Loan Fairness Act, which is also cosponsored by Senators MURKOWSKI, JONES, and TILLIS, will correct an inequity in the CARES Act that left out millions of Federal student loan borrowers from benefits to ease the burden of repayment as we continue to fight COVID–19.

The CARES Act benefits are restricted to borrowers of student loans that are held by the Federal government. This leaves out the borrowers whose Federal Family Education Loans (FFEL) are still held by commercial and State agency lenders, and those with Perkins Loans that are administered by institutions of higher education. In fact, nearly 6 million borrowers were left out under the FFEL Program and another 1.9 million under the Perkins Loan Program. This disparate treatment by loan type is as confusing as it is unfair.

In April, a broad group of more than two dozen organizations representing educators, borrower advocates, veterans, lenders, guaranty agencies, and student loan servicers implored Congress to remedy this inequity. They wrote, ''A Federal loan borrower—regardless of the origination of that loan, be it Part B, D, E, commercial, or government-held—should receive equal, immediate, and critical support in this unprecedented time . . . Already, borrowers are confused as to why their Federal loans are treated differently than others.''

The Student Loan Fairness Act will extend the CARES Act relief to these borrowers by covering the cost of interest and suspending monthly payments for the period of March 13 through September 30, 2020, and suspending all involuntary collection, such as administrative wage garnishment or offsets from tax refunds, for this period.

This legislation is one component of what should be a comprehensive package of student loan debt relief. As the crisis continues, we should extend the repayment relief until health and economic conditions improve sufficiently for borrowers to be able to begin repayment. Additionally, we should forgive at least $10,000 of debt for each student loan borrower to help speed the recovery and reduce the drag of the roughly $1.6 trillion in outstanding student loan debt on economic prospects for over 40 million Americans. Going forward, we must reduce the need for student loan borrowing by expanding need-based grants, such as the Pell Grant, and ensuring that states and institutions do their part to lower the cost to students and families.

We should work together to build on the important steps Congress took to provide relief to student loan borrowers in the CARES Act. However, we need to ensure that all Federal student loan borrowers have access to this relief. I hope that my colleagues will join us in cosponsoring the Student Loan Fairness Act and pushing for its inclusion in the next COVID–19 relief package.

By Mrs. LOEFFLER (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 4238. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to criminal street gangs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. LOEFFLER. Mr. President, this spring, 14-year-old Janina Valenzuela was riding a bike with a friend in Marietta, GA, when she was killed as part of an initiation into an MS–13 gang. In 2016, Christopher Dean was brutally murdered by gang members in Atlanta. The D.A. called it ''the most horrific death'' in recent history. His murder left two children without a father. In 2010, 11-year-old Nicholas Sheffey was shot and killed sleeping in his bed during a drive-by shooting in Chamblee, GA. These are just three of the too many lives that have been lost, tragically cut short due to senseless gang violence.

In Georgia, there are over 71,000 known gang members representing a variety of gangs, including the Ghostface Gangsters, an all-White gang in Georgia; the Gangster Disciples, which formed in Chicago and quickly spread to Georgia; and the Aryan Brotherhood, a White supremacy gang.

Nationwide, there are more than 1.4 million members and 33,000 gangs across the U.S. According to the most recent National Gang Report, half of law enforcement officials reported that gang-related violence has increased in each of their jurisdictions. Thankfully, President Trump and Georgia leaders have taken strong action to address the rising tide of gang violence and to end the cycles of violence that they cause.

For the first time ever, the Department of Justice has brought terrorism charges against a member of the MS–13 gang, taking action against their leader and 21 other gang members.

Under the leadership of Georgia Governor Brian Kemp and Attorney General Chris Carr, my home State of Georgia has led the way on confronting gang violence, passing legislation that gives prosecutors the tools they need to disrupt and dismantle these terrible gang networks.

Today, I am introducing the Cracking Down on Gangs and Deporting Criminals Act to apply Georgia's anti-gang, pro-community measures across our country. This legislation, based on the Georgia law that Attorney General Carr has called ''one of the strongest statutes in the Nation,'' aims to deter and punish criminals who set out to destroy lives and communities. This includes violent crimes like the murders of Janina, Christopher, and Nicholas.

In addition to violence, gangs run elaborate drug operations. One recent bust in Pickens County last month resulted in the arrest of nearly 50 individuals. Law enforcement confiscated nearly $2 million worth of meth-amphetamine from a drug ring run by three gangs.

They deal in the abhorrent world of human trafficking. A study in San Diego County found that an astounding 85 percent of those involved in human trafficking were actively involved in gangs.

Current Federal gang statute has three strict criteria that are difficult for prosecutors to meet in order to hold someone accountable for their participation in a street gang. The legislation I am introducing today will make it easier for Federal prosecutors to seek harsh sentences for gang activity. It will facilitate the removal of criminal gang members who are in our country illegally, and it would create a national gang database, making it easier to eradicate these gang networks.

We need to take action now to take violent gang members off of our streets. Across the country, violence is skyrocketing in our cities, while radicals call to defund and abolish the police. The troubling decline in support for law enforcement, coupled with the effects of the pandemic and recent unrest, threatens the further spread of gang violence across communities in America.

The Cracking Down on Gangs and Deporting Criminals Act will help keep our communities safe and support law enforcement in their work to root out gang activity. No family should have to go through what Janina, Christopher, and Nicholas did. Parents should be able to send their children outdoors and off to school without worrying that they won't make it home, and children shouldn't fear that their parents won't return home. It is time that we hold gang members accountable for their vile and evil actions and keep the American public safe.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 4242. A bill to establish programs related to prevention of prescription opioid misuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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