been a mark of success in terms of being able to identify and then isolate and then keep the virus from transmitting.

She is now very, very focused on how we safely return our kids back to school. I had a long conversation with her a few days back. She says that this is the ultimate challenge in that it is not just how we reopen schools but how we keep our schools open after that. That is our challenge.

She shared with me—she said: I thought that putting together the plans and the protocols for the seafood processors was going to be challenging and difficult in these very remote communities where they have limited healthcare in the event that you have the virus spread. That was difficult, but getting our schools open and keeping them open safely—this is the biggest challenge.

She said that schools are now her new seafood processors. So she is taking up the challenge aggressively.

Dr. Zink reminds us that at the end of the day, what we have to stay focused on is keeping people safe, keeping our families and our workers safe. This is a moment about all of us and how we respond during this great time of need.

I am extraordinarily thankful for Dr. Zink's leadership, both out in front and behind the scenes as she works with the many extraordinary Alaskans who are seeking to make a difference as we take on the daily challenges and battles that face us with the COVID–19 response.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

COVID–19 HEROES

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in honoring those who have helped their communities to overcome challenges during the COVID–19 pandemic.

There are many everyday heroes who deserve recognition. We have seen the efforts of our first responders, law enforcement, teachers, postal and delivery employees, and store workers, among others, who have continued providing essential services in spite of the challenges brought on by the coronavirus.

As the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I have spoken many times about the critically important work of our farmers and our ranchers.

I see I am joined here on the floor by our Agriculture Committee chairman. I know he has been down here as well pointing out how our farmers and ranchers are continuing to provide food, fuel, and fiber for our Nation even during this pandemic. We are working to help and support them during this challenging time. Every American benefits every day from the work of those farmers and ranchers, who provide the highest quality and lowest cost food supply in the world in tough times and even in times when we face something like a pandemic.

Today, I would like to recognize the valiant efforts of the healthcare professionals in my State and across this country and highlight some of the work our North Dakotans are doing—doctors, nurses, and many others working in hospitals and clinics across our State.

North Dakota's healthcare professionals have been working around the clock to prevent the spread of this virus and to treat those affected by COVID–19.

One example is Dr. Chris Pribula, a graduate of the University of North Dakota Medical School, who worked with a team to set up the COVID Care Unit at Sanford Hospital in Fargo. He was on duty when the first COVID patient arrived at the hospital and remained on duty for the next 18 days straight to make sure that staff and patients had everything they needed.

Over the past several months, I have held a number of roundtables with healthcare professionals in North Dakota. As we have discussed issues and challenges, one thing is clear: Our healthcare providers are diligent and dedicated in their efforts to prepare for and prevent the spread of coronavirus and to provide patients with the best possible care.

Another individual highlighted by his colleagues is Dr. Kremens, a critical care physician at Essentia Health who intubated and managed multiple critically ill patients at once. Dr. Kremens is a good example of the many intensive care and emergency department physicians and nurses who have fought on the frontlines of the pandemic and continue to do so.

We are grateful for the dedicated service of the many healthcare professionals in North Dakota and recognize that they and their loved ones have made many sacrifices during this health emergency.

We worked to provide our health providers with much needed support in the first three phases of the coronavirus relief legislation. For example, under the CARES Act, North Dakota rural hospitals and providers have received $135 million to help with their efforts to combat COVID–19. As negotiations continue on the next phase of relief, healthcare remains a top priority.

While our healthcare providers have been working diligently, I would also like to recognize how members of our communities have stepped up to help our medical professionals as well.

An example of the community stepping up to meet the challenge during the pandemic is Proof Artisan Distillers, a small craft distillery in Fargo, ND. Back in March, Proof Artisan Distillery responded to the community need. Working with Tharaldson Ethanol in Casselton, ND, they began producing sanitizer for healthcare, assisted living facilities, first responders, Tribal and municipal entities, and highway patrols from four neighboring States.

Proof Artisan Distillery's president, Joel Kath, relayed this story:

> During our second day of production, I answered a frantic call from a supply director of a large memory care group. They were virtually out of sanitizer and would not be resupplied through their normal channels for many weeks. The caller broke down with emotion when I confirmed that we could easily supply their needs. It's a response I will never forget, and a constant reminder of the importance of our task at hand.

Another example from my home State is Infinite Leap, a company founded by Air Force veteran Mark Rheault that is using technology to help healthcare providers offer virtual waiting rooms. Infinite Leap's technology helps eliminate registration lines, reduce congestion in waiting areas, and decrease patient waiting times. Not only is this technology being utilized by healthcare providers to help maintain social distancing, the technology is also helping other industries, including restaurants and manufacturing plants, to safely reopen.

These are just a few examples of the individuals and organizations that have stepped up and helped their communities to meet the challenges during this health emergency.

Again, I thank our healthcare providers for their dedicated effort to fight this virus. We recognize the challenges they face, and we are truly grateful for their hard work. They are, in fact, truly everyday heroes.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

COVID–19 HEROES

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my many colleagues familiar with agriculture—the farmers, ranchers, growers, everybody in the food chain—and my thanks to Senator ERNST for really starting this, making a great speech last week. We are all trying to follow up with the same message to shine a spotlight on our Nation's COVID–19 heroes.

We have heard the term ''hero'' a lot during this pandemic. I believe the title is warranted to describe the many Kansans and, for that matter, all Americans who are doing extraordinary work and making great sacrifices to make this country safer and healthier.

Today, I want to talk about the heroes—the special heroes in agriculture: our farmers, our ranchers, our growers. The Sun comes out every day. A lot of us are in safe places. We have decided that is the best alternative for us, and so we have a lot of shutdowns.

Not farm country. The farmers, ranchers, and growers, they don't have that option. They have to do what they have to do in terms of planting their crops, harvesting their crops, taking care of their crops. They work long hours, day in and day out, to produce