This pandemic has taken lives and livelihoods from so many Pennsylvanians. We have the opportunity here to contain this virus and reverse this economic fallout. I urge the passage of the Paycheck Protection Small Business Forgiveness Act.

HIRE VETS MEDALLION

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two businesses in the Sixth District who have committed themselves to serving those who served our Nation.

Tactical & Survival Specialties, Incorporated, of Harrisonburg was awarded the Department of Labor's HIRE Vets Medallion for the second year in a row, while Rubicon Planning of Roanoke earned this distinction for the first time.

This prestigious honor is the only program within the Federal Government that recognizes the meaningful and verifiable efforts undertaken by job creators to hire and retain our Nation's veterans.

These two patriotic businesses understand why veterans are such an asset to any workforce.

According to a new Census report, veterans are more willing than civilians to work longer hours and seek full-time employment. Further, by nature, veterans work well in a team and have a sense of duty. They are disciplined, determined, and confident. They are trained to be problem-solvers, to adapt to changing situations, and they have a work ethic that is simply unmatched. For these reasons, I encourage all businesses to hire veterans.

I applaud and thank Rubicon Planning and TSSi for being one of a select few awardees across the Nation who have already committed themselves to doing so.

COVID RELIEF

(Mr. CRIST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRIST. Madam Speaker, we need a COVID relief package, and we need it now. America is the richest country in the world. In fact, America is the richest country in history.

The CARES Act and the Fed pumped trillions of dollars into the economy this spring all while interest rates sank to historic lows. Our economic might was built for this moment—for this emergency. We can afford to meet the needs of our people and our economy in this pandemic. The economists, in fact, are urgently telling us that the problems of today vastly outweigh the potential debt problems of tomorrow. This is especially true if inaction means laying off firefighters and people losing their homes.

We know we can help our people, and experts agree we should help our people. But all my constituents know is that that has not happened. We have a sacred duty to get it done.

THE GROWING THREAT OF CHINA

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, China continues to grow as a threat to freedom and human rights worldwide, and the People's Liberation Army is one of their strongest tools.

Unfortunately, large U.S. investment funds are shelling out millions of dollars to Chinese companies that support the PLA. Individuals, banks, and companies should not be putting our financial security at risk in order to inflate their financial portfolios.

President Trump has been consistently tough on China and recently issued an executive order banning American investment in these dangerous companies. Similarly, Congressman BANKS, Congressman GALLAGHER, and I introduced the Stop Funding the PLA Act to prohibit American funds from going to entities that support China's growing military presence.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to join us in making this bill a permanent part of our strategy to hold China accountable. We should stand strong and never support the Chinese Communist Party or any of its entities.

COVID–19

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, just recently I read an article that indicated that one in six Texans had been infected with COVID–19. As the study indicates in our local newspaper, that may be the case for States around the Nation. So I think it is extremely important that the General Services Administration and the administrator of that department follow their administrative duties to allow the President-elect and Vice President-elect to be engaged in COVID–19 briefings to save lives.

In addition, I think it is crucial that we move forward on the Heroes Act that will provide for PPEs, will provide for payroll protection, and, of course, testing. Early on, testing was supposed to be 5 million a day. We have only tested 1.6 million a day minimally in the United States at least. We have to do more to save lives. Testing, social distancing, washing your hands, and wearing a mask will save lives. It will save lives here, and it will save lives across America.

Finally, we must pass this legislation to help with the mental health stress people are facing and the economic stress they are facing.

The General Services Administration needs to do their job and do it now so that the American people's lives can be saved.

□ 1800

MAINTAINING EXPANSION OF TELEMEDICINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, with all the chaos and the activity going on around us, as we all know, we are all organizing our conferences. I wanted to touch on a couple of pieces of legislation that are out there right now that I am hoping, if we do some packages between now and the end of the year, we will all consider. And I love using the little boards because I think it sort of helps concentrate.

One of the things, if there is any positive of what we have gone through in the pandemic, is the skepticism that was this body about telemedicine I hope is over, if you see the adoption rate of what has happened with, particularly, our seniors in embracing, having positive experiences, and actually even demanding telemedicine services.

My understanding is now that there is open enrollment in Medicare part D, that is actually now one of the common requests: What type of telemedicine services do you provide and offer?

If we understand, as a body, that the access for our seniors to use telemedicine functionally—the expansion of the reimbursements, the rules—expires when the pandemic is declared over, I am desperately hoping that our brothers and sisters around here on the right and the left hear that and understand if the community has embraced the price efficiency, the additional access to healthcare—that is, the telemedicine—let's make sure we don't let it expire when the vaccine and those come onto the market, are widely adopted, and we start to see the declaration that the pandemic is over. So, this is just sort of the benchmark of starting.

Now, if I am making the argument that telemedicine has expanded access, and we are seeing the opportunity for some real cost efficiency—because, as we know, it is always hard to talk about, but Medicare is one of the greatest drivers of U.S. debt. As a matter of fact, it is the greatest driver of U.S. debt.

It is demographics. Our brothers and sisters who are 65 years and older—and I am going to be there soon—earn this benefit. But the fact of the matter is, the unfunded liabilities, the substantial portion of it, come out of the general fund. It is a major driver.

We should be excited that we had a proof of concept during this sort of miserable several months, that it expanded access. We are seeing the price efficiency.