All of the Senate's thoughts and prayers are with our distinguished colleague, who reported yesterday evening that he still feels fine. We hope that will remain the case. Certainly, if any Member of this body has the good health and stamina to kick the virus to the curb, it is Senator GRASSLEY.

So we will look forward to seeing him soon.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, Senate Republicans have spent months—months—trying to get another bipartisan rescue package passed and signed into law for the American people.

For months, our position has been entirely consistent. We want to reach agreement on all the areas where compromise is well within reach, send hundreds of billions of dollars to urgent and uncontroversial programs, and let Washington argue over the rest later.

There is no reason why doing right by struggling families should wait until we resolve every difference on every issue. But, unfortunately, both Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader have been equally consistent, and they don't think Congress should do anything at all—anything, unless they get to cash out a far-left ideological wish list, including things with zero relationship to the present crisis.

They have continued to insist that Congress must pass their so-called Heroes Act or do nothing at all.

The problem is that their proposal is a multitrillion-dollar laughingstock that never had a chance of becoming law.

Let's recall what Speaker PELOSI's own Members said when she first released this proposal:

I think the Heroes Act went too far. It got loaded up with a bunch of political wish list things.

This is Washington politics at its worst . . . a partisan wish list.

It's a middle finger to the American people.

These are all reactions of House Democrats. And no wonder, because here are just some of the demands the Speaker will not drop: a massive tax cut specifically for wealthy people in blue States; a colossal slush fund for consistently mismanaged State and city governments, with no linkage to actual pandemic needs.

These things are included, but they managed to completely leave out—listen to this—leave out entirely any new funding for a second round of the job-saving Paycheck Protection Program—something we made sure to include in every Republican offering. They want to spend $3 trillion but couldn't find one cent—one cent—of new money for the job-saving program that has kept small businesses afloat from coast to coast.

Oh, and by the way, because the far-left decided in the summertime they didn't much like the men and women of law enforcement anymore, between the first and second version of this proposal, the Speaker literally took out—listen to this—took out hundreds of millions of dollars for hiring, equipping, and training local law enforcement. I guess by their account, the police don't count as ''Heroes'' any longer.

By playing all-or-nothing hardball with a proposal this radical, our colleagues have thus far guaranteed that American workers and families get nothing at all.

The pace of our economic recovery and the promise of vaccines on the horizon give us reasons for major hope, but we are nowhere near—nowhere near—out of the woods yet. Vaccines will need to be distributed nationwide and quickly. Republicans' targeted proposal provided billions of dollars to make that happen, but Democrats blocked it.

The PPP has helped millions of American workers and small businesses hang on thus far, but now, in the home stretch, they need more help. Republicans' targeted proposal would have renewed that lifeline for the hardest hit small businesses, but again, Democrats blocked it.

So think about it. We moved Heaven and Earth and spent mountains of money to help workers keep their jobs and help small businesses keep the lights on from the springtime all the way up to now, but now, after all that, with the end seemingly in sight, we might lose the hardest hit small businesses in the home stretch because Democrats have refused—refused—to let us continue helping. We kept family businesses alive for months and months, only to see some of them fail now, with vaccines on the horizon, because Democrats have blocked another round of PPP.

Well, it is not too late to make a difference. Republicans stand ready to deliver this urgent aid. Let's fund all the programs where there is not even real disagreement—just the ones where there is no disagreement—and let's do it now. We just need Democrats to finally get serious about this.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, let me join all of my colleagues in wishing the Senate pro tempore, the senior Senator from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, a speedy and quick recovery. We know he is a strong man, and we have every confidence he will beat this back, as he has beaten many other adversities back in the past.

Now, it has been nearly 2 weeks since every major news network called the Presidential election for Joe Biden. Preparations for the incoming Biden administration are well under way, and still—still—President Trump refuses to accept reality.

This morning brought a fresh series of Presidential delusions on Twitter. President Trump declared—sometimes in capital letters—that the election was a fraud, a joke, and even unconstitutional. Imagine that, an unconstitutional election. That is because Trump's ego is such, when he doesn't win, everything is wrong, false, et cetera.

President Trump, get out of your bubble. You lost. Joe Biden will be sworn in as the next President of the United States on January 20. There is nothing you can do to stop it. Get out of the bubble and work on a transition.

Last night, continuing President Trump's outrageous and dishonest behavior, President Trump fired our country's chief election security officer, Chris Krebs, an honorable public servant, because he confirmed that our elections were secure. This reinforced the No. 1 rule of working for Donald Trump: You can never tell the truth.

But no matter whom he fires or how many times he tweets, President Trump cannot change reality. He lost the Presidential election. Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States, and it is time for President Trump to quit the nonsense, admit the truth, and move on. Anytime my Republican colleagues want to tell him that would be fine by me.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, now, on another matter entirely, the country is facing the worst phase of the pandemic. As the number of new infections and hospitalizations threaten, once again, to overwhelm the capacity of our healthcare system, we have to make sure that our nurses and doctors and all of our healthcare professionals have the PPE they need to protect themselves and their patients safely.

We all remember the early days of the crisis, when healthcare professionals in some parts of the country were forced to jury-rig masks and gloves from spare clothing and bits of string. In my home State of New York, nursing homes alone were burning through 12 million pieces of PPE a week during the height of the pandemic in April. The recent surge in cases might bring us all back to or beyond the peak levels we saw earlier this year. We must do everything—everything—in our power to avoid a repeat of the widespread PPE shortages.

So I am joining Senators MURRAY, PETERS, BALDWIN, and MURPHY to introduce new legislation that authorizes $10 billion for the Strategic National Stockpile to purchase large quantities of PPE, including N95 respirators, gloves, gowns, face masks, face shields, and surgical masks.

The N95 masks don't need to be worn by every American on a daily basis, but