stayed open while next door, Colorado shut down. Utah currently has half the COVID mortality rate and three-fourths the unemployment rate as Colorado. But the lockdowns have cost countless lives from suicides, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and deferred health screenings and treatments.

Recently, Governor Newsom demanded that restaurant diners replace their masks after every bite, but also minimize the times they are taken off. I guess that means you take really big bites. Thanksgiving dinners are allowed in California, but only when they are held outside, guests are seated 6 feet apart, and they last no more than 2 hours. Now it is all right to use the bathroom, but only if it is frequently sanitized, otherwise presumably you will just have to use the bushes. And for God's sake, no singing.

I have wondered how much longer the American people are going to tolerate this nonsense.

So let us not criticize Governor Newsom. Perhaps he has just offered us all deliverance from his own folly.

Nor should we criticize the California legislators who ignored travel and quarantine restrictions to junket in Hawaii. Nor should we ridicule Speaker PELOSI for choosing not to wear a mask in a hair salon that was forced to close for the rest of us.

Good for them. They are demonstrating by their actions the freedom that every American citizen needs to reclaim from these very same people. The Governor should make his own decisions about running his own life. I only ask that he and his ilk would stop telling us how to run ours.

HONORING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Rural Health Day.

I am proud to represent Arizona's First Congressional District. Our district is larger than the State of Illinois, and it is one of the most rural in the country.

Many of my constituents must spend hours traveling hundreds of miles to access any kind of care, let alone specialist care.

This year, the COVID–19 pandemic has hit our rural communities especially hard.

In March, we passed the CARES Act: Sweeping legislation to address the coronavirus pandemic and provide relief to struggling healthcare facilities workers, families, small businesses, and Tribes.

Within this package, we pushed to include $8 billion in funding specifically for our rural Tribal Nations. We also secured over $1 billion to support the Indian Health Service in Tribal health systems.

The CARES Act included $200 million for new rural telehealth services and $3.1 billion in funding for community health centers.

But this is not enough. We need to pass a new, comprehensive COVID–19 package now.

A TALK ABOUT LIFE

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to divert for a second from what I have written here and talk about life.

When I became a police officer a while back, I did it because I wanted to save lives. And right now, our doctors and our nurses across this country are doing that with limited help and with the need for more supplies.

So our businesses are struggling.

But when I would go to a door and knock on that door when I was a homicide investigator and tell someone's loved one that their son or daughter had died suddenly through violence, it was one of the harshest things I had to do in life, and I had to do it way too many times.

And now I sit here almost 4 years and see a national emergency declared, and month after month after month we have not made a decision to help the American people again. Families are being broken up. We all care about families. People are suffering because they have lost their jobs. We care about that, I know, all of us.

I know that each and every one of us, if we had a family member that was about to die, that we would want to be there by their side, but also, we would do everything we could to save that life. And, yet, here we sit as a body, and the Senate sits as a body, and the administration is here, and month after month after month we have failed to address these severe problems within our country.

Whatever Governors do, they do. That is because part of the issue is that we haven't provided enough responsibility and direction.

But the other part of it is that we just haven't gotten our job done. After 4 years I sit here and look out and know that 1,800 fellow Americans died yesterday and a thousand more the day before and a thousand more the day before that, and the amount of cases are going up and spiraling. Thank God the healthcare industry has found some ways to help our families.

But the vaccine is not around the corner. It is months away from having any impact; months away. And people will still die; our fellow Americans. We cannot allow this to happen.

We are going to be going on Thanksgiving break. Really? I couldn't comprehend it when we left for the summer and our fellow Americans were dying. I really can't comprehend going home for Thanksgiving and not working as hard as I can before that to make sure that our American families do not have to suffer anymore.

When I worked in the Chicago neighborhoods as a police officer, people were suffering then without this going on. And now they are suffering even worse.

This is something that I signed up for, to save lives as a police officer, and to do that here as much as we can. And we should all be going in that direction. I know you want to. I know we want to, but we have to show it.

We can say to leadership, go leadership and negotiate. Us being here is a way of making sure they and our country know that we care. We care enough to not just go away week after week after week and not allow the people of America to know their leaders are here for them.

HONORING THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, on November 3, Puerto Rican voters made a clear choice to become a permanent part of this Union, to become a State in equal footing and equal responsibility to the 50 States.

As it was done in Alaska and Hawaii, voters were asked a straightforward question: ''Should Puerto Rico be admitted as a State of the Union?'' And, yes, an absolute majority voted ''yes.'' Statehood gained more votes than any candidate or party ticket on the island. I was the most voted candidate islandwide, and statehood still received well over 100,000 more votes.

The people of Puerto Rico have repeatedly voted to end territorial status. In 2012, voters answered ''no'' to the question on continuing the territorial status on the island, and in all votes since then, the majority of ballots for change has favored statehood.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Puerto Rico have democratically chosen what their future should be. What is Congress waiting for?

It is our duty to respect the will of the people of Puerto Rico. This is a direct mandate to move to statehood, and it is Congress' responsibility to act and do it. Keeping the current condition cannot be justified by any means. There are a lot of assumptions and false claims being made by both sides of the aisle on the issue of Puerto Rico's statehood—claims that are mistaken and only try to invalidate the will of the people.

The American citizens in Alaska and Hawaii were not met with proposals to try some other different solution or meet some special precondition, so why should we?

Congress needs to respond to this vote to achieve the goal of getting Puerto Rico a legal status where our American citizens stand on the same footing as those in the rest of the Nation.

This is the right thing to do. Inequality is not sustainable.

For over 100 years our young men and women have fought in America's wars side by side with their fellow citizens