we are making very good progress toward that goal. On the second track, the Senate Budget Committee is close to finalizing a budget resolution, which will allow the Senate to move forward with the remaining parts of the American Jobs and Families Plan. The Senate must pass the budget resolution and an eventual budget reconciliation bill with or without Republican support.

The fact of the matter is, brick-and-mortar infrastructure is very important, but it is no longer the only type of infrastructure that matters in the 21st century. Human infrastructure—what many might call family support as our families come under increasing pressure in this modern society, things like childcare, family leave, education, healthcare—are just as essential to giving our citizens opportunity as building roads and bridges and railways. Both are very important. Twenty-first century investment in broadband internet, the electric grid, and retrofitting our economy to fight climate change in bold ways are just as important as roads and bridges and railways. We must do both. It is not one or the other, and we are going to do both.

Before the week work period is over, it is my intention for the Senate to hold votes on the bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution. Members should prepare for a busier work period than usual, with the possibility of late-night votes, weekend votes, and changes to the August schedule. It is not going to be easy, but it is certainly going to be worth it.

The Federal Government has not made a significant stand-alone investment in infrastructure in decades. We have the world's largest economy, and yet our infrastructure ranks 13th. America has less generous family support policies than so many of our peers who are not as wealthy as we are. It is time to rebuild our infrastructure, create millions of good-paying jobs—particularly to those who haven't been able to get good-paying jobs—and help American families keep up with rising expenses. If and when we succeed, the benefits—the benefits—will reverberate across the country for generations to come.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, the Senate will also continue to confirm highly qualified nominations to the Biden administration.

This week, the Senate will confirm Uzra Zeya to serve as Under Secretary of State and Julie Su to serve as Deputy Secretary of Labor. Both Ms. Zeya and Ms. Su will add to the expertise, dedication, and diversity of President Biden's administration. As the week progresses, Members should be advised there will be additional votes, in all likelihood, on additional nominees.

Judicial appointments remain one of our highest priorities. Later this week, the Judiciary Committee will vote to advance five additional judges: two circuit court nominees, including Ms. Eunice Lee—one of the great public defenders not only in New York but in the country whom I am proud to recommend to the Second Circuit—and three district court nominees.

The Senate has already confirmed more circuit and district court judges before July 4 than during the first year of any Presidency in recent history. We will continue this critical work in the months to come and restore balance, much needed balance, to the Federal judiciary.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Madam President, on one final matter, the child tax credit—this, the biggest effort in over 50 years to reduce childhood poverty in America—begins on Thursday. Later this week, tens of millions of American families are going to see extra money hit their bank accounts when the first payments of the newly expanded child tax credit are disbursed across the country.

When Senate Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan in March, we included a provision to provide the majority of parents $3,600 per year for every child under 6 and $3,000 for every child between 6 and 17. These payments, I am happy to say, are ready to begin this week, which means that, soon, most families with kids will start receiving $300 each month for each child under 6 and $250 each month for each child 6 to 17.

I want American families to know, if you filed your taxes in either 2019 or 2020 or both, you will get these payments automatically; you will see them in your bank accounts without lifting a finger. For those who for whatever reason didn't file taxes in the past 2 years, I strongly urge you to go online and register at irs.gov/childtaxcredit—let me repeat that: irs.gov/childtaxcredit—or contact your representative for assistance.

These payments are going to make an incredible difference to millions and millions of American families struggling with the cost of childcare and groceries and housing and healthcare. Recent estimates by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities predict that more than 4 million children—4 million children—will be lifted out of poverty. Childhood poverty in America cut almost in half—what an amazing thing that is.

Just this morning, I met with a group of parents in New York whose lives would dramatically improve thanks to this policy. Listening to their stories, I was moved to hear the relief in their voices that an extra little help is coming their way and the hope in their voices about giving their children a better future.

This is an example of the difference between a Democratic and a Republican majority in the Senate. As Leader MCCONNELL openly reminds everyone, not a single Republican voted in favor of expanding the child tax credit through the American Rescue Plan.

I am so proud that Democrats found a way to help American families, help American kids with a brighter, stronger future despite unanimous Republican opposition. I believe that now we must press on and make these expanded payments a permanent part of our Tax Code.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today is the first day of what could be a productive and maybe even historic few weeks in the Senate. I hope we can live up to the challenges we are facing.

July 6 was a historic day in my home State of Illinois. For the first time in 476 days, Illinois went 24 hours without losing a life to COVID–19. During the deadliest days of this pandemic, Illinois was losing more than 150 people a day to COVID. As our Governor, JB Pritzker, said on the 6th, ''The vaccines have done the work. Thank God for the vaccines.'' I couldn't have said it better.

Seventy percent of eligible Illinois residents have received at least one dose of those lifesaving COVID vaccines, including 90 percent of seniors. But we are at a critical moment in Illinois and across our Nation. With the new, more dangerous Delta variant now spreading rapidly across the Nation, people who are unvaccinated are at greater risk than ever of becoming sick and even facing death from COVID. I hope we can stop the division and disinformation and figure out how to protect the people from this deadly foe.

I want to say a word about an issue I read this morning in an article in the New York Times. The author of the article, Tiffany Hsu, titled the article ''Anti-Vaccination Rhetoric Creeps From Fringe to Fox Prime Time.'' It is a lengthy article, and I commend it to everyone to read it on their own. It raises some important questions.

If our sacred right to free speech can be limited by the time-honored test of crying ''fire'' in a crowded theater, is there any limit to extreme political rhetoric in the midst of a pandemic?

We know the Republican Party is enthralled by Donald Trump. They have bought the Big Lie. A half to two-thirds of Republicans believe that he actually won the last election, and he didn't. Twenty-nine percent of Republicans believe that Donald Trump will be reinstated as President, triumphantly returning from exile to take over the White House again. Many of them believe that he will return to Washington soon.

Well, there was an interesting scene on the grounds of the Capitol when I