

instead of investing in our country, vainly waiting for it to trickle down to everybody else.

As you can see on this chart, these are almost the same income levels that are seen on the previous page of who benefits from the American Family Act. Thirty-one percent of the benefits go to the people who are making less than \$24,000—not 54 percent going to the top 1 percent, but 31 percent going to the bottom, the lowest income earners in America. Then, 24 percent goes to the folks who are a little less poor than that and, then, 19 percent and 19 percent. And if you are making above \$119,000, you get 2 percent of the benefit of it.

That to me seems like a much more reasonable approach, at a moment in the country's history when income inequality has been on the rise, economic mobility has been stagnant, and when we have an education system—and I say this as a former school superintendent, with no joy at all—that is actually reinforcing the income inequality we have rather than liberating people from it, because the best predictor of the quality of education is your parents' income to the point of savagery. That is the best predictor because your parents' income is an excellent predictor of where you will live,

and that is an excellent predictor of the education you will have.

The American people are desperate for relief in this economy. Republicans have made matters much worse by passing the Trump tax bill. I think Democrats should be on this floor fighting for progressive legislation that supports working people, that gives people a chance who are living in poverty to lift themselves out of poverty, and to give kids in this country a fighting chance no matter what the circumstances are of their birth.

The good news is that all of those things are available to us if we would come together in a bipartisan way and actually invest in our country again and create a Tax Code that actually drives economic growth for everybody, not just the people at the very top; rewards work again, ends childhood poverty, and delivers an education system that liberates people from their economic circumstances instead of shackling them to it; and pursuing a climate change policy that actually drives economic opportunity throughout the United States in rural and urban areas. We have an incredible opportunity in front of us as a democracy to change the way our economy works so that everybody benefits from it when it grows. That is how you build a strong democracy.

Donald Trump doesn't understand any of that, which is why he has pursued the policies he has pursued. It is important for us to fight those policies as well as offer ideas like the American Family Act, like increasing the earned income tax credit, like passing paid family leave, and raising the minimum wage. These are things we could do that will make an enormous difference to working people all over this country, and I believe that is the agenda we should be pursuing.

With that, I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW  
AT 9:30 A.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 23, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

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CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 22, 2019:

UNITED NATIONS

ANDREW P. BREMBERG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.