

product to us here in the Senate. We cannot consider the legislation until we get it, but I know that Senators on both sides have spent the last several days carefully studying the House proposal, and I know that all of us are eager to act quickly to support American workers, families, and small businesses.

Even more broadly, Senate Republicans are absolutely convinced that the House's bill can only be the beginning—just the beginning—of Congress's efforts to secure our economy and support American families. This is a unique challenge—a unique challenge. Unlike in any other tough circumstances, our short-term goal is not simply to bring economic activity right back to normal starting tomorrow. Instead, our task is to secure the historically strong foundation of our Nation's economy and support Americans during this period when public health may require that some normal activities simply be scaled back.

I have spoken with countless colleagues and committee chairmen over the last several days. We agree there are three major areas where the Senate must continue to develop bold and bipartisan action:

No. 1, we will need to take further steps to assist individual Americans and families with financial challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

No. 2, we will need to further significant actions to secure our Nation's economy—particularly Main Street small businesses—and safeguard our historically strong economic foundation through this period.

No. 3, we will need further steps to ready our healthcare system and support our Nation's medical professionals.

The Senate majority is already working toward next steps on all three of those fronts. I hope further bold action can be just as bipartisan and collaborative as the process by which we passed the first set of additional funds. We must work with each other in the bipartisan spirit this moment demands—and with the administration and the House—to deliver results for our country.

#### USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on one other important matter, late last night, several critical authorities that law enforcement uses to keep Americans safe lapsed into expiration. Barring Senate action, these important tools, which help protect the homeland from terrorists and counter foreign intelligence activities on U.S. soil, will remain offline.

Fortunately, in the weeks leading up to this deadline, the Attorney General engaged in extensive bipartisan talks with Members of the House—of both parties—to try to reach a solution. The resulting legislation, which the House passed last week by large margins

within each party, strikes a key balance. It reauthorizes the tools which our national security requires, while also imposing a number of new reforms which basic accountability demands.

We can't let the relative success of these tools at preserving the safety and security of our country mislead us to believe they are unnecessary. It is just the opposite. Terrorist organizations still search constantly for opportunities to strike on American soil. Hostile foreign intelligence services—whether Chinese, Russian, or Iranian—still seek to conduct operations within our borders, to recruit assets and agents among our population.

These threats will not wait around if the United States delays restocking our toolbox, so the Senate should not wait to act. I sincerely hope that even our colleagues who may wish to vote against the House bill will not make us prolong this brief lapse in authorities and that we will be able to get these tools back online this week.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6172, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me thank the staff who are here today under these difficult circumstances—here at the desk, the Sergeant at Arms, the doorkeepers, the police officers, and the many others who are here today. We thank them, as always. They are the unsung heroes of the Senate.

Now, as the Senate returns this week in a time of extraordinary challenge for our country, COVID-19, known as the coronavirus, continues to spread rapidly. In less than a week, the number of confirmed cases in the United States has grown from around 1,000 to well over 4,000. The actual number of cases is probably higher.

Here in the Capitol, public tours are suspended, and much of our staff is working from home. In a further effort to limit interactions, Senate Democrats will not be holding our regular caucus lunch, which will instead be conducted by conference call.

In my home State of New York alone, there are nearly 1,000 confirmed cases. The State is doing everything in its power to treat those afflicted, to prepare for future cases, and to limit the spread of the virus. Residents in the tristate area—New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut—are now under new restrictions on gatherings at bars, restaurants, and other public places.

I urge everyone to stay safe and to listen to the advice of public health experts. Practice good hygiene, follow the recommendations issued by State and Federal governments about public gatherings, and please—please—stay home if you feel sick.

As these important safeguards go into effect, there will be economic consequences. Businesses will face shortfalls. Employees will not be able to work. Families will bear the responsibility of childcare as school closures mount. For millions of families who live paycheck to paycheck, for parents who have to choose between keeping their jobs or taking care of their kids, and for so many others—the small business owner who has no liquidity even though it was a healthy business a few weeks ago—these are all very, very difficult times. The Congress and the Federal Government as a whole must take steps immediately to provide relief to those American workers, families, and businesses.

Last Friday, the House of Representatives passed legislation to provide for free coronavirus testing, extensions of paid sick leave, food assistance for schoolkids and the elderly, and assistance to States overburdened by Medicaid costs and expanded unemployment insurance. The Senate should take up this bill and pass it immediately by consent—today. We cannot wait.

It was my preference to keep the Senate in session over the weekend so that we could have passed this bill already, but Leader MCCONNELL—regrettably and almost inexplicably—decided to send everyone home and then call them back today. Many Members on my side of the aisle were extremely upset by Leader MCCONNELL's decision. There should be no further delay in passage of this legislation because, surely, we must move on to other necessary measures to address the coronavirus and its widening impact on the medical, economic, and social fabric of this country.

Testing capacity and public health infrastructure like hospital beds, masks, ventilators, and more remain a very urgent priority. Economic assistance for working families and small businesses must continue to be a focus of our efforts, as well as broader macroeconomic policies. Families will be without salaries, small businesses without liquidity, and they will need help immediately.

As early as tomorrow, I will present a series of proposals to congressional appropriators that Senate Democrats believe should be part of the next bill to address the coronavirus. In consultation with the ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction, we are proposing an immediate and initial infusion of at least \$750 billion to wage war against COVID-19 and the economic crisis it is now causing. The proposal will get money directly into the hands of the American people and, among other priorities, include Federal funding to address hospital and treatment capacity issues; expand unemployment insurance and increase Medicaid funding; ensure that everyone can afford treatment for coronavirus; provide immediate loan payment forbearance for all Federal loans—student loans, mortgages, small business loans, and others—and moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures; deliver immediate help to small businesses; fund emergency childcare, especially for healthcare workers and first responders; help schools with remote learning; provide assistance to keep public transportation running; address public health and economic needs in Indian Country; and utilize the Defense Department to provide personnel, equipment, supplies, and critical response capabilities to support the nationwide response.

There will be other proposals that will be needed, and we will talk about these as well, but, in sum, we need big, bold, immediate Federal action to deal with the crisis. The kinds of targeted measures we are putting together will mainline money into the economy and directly into the hands of families who need it most.

Importantly, this proposal will ensure that our medical professionals have the resources—including physical space and equipment—they need to provide treatment and keep Americans safe. Our proposal does not include every possible measure, nor must it. There will be multiple legislative vehicles to respond to the coronavirus. But in the near term, our proposal takes a comprehensive approach to dealing with the issues that workers, families, and the health of America face today.

I strongly urge my House and Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to review our proposal and incorporate our ideas into the next bill we will consider here in Congress. Now, the road ahead will be difficult. The disease will continue to spread and test our capacity—as a Congress and as a country—to respond with the necessary urgency, foresight, and cooperation.

Leaders in public office, from the President of the United States on down, must communicate clearly and honestly and set aside politics on behalf of the public good. Leaders in Congress must work together and with uncommon speed to respond to a set of national challenges unlike any we have faced in the recent past. Public health officials and researchers and doctors on the frontlines must continue to do the difficult and noble work they are now engaged in. We are all in their debt for their courage, their dedication, their duty.

The American people must hunker down and follow the guidance of experts until the cloud of this disease has passed. And it will pass. But until skies clear, we must all pull in the same direction and do what is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and security of the American people—today and in the weeks and months to come.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, right now, across New York State, the country, and the world, we are facing a crisis not seen in a century. It risks the health of our families and the health of our fellow Americans as well as our economic present and future. We are at the edge of a precipice, and lives are on the line. It poses a deep challenge to our collective psyche. How do we defend against such an overwhelming danger? How do we overcome our fear?

If you are a person who looks to history, you may turn to great leaders of the past. If you are a veteran or serving in our military today, you might look to your training. We are at war with this invisible threat. How do we create the right strategy, tactics, and assault plans?

If you are a person of faith, you might turn to scripture. The book of Ephesians tells us how to fight against such fears: “Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground.” It calls us to take up our “shield of faith,” to wear our “belt of truth,” and to stand firmly with our feet “fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.”

Regardless of where your inspiration comes from, in times like these, we are afraid, and we need to be brave. We need to be selfless, and we need to be courageous. We have to look inward to find our inner strength, our resilience. We have to use our God-given common sense, and we need to fight—fight far harder than we could ever imagine.

Our enemy is clear—a novel coronavirus that is at our doorstep and

taking lives. Our mission is to stop the spread, protect the vulnerable, and ultimately prevent future outbreaks. Every blocked transmission is a victory.

Our frontline defenders are our doctors, our nurses, our first responders. Our National Guard is rightfully being called in to support these actions. To defeat this enemy, though, we need far more support. Mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, and all caregivers are going to be essential in limiting the spread of this virus. We need them added to the frontlines today—all of them.

The House passed a bill last week that takes a first step in beginning to address these needs. It provides mandatory emergency sick days and up to 3 months of coronavirus-related paid leave for some workers. This puts us closer to helping those on the frontlines of this crisis so they no longer have to face the impossible choice of whether to stay home to care for themselves, for a child who is home from school, for a loved one who is sick, or to risk public health to put food on the table for their families.

Unfortunately, the bill falls short. First, over half of the private sector workforce was left out of the paid sick and family leave provisions. Let me say that again. Of the over 100 million private sector workers in this country, over half will not be helped by this bill. Companies with more than 500 workers are not required to provide any paid sick leave, and the administration can give exemptions to companies with fewer than 50 employees. Taken together, this could amount to exemptions for about 75 percent of workers. Worse, it fails to take care of many of those who are most at risk—low-wage workers. These are the workers who are the least able to afford to take a day off, let alone weeks to self-quarantine.

In order to fight this crisis, we must slow the spread of this virus and ultimately stop its transmission. We must provide paid sick days and paid family and medical leave to every American worker now. There can be no exceptions or carve-outs, especially not for the wealthiest companies in the world.

For those who say this can't be done, they could not be more wrong. We should never send Armed Forces into battle without a plan, the right equipment, and the resources they need to win. If we don't equip all of our frontline defenders, including our parents and caregivers, we will fail to limit this spread.

Second, it is clear that, in a matter of days, most public school children in America will be out of school. The stress this puts on working parents is truly hard to articulate with or without there being guaranteed paid leave. Many low-income children rely on school meals for the best meal of the day. A school lunch can often make the difference between being healthy and being malnourished. Therefore, we need

a surge in food stamps, food distribution, and emergency meal delivery programs.

Third, we need a surge of testing. Without this critical information, we cannot reopen schools or businesses. To ensure universal free testing, we must authorize testing by all labs and hospitals and remove burdensome restrictions.

From the start of this crisis, public health officials have uniformly highlighted the importance of there being widely available testing and have decried our lack of it. As we have more fully grasped the magnitude of this crisis, States have developed their own tests, and their labs and hospitals are ready to conduct them. However, the approval process is still lagging. We are testing below our capacity because the FDA and CDC have yet to approve testing methods.

This is not the time to let redtape stand in our way. The administration must authorize States to utilize their own testing methods in their own facilities in order to try to keep up with the spread of this virus. Again, fighting a war without facts on the ground, without critical intelligence, cannot prevail. We need this information—yesterday.

Fourth, I support Governor Cuomo's call to deploy the Army Corps of Engineers to build temporary medical facilities so that when hospitals are overwhelmed, we can move people into those temporary facilities. The Federal Government must work aggressively to help our States increase hospital capacity.

Finally—and I can't emphasize this enough—every future policy that we debate here must put families and workers first—no half measures. These are the people on the frontlines of this crisis. They deserve our unwavering support. Just like we give the troops the resources they need, we have to have the same war footing today.

The very next piece of legislation before this Chamber must extend full-paid sick and family leave to every American worker. It must deal with the strain caused by the shuttering of our public schools, and it must increase our testing capacity and build more capacity for urgently needed care. We must pass it without further delay. Anything less will be a failure of government in this time of need. Anything less is defeat before the battle has even begun. This is how we fight. Every person we protect is a victory. This is our shared duty.

God bless America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I sat at this very desk 2 months ago during

the impeachment trial, where I read news, oftentimes from East Asian sources, about a viral pneumonia from an unknown virus emerging from central China. From those earliest days, I began calling for drastic measures to prevent this virus from reaching our shores and to prepare for its potential arrival. I cannot claim any special expertise. I am not a doctor. I am not a scientist. I am not an epidemiologist. But I could tell from the very beginning that the Chinese Communist Party was lying about everything related to this virus, and that we had to be prepared for the worst.

That is why in January I called for a travel ban from mainland China. That is why in February I began to call for crash approvals of laboratory-developed testing kits or the use of the kind of testing kits the World Health Organization approved or that South Korea has been using. That is why I urged a Manhattan Project level of investment in rapid testing and approval for therapeutic products and vaccines.

That travel ban and some other measures taken has bought us some time, but our hour of great national testing has arrived. The moment of decision is upon us. The time has come for extraordinary measures.

Look at what has happened to Italy just over the last 2 weeks. Two weeks ago, Italians were enjoying early spring weather, sipping coffee and wine in restaurants and bars—just 2 weeks ago. Today, elderly Italians are being denied care and instead administered last rites because their healthcare system is totally overloaded. It is time to take extraordinary measures to avoid that fate. What seems extreme today will seem obvious tomorrow.

Here are a few of the measures whose time has come, regrettably. First, we need to stop all nonessential business activity in this country. You can call it a shutdown. You can call it quarantine. You can call it curfew. You can call it whatever you want, but no one should be going to work in this country unless they are involved in essential activities—groceries, pharmacies, delivering goods to those places, electricity, water, sanitation, public safety. Anything else poses too great a risk to public health.

Second, it is time for nonessential government services to shut down, as well, at the Federal, State, and local levels. Anyone who is involved in trying to arrest the spread of this virus or to mitigate its economic impact or provide other essential services, like food aid to the needy or care for other kinds of patients in a VA hospital, must come to work, and we must be prepared to work extremely long hours. But anyone else in government at any level should be telecommuting, if they can, and staying home, in any case.

Third, it is time for our military to prepare to provide advanced support of civilian authorities. This is a mission the military long plans for. They are rarely called upon to do so, but an ur-

gent hour is approaching, especially at our hospitals and our nursing homes and other healthcare facilities, when our young men and women in uniform could be called upon to support our great doctors and our nurses to provide additional capacity to treat patients, not just with this coronavirus but with other urgent needs as well. That planning is in its infancy. It needs to accelerate immediately.

Again, I know these are extraordinary measures, and they will impose hardship and pain and dislocation, but the faster we arrest the spread of this virus, the faster things can get back to normal and our economy will heal. We will protect ourselves, and we will protect our well-being.

In the meantime, this Congress will be called upon for some pretty drastic measures, as well, to ensure that all those persons affected by steps taken on this day and the steps I am calling for can make ends meet, can put food on the table, and keep a roof over their head and pay their bills.

The House, over the weekend, passed a bill that has many important provisions that I support and I suspect will pass unanimously from this Chamber: free virus testing; provisions for school lunches for those whose schools have closed, like the children all across Arkansas; liability protection for the manufacturers of respirator masks, which need it so we can get millions of more masks out to doctors and nurses.

But the House bill doesn't go far enough, and it doesn't go fast enough. The centerpiece of the House bill providing aid to affected workers is a new kind of tax credit for paid sick leave. Unfortunately, that is wrongheaded on both counts. First, a tax credit—even a refundable one, even one on which you can get an advance from the IRS—will not do much good if a business has no revenue whatsoever. Imagine all those restaurants, all those bars, all those gyms that are going to come to a screeching halt today or tomorrow. They will have no cash to pay their dislocated workers. They will not be sending anything to the Treasury every 3 days in the form of payroll taxes, from which they can get an advance. They will have nothing. They will go bankrupt if we force them to advance sick leave with no revenue whatsoever.

But, also, it doesn't go far enough on the sick leave front. That is a misguided category error. Yes, we should take care of those who are sick with this virus. But there are so many others, as well—those who are quarantined but are not sick, as some of those in the Senate have done; those whose businesses are shuttered but are perfectly healthy, if they work in a bar or restaurant or theater or gym; those who have children whose schools have closed and have no means to provide for childcare so they can get to work. They all have bills to pay as well. They all have mouths to feed. So the House approach simply doesn't go far enough or fast enough to create a complicated

new system that doesn't cover enough of America's workers and families.

So I would suggest a better approach. We simply need to use existing systems to get cash in the hands of workers and their families as quickly as possible. One approach is instant tax refunds or rebates—call them what you will—to anyone who filed taxes last year, especially those in the lower tax brackets, who are most likely to struggle to make ends meet if they are not bringing home a paycheck. That can be done almost instantly.

A second approach is to use existing social welfare agency programs to get cash out the door and into the hands of displaced workers and their families. Take unemployment insurance, for instance. The whole point of unemployment insurance is to get checks quickly in the hands of those who need it.

I consulted this weekend with our State officials. I consulted today with Federal officials. We don't have to redesign the unemployment system. We don't have to set new parameters and criteria in 50 different information technology systems in our States. All we simply do is treat someone who is sick with this virus or quarantined because of potential exposure or who is furloughed from a job or who is caring for a child as if they were unemployed.

The cash stipend may not be their full wage, but it will be enough, and it will be in their hands immediately so they can feed their kids and so they can pay their bills. That can be done right now—immediately. We don't have to use employers and tax credits as a middleman or a conduit.

Third, we have to think about all those businesses that are essentially going into a self-protective shutdown—all those restaurants and bars and gyms and theaters and I suspect many more in the days ahead. They are not making payroll. They are probably cutting supplies. They still have other debts to pay, though. We should help them get through this short period of testing, whether with loans or loan guarantees or grants—what have you.

We have to remember, though, that when small businesses and medium-sized businesses run out of cash, they go into chapter 7 bankruptcy. They liquidate. Those jobs don't come back. When giant businesses have a cash crunch, they go into chapter 11. Sure, the owners may change, but they come back into business.

Those are just a few of the steps we have to take to mitigate the economic harm this virus is inflicting on our people and to ensure that no one, not a single person in this country, has any financial incentive to go to work when they are sick or when they even may be feeling sick or to go out to try to find another job because their workplace is shut down and they can't get any support from the government.

Again, I know these are extraordinary measures, but these are also extraordinary times, and the faster we act, the more aggressively we act, the

shorter these times will last. We will stop the spread of this virus; we will get our people back to work; our markets will come back; and we will be stronger on the back end of this crisis than we were coming into it.

Nothing I have said here is a Republican idea or Democratic idea. I don't have partisan objections to what the House has proposed. I simply want to make sure that the action we take will work and will get relief to all of those displaced workers and their families in a timely fashion, when they need it, to put food on the table and keep a roof over their kids' heads and pay for medicine and make car payments. That is why the Senate is here today. That should be our focus in the days ahead, and that is something we can accomplish together this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, families across the country are facing an unprecedented challenge, and we must act, and act now, on solutions that put families and the American people first. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act takes a substantial step toward providing the relief and assurance communities need as we face this public health crisis.

Families should not be forced to choose between a paycheck and their own health and safety, or the health and safety of their community. A restaurant worker in Vermont cannot afford to stay home from work for several days or several weeks and still afford to pay her rent or feed her family, but staying home is exactly what we are asking waitresses, store clerks, gas station attendants, hourly workers, and many other employees to do. To contain this virus, we must address this reality.

Today, I am strongly urging Republicans and Democrats to drop their labels and support this emergency relief package, and pass it now. The American people need leadership, not political battles. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act creates two weeks of emergency paid sick leave so that people who work for small businesses are able to stay home from work if they are sick or must quarantine due to coronavirus. It creates up to 12 weeks of job protection under the Family and Medical Leave Act, and allows an employee to stay home for a longer period of time to recover from illness, or take care of a sick family member, or care for a child who must be at home because of school and daycare closures. These are commonsense solutions. Not only is it the right thing to do, it is a critical step if we want to

contain and defeat this public health crisis. It means employees won't have to choose between going to work when they are sick and potentially spreading the virus and missing a paycheck. This bill also makes important changes to the unemployment insurance program to help those that lose their job during this crisis. I hope, as Congress considers further steps to help address this crisis, we further support the small businesses that are supporting these employees and are the backbone of our local economies.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act would inject \$500 million into the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and contains legislative changes to free up funding to help children who would go without breakfast or lunch if their schools closed. It would provide \$400 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program to ensure that food banks have the resources they need to serve their communities and provide \$250 million for senior nutrition programs. These are common sense proposals to help families where they are in their communities.

Importantly, this bill will provide \$1 billion to help cover the cost of testing for people who are uninsured. This virus does not discriminate between the rich or the poor, or between those who have insurance and those who do not. Our approach to address this crisis cannot discriminate either. Nothing can help our country make up the ground we have lost because of the failed policies and poor execution of this administration of testing for the coronavirus. Because of the delays in getting the tests to State and local governments where they are needed, we do not fully understand the scope or spread of this disease in our country. We cannot compound these mistakes by denying the coronavirus test to those who can least afford it. Cost cannot be a barrier to seeking medical treatment during a public health crisis.

This bill is not perfect. As currently drafted, the paid sick leave benefits and Family Medical Leave Act polices extend only to companies with 500 employees or fewer. That leaves many workers in this country without these important protections. I understand this was the price of securing White House support for this bill. I would like the White House to explain why it thinks hourly workers at Target, Walmart, or McDonald's are less deserving of these protections. If we had the luxury of time, I would join other Senate Democrats in offering an amendment to close this gap, but we do not have that luxury. This bill was a product of compromise, and any change risks a threat of delay at a time when delay is our greatest enemy.

To my friends across the aisle who also want changes in this bill, I urge you to stand down. We need to pass this bill today, without delay. We do not have time for a lengthy debate.

The American people are looking to us for leadership and swift action; let's provide it.

This bill is the first step toward meeting American families where they are as they confront this crisis. In my more than 40 years in the United States Senate, few moments have demanded our bipartisan leadership more than this crisis. We must provide the protections in this bill—paid sick leave, unemployment insurance, nutrition assistance, and affordable testing for the American people—and we must do it now.

I this time of uncertainty, concern, and fear, I want to remind my fellow Vermonters and all Americans: We are all in this together. We can be smart about how we conduct our lives, while being good neighbors. We can support our communities, our first responders, healthcare workers, store clerks, and shelf stockers, and all those providing essential services. I am confident that our country will emerge from this crisis stronger than we were before, as we always have. I strongly encourage Republicans and Democrats to support this bill.

I see nobody else seeking recognition. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H. R. 6172

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I entered the Senate in the wake of Watergate in 1975. The very first vote I cast was in favor of creating the Select Committee to Study Government Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities and the Rights of Americans—that is, the Church Committee. Through that Committee's work, the American public soon learned of years of abuses that had occurred at the hands of the executive branch's intelligence agencies. In response, the Senate passed sweeping reforms to rein in this overreach.

Since then, more flaws and occasional abuses have been documented within our surveillance authorities, but the Senate rarely has had an opportunity to debate and improve them. We did so in 2015, when Senator LEE and I led the effort in the Senate to pass the USA FREEDOM Act. Senator LEE and I strongly believe the Senate should do the same now. We should strengthen the amicus program, ensure that all exculpatory information is provided to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and make other basic changes to better protect the civil liberties of all Americans.

I am thankful that Majority Leader MCCONNELL today has agreed to what Senator LEE and I requested last week—that we pass a short extension

of the expiring FISA authorities to give us an opportunity to both review and improve the House bill with a limited number of amendments. Critically, this will give us time to take up this issue after the Senate responds to the coronavirus.

I am particularly thankful to Senator LEE, who has tirelessly worked to reform surveillance authorities since he came to the Senate. With today's agreement, we will have the next 2 months to build consensus around important reforms, and I hope all of you will join us in this effort. That is what the Senate did when confronted with abuses documented by the Church Committee, and that is what the Senate must do now.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to receive permission to complete my remarks before any vote is conducted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I came to the floor several days ago in connection with the expiring national security provisions. We have three provisions of our national security system of laws that are set to expire and have been set to expire for a long time. In fact, they expired yesterday, the 15th of March.

We have known that this was going to happen for a long time. When the USA FREEDOM Act was passed in 2015—a bill that I authored, along with my distinguished friend and colleague Senator LEAHY from Vermont—we knew those three provisions known as lone wolf, 215, and roving wire taps would expire at the end of 2019.

We got to the end of 2019, and we found ourselves up against a spending cliff, and the Senate decided, with the concurrence of the House of Representatives and the President, that we should postpone until March 15 the expiration of those three provisions that I just mentioned.

I came to the floor on Thursday to raise concerns that we needed to be able to amend and reform these provisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, for a number of reasons. Among other reasons, I noted that the President of the United States found that his own rights as an American citizen were abused, as this law was manipulated, was abused in an unholy alliance of partisan political interests against him.

For that reason, the President of the United States has, quite thankfully, made this point clear to the American people. Even though the abuses that we know of that occurred with respect to

the President of the United States were not themselves one of these expiring provisions, we note the law itself as a whole is subject to abuse and that at moments like these, when these provisions are expiring, it is appropriate for us to take a broader look at the overall legal framework in which FISA operates and to bring about reforms.

I came to the floor on Thursday, and I asked that we simply reauthorize these three expiring provisions for a period of a few weeks—that we reauthorize them cleanly and without any modification to give us a few weeks to deal with the immediate crisis surrounding the coronavirus. I asked that, at the end of that period, we proceed with the understanding that the Senate be allowed to vote on a small handful of amendments—proposed reforms—to FISA.

This, unfortunately, drew an objection, resulting in the expiration of these three provisions over the weekend. This was unnecessary. As I pointed out at the time, I and my bipartisan group of colleagues, who have been concerned about these and other foreign intelligence surveillance provisions, didn't necessarily want it to expire. In fact, we believed that this was an unnecessary step. It was unnecessary to allow the law to go through the uncertainty of an expiration without having something to put in its place.

We could have and would have and should have done it differently. Fortunately, we were able to reach a deal—a deal that is still unfolding but a deal that is about to be announced on the Senate floor, whereby we will be extending for a few weeks these three expiring provisions, and, at the end of that time, we will be able to vote on a small handful of provisions, amendments to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act framework.

This is necessary. We ought not wait until the President of the United States himself becomes a victim of this. When he has been a victim, we should assume that there are other victims—people whose rights have been invaded, violated as the law has been abused. We know that to be the case.

For that reason, we have negotiated this agreement, whereby we will be able to receive votes on amendments to improve and reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

I want to thank President Trump for bringing this issue to the attention of the American people and for reminding them of the importance of reforming this law. I want to thank the lead cosponsor of the legislation that I have filed in connection with this and of the amendments that we will be considering.

PAT LEAHY from Vermont and I have worked on FISA-related issues for basically the entirety of the 9 years I have spent in the U.S. Senate. I am grateful to him for working with me on this.

I also want to point out that it shouldn't have to come to this. We

shouldn't have to wait until the moment when we are on the eve of the expiration of some important legislation and where we have to wait for the President of the United States to weigh in and lean in and exercise as much leadership as he has to tell us that we ought to reconsider laws that we ourselves have enacted. From time to time, laws require revision, review, and reform. That always, necessarily, requires amendments, and we ought to be ready, able, and willing to vote on amendments as necessary.

Finally, this has become all too symptomatic of a Senate in which amendment votes, while once the norm, have now become the exception. This is unacceptable. It is not a partisan issue. It is neither Republican nor Democratic. It is neither liberal nor conservative. It is simply an American issue. The American people, including each of our constituents from each of the 50 States that we represent, deserve and expect for us to be more than a rubberstamp.

We can't justify our pattern of waiting for legislation to come over from the House of Representatives and then accepting the highly flawed proposition that the House must have gotten it right and we, therefore, must accept as a binary choice the entirety of what they have done, without considering or voting on amendments. This isn't acceptable. We can do better. I am encouraged that in this instance we have chosen to do better. I hope and expect and will continue to demand that we vote on more amendments and that this become the norm once again rather than the exception.

Finally, I am grateful that Senate leadership—Republican and Democratic alike—has chosen to allow us to consider amendments here. We are doing the right thing, and I look forward to more of precisely this kind of activity, not just voting on amendments pivotal to FISA but also broader issues. This isn't just about FISA. This is about everything we do. The minute any of us ever hears an argument suggesting that we have to accept whatever a handful of Senators or a committee or the other House of Congress has proposed and we ought to accept it or deny it—lock, stock, and barrel—without amendments, that is almost always an injurious and a dangerous argument, one that runs contrary to the very purpose for which this body exists.

I am grateful for this opportunity we will have to vote on these amendments. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to H.R. 6172 be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The cloture motion was withdrawn.

**PROVIDING A 77-DAY EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3501, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3501) to provide a 77-day extension of certain authorities for foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3501) was passed, as follows:

**S. 3501**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ACCESS CERTAIN BUSINESS RECORDS FOR FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS AND FOR ROVING SURVEILLANCE.**

Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

**SEC. 2. SEVENTY-SEVEN-DAY EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR INDIVIDUAL TERRORISTS TO BE TREATED AS AGENTS OF FOREIGN POWERS UNDER THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 1978.**

Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking "March 15, 2020" and inserting "May 30, 2020".

**SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Act and the amendments made by this Act take effect on March 14, 2020.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time

to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6172. I further ask that there be 10 hours of debate, equally divided between the proponents and the opponents of the bill, with an hour of debate under the control of the sponsors of each amendment, or their designees, and with Senators LEAHY and WYDEN controlling 1 hour each. I further ask that the only amendments in order be three amendments to be proposed by the following Senators or their designees: LEE, on amicus reforms and exculpatory evidence; PAUL, on rights of Americans; DAINES, on section 215 web browser/search history data collection prohibition; and three side-by-sides to be proposed by Senator McCONNELL, or his designee, on the same topics, with all amendments and the bill subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold for passage; finally, that upon the use or yielding back of that time and upon disposition of the amendments in the order listed, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

**CORONAVIRUS**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are at an extraordinary moment in our Nation's history. The President of the United States has declared a national emergency. One has to go back to the early 1900s to the Spanish influenza to find a similar public health threat to the United States of America. We are in the midst of not just a threat in our own country but a global coronavirus pandemic. There are more than 173,000 cases nationwide, and more than 7,300 people have died.

What you see today on the floor of the Senate is exactly the opposite of what we are being advised as a nation we need to do. What you see today on the floor of the Senate are staff people—thank you for being here—protective forces outside the Chamber, and others who are invisible to those coming and going who are part of the ordinary business of the Senate. You see, we did today what the President has told America we should not do, what medical experts have told us we should not do. We have taken unnecessary airline flights to come here to Washington, DC. I was on a plane this morning from Springfield, IL, to Chicago. There were six passengers on the plane. Most people are listening to the advice of the medical experts and avoiding unnecessary travel.

Unfortunately, we were required to come back today from across the United States. Some Members stayed over the weekend because their homes are too far away. Some decided to drive this morning just to be extremely safe. But the fact is, we were asked to take unnecessary airline flights to come