

and President Trump's team that tries to stand up and expand some new relief measures for American workers.

I will vote to pass their bill. This is the time for urgent, bipartisan action, and, in this case, I do not believe we should let perfection be the enemy of something that would help even a subset of workers.

However, the House's bill has real shortcomings. It does not even begin to cover all of the Americans who will need help in the days ahead. And, more specifically, it achieves one of its signature policies by imposing a new, untested mandate on small businesses without—without—guaranteeing they will have sufficient funds in advance to finance this new employee benefit.

Everyone agrees that workers need relief. The Republicans are working on bold solutions to help individuals and families as we speak, but small businesses need relief as well.

This is literally the worst time in living memory to pile even more burdens and costs onto small businesses, which are, themselves, fighting to stay alive unless—unless—we back it up with major assistance.

We all know what small businesses are up against. Just this week, New York City joined the list of towns and cities across the country where local officials have shuttered every bar and every restaurant for the sake of public health. At 5 p.m. today, all public-facing businesses in my home State of Kentucky will do the same. These job creators are literally being taken offline by their own governments for the public good.

It is not only bars, restaurants, and entertainment businesses we need to worry about. Nobody expects Main Street small businesses of any sort to hold the kind of cash buffer they would need to remain in business and wait out a national economic disruption that could last for weeks or months.

Men and women who pour their entire lives into small businesses do not need even more obstacles. They need help. They need a lifeline. They need to know that Congress understands the historic obstacles they are facing and that we have their back as well.

There is no moral hazard here. This is not some rescue following risky business decisions. Nobody thinks any of this is the fault of small businesses. So while I will support the House bill in order to secure emergency relief for some American workers, I will not adjourn the Senate until we have passed a far bolder package that must include significant relief for small businesses all across our country.

As we speak, Chairman RUBIO, Senator COLLINS, and others are assembling a historic level of assistance for small businesses across America. We want to help them survive this disruption, absorb the new mandate in the House bill, and continue to make payroll and avoid layoffs as much as they can and emerge this storm in the best shape possible. That means a historic

injection of liquidity and access to credit, and it means Washington working directly with the lenders who already work with these small businesses to minimize the new bureaucracy so the assistance can flow as fast as possible.

So we are going to pass the House's bill, but its imperfections will just make our more comprehensive package even more urgent. So we aren't leaving. So everybody understands, we aren't leaving until we deliver. The Senate is not going to leave small business behind.

This will be just one component of our work. As we speak, Chairman GRASSLEY and others are determining the best pathway to put money directly in the hands of the American people—those who are employed, those who may be laid off, retirees, disabled Americans, families—as quickly as possible.

Of course, Chairman ALEXANDER and a number of our colleagues are working on further steps in our public health fight against the virus itself, such as getting more tools in the hands of healthcare providers, removing barriers to treatment, and helping researchers develop therapeutics and vaccines.

Chairman WICKER and several Senators are considering the possibility of targeted relief for key industries that are shouldering an outsized burden from the public health directives and which our Nation will need to be operational on the other side of this.

We are crafting bold and significant legislation to meet this crisis head-on and to strengthen our Nation.

The Congress has an enormous role to play in responding to this challenge, and we are determined to do that duty. But, at the same time, never in our Nation's history have Americans looked solely to Washington for answers. That is not who we are. This is no different.

Even amidst the uncertainty, the American people are stepping up and reminding everyone what solidarity and citizenship look like. In my home State, Kentuckians are going out of their way to stand with their neighbors. Stay-at-home parents are volunteering to help neighbors with childcare when parents are unable to telework. Grocery stores in the Louisville area are setting aside the first hour they are open each day, right after their cleaning, so older shoppers and those with underlying conditions can shop first and with less exposure. One local restaurant is distributing free meals to service industry workers whose hours have been cut.

This is what makes the United States of America what it is, and it is what we are today: generosity, friendship, resolve, and strength.

This is not a challenge anyone wanted for our Nation, but it is a challenge we will overcome. Someday—hopefully, soon—our Nation will have this virus on its heels, mainstream small businesses will be thriving again, and fami-

lies will be flying around the country again to reunite and catch up. We will have gotten through this together. In part, it will be because the Federal Government and Congress did our part, but, just as important, it will also be because every single American did theirs.

---

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Madam President, some observations about how we will conduct the voting that will likely occur later today, for the information of all of our colleagues. What we will do is have a 30-minute rollcall vote. We want to avoid congregating here in the well. I would encourage our colleagues to come in and vote and depart the Chamber so we don't have gaggles of conversation here on the floor. That is particularly important for our staff here in the front of the Chamber.

So I would encourage everyone to take full advantage of the full 30-minute rollcall vote. Come in and vote and leave, and be aware of the social distancing that Dr. Monahan and others have recommended as we come over to the Chamber and as we depart. With that, I think we will be able to get through the voting that will occur, in all likelihood, later today without violating any of the safety precautions that have been recommended to us by the Capitol physician and others.

---

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

---

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor this morning with sad news. Illinois has lost its first resident to the coronavirus—a pandemic which is threatening our country and the world. Her name was Patricia Frieson, 61 years old, a retired nurse. She was an exceptional person. Her brother said she cared for everyone but herself. She lived taking care of people, and she loved it.

She started having breathing difficulties last week and was hospitalized at one of our better hospitals in the city of Chicago and succumbed yesterday to the coronavirus and its complications. She had a history of respiratory illness, but she was taking care of herself and staying home, as she was told to do.

The family remembers the last time she left the house was 2 weeks ago to attend a funeral of a friend. She did entertain visitors at her home from time to time. Her two sisters have asked for tests themselves because they were in contact with her. I am sorry to report they have been unable to obtain those tests, at least as of late last night.

I have spoken with the Governor of Illinois almost every day, and we are having—through the State laboratories—about 350 tests each day, this State of almost 13 million people. In addition to the State lab tests are the private labs and hospital tests, which account for a number comparable but not much larger than 350. There just aren't enough tests. I am sure our plight is not unusual.

We have heard a lot about the tests on the horizon, coming soon—the sooner the better. Until we get into more complete testing, it is going to be difficult for us to measure the extent of the infection and the impact. It is almost impossible to target areas of our State that need more attention than others because of the lack of testing.

We had a nursing home over the weekend where there was a patient who tested positive for the coronavirus. The Department of Public Health of the State of Illinois went to that nursing home in Willowbrook as a consequence of the first test and tested all of the residents and staff and found 22 tested positive for the coronavirus infection. Naturally, that raised our numbers dramatically. We now have 160 known cases in our State, in 15 different counties. It is an indication where there is a signal of infection that testing is absolutely essential so we can identify all of those who may test positive.

Patricia Frieson's brother Richard was asked what he thought about the news that she was the first fatality in our State. He said it was heart-breaking. But then he said: I tell everybody to take this very seriously, as we should.

I think, across the United States, we are coming to realize that this is an exceptional public health crisis and challenge, the likes of which we have never seen.

Sometime later this morning or early this afternoon, we will consider the package that was passed by the House of Representatives in the early morning hours of Saturday. It is a package that was designed to provide some help, some financial assistance, to workers and families across the United States who are coping with the illness or losing their jobs or being laid off because of the state of the economy.

We on the Democratic side feel—and I believe that feeling is shared on the

Republican side—that one of the first things we need to do is to assure those employees who may not feel well that it is best to stay home, and there is a way to do that without sacrificing the basics in life—your home, your food—which your family counts on.

We put together this package with the White House on a bipartisan basis that provides family leave and medical leave. It also provides extension of unemployment benefits that are necessary for many workers across this country.

Passing this bill this morning or this afternoon is an important step forward to let the people across America know we are doing what we can here in the Senate and in the House to be responsive.

Senator McCONNELL came to the floor this morning and announced the next bill—coronavirus 3, if you wish—which is a much larger undertaking, and it will embark on trying to get the economy on its feet enough to sustain what we are facing with layoffs and business closures. It is a daunting task. The amount of money involved is anywhere from \$700 billion to \$1 trillion. I have heard these estimates from time to time. That is a massive amount of money by any measure, but when measured against the economy of the United States, it may not be adequate to the challenge.

Some have suggested cash payments to individual Americans. I have no aversion to that idea, but I hope it is substantial, and I hope it isn't a one-time helping hand that isn't followed up.

Many of us on the Democratic side are working on a program that we think will say to families that we are not just going to send you one check and wish you the best; we are going to stand by you during this very difficult, challenging time.

I spent the last several days on the telephone with business leaders across our State. It started with calling one of my favorite restaurants that sent an online message about closing down for business and being not quite sure of their future. It is troubling to hear a person or family member who put their life into a restaurant now facing closure, wondering if they will ever open again.

Some of us are buying gift certificates at our favorite restaurant to help them get through this and help their employees during this period of time. My wife is doing that in Springfield. I have done it in Chicago. We will probably do it more. I encourage others who want to make sure that restaurant is there after we weather this storm to extend a helping hand if we can.

Some of these restaurants are teaming up with charitable organizations to produce the meals that are needed for schoolchildren and their families. It is a little different assignment, but these restaurants are the best in their profession, and it is great to see them cooperating and working together.

I might also add that the Democrats have a proposal that Senator SCHUMER has spelled out and will undoubtedly speak to again when he comes to the floor this morning. At this moment, we have at least two tracks, two paths toward the third bill to try to help the economy. Senator McCONNELL has suggested that he will do his exclusively among Republicans, and that may be a necessary starting point, but I urge him and all of the leaders to come together on a bipartisan basis as quickly as possible.

The first two measures that we have passed—the initial \$8 billion supplemental appropriation for the healthcare side of the equation was essential and done quickly on a bipartisan basis.

The second measure, which I hope we pass today in the Senate, was also done with the White House, Speaker PELOSI—Democrats and Republicans working together. Each of us had to give. This measure we are voting for is not what I would have drawn up, and I am sure Republicans feel the same, but it is a compromise and one on which we ought to move forward.

The third measure we are considering should be nothing less—it ought to be bipartisan from the start. In a press conference yesterday, Senator SCHUMER suggested that the four leaders in the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, meet with the White House and sit down at the table now to get started on putting together this measure rather than to retire to our sidelines and each work individually or separately. The sooner we come together, the better.

One of the provisions Senator SCHUMER insists on—and I would add my voice in chorus—is that we be sensitive to the reality of the healthcare facilities across America and what they are likely to face in the weeks to come. Hospitals and frontline responders are telling us they are worried they lack the equipment and resources we need. Some experts predicted as many as 1.9 million—1.9 million—intensive care unit admissions from this outbreak will take place over the next several months, swamping existing facilities. There are only 100,000 ICU beds across the entire United States, and we know accommodating 1.9 million will just overwhelm the system. There is also a major dearth of necessary masks, respirators, ventilators, gowns, goggles—all of the things that are essential to protect healthcare workers and to save the lives of those who are facing this illness.

What a frustration it is in my State, the State of Illinois, that I still get reports from virtually every level that the so-called national stockpile has not opened up its doors for my State when it comes to basic needs. I mentioned earlier about a nursing home with 22 positive infections in my State. The head of the Illinois Department of Public Health, who alerted me to this, told me that in a very short period of time,

they were going to use up the protective equipment and masks and gloves, for example, that they had available. They didn't know where to turn for more.

Let's get this together. I believe there is a national stockpile, and I believe it should be open for the States that need it immediately. Our State is one of those.

Referring to these ventilators and breathing devices, in a press conference a couple of days ago, the President said the Governors should do their best. We can do better than that. The largest stockpile of this equipment is in possession of the Federal Government, and we should turn to it quickly to help those in need.

I am very concerned as well—I will close. I see other colleagues on the floor, and I know they would like to make comments as well. I will close by also saying that as we undertake the next piece of legislation—the \$800, \$900, \$1 trillion bill—I hope the first priority is to make sure we help our hospitals.

I have a measure with Senator LANKFORD, Republican of Oklahoma, that will compensate hospitals in rural areas and downstate areas in Illinois. I am fearful they will be the first to be overwhelmed. I hope those representing rural States will come together and join, as Senator LANKFORD and I have, to try to find a way to make sure they are adequately funded to get through this crisis.

I might add that we also need medical professionals in the long term. I hope we will dedicate ourselves to improving the National Health Service Corps as one way of doing that and focusing that in rural areas.

Finally, I have a bill with Senator ALEXANDER, Senator MURRAY, and Senator BLUNT to take a survey through the National Academy of Sciences of our dependence on foreign-made medicines and medical supplies and medical equipment so that we can establish, not only during this challenge and crisis but for future challenges and crises—whether we have adequate domestic production capacity or a necessary stockpiles to protect us. We found, for example, that some 20 major drugs were manufactured exclusively in China. As China went through the early stages of this coronavirus crisis, there was a fear that we would be cut off from sources. We have asked the National Academy of Science to give us a survey as quickly as possible.

I will close by saying that it is interesting, as I follow the emails of my friends and family and hear from my colleagues, that as we are separated with this social distance which we are trying to respect across the United States—as we are separated, it is interesting how much we are drawn together. Our family's emails and phone calls have been more numerous than ever as we think about one another more and reach out as we hear that there is a need within our family. There is more conversation and candor

than I can ever recall in our family conversations.

Perhaps adversity has created community. Perhaps this situation, this concern that we have, is leading to more empathy.

We are going to get through this. America always does. There will be some painful moments and very difficult ones. I think those who sent us to do this job in Washington expect us to put our party labels at the door, find solutions to the challenges we face, help our Nation through this crisis, and come out strong on the other side.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my good friend, the Senator from South Dakota, for his usual display of patience.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to test our Nation in new and difficult ways. There is now a confirmed case of coronavirus in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Our public health system was understaffed and underresourced, and without intervention, it could soon become overwhelmed.

Even as the market shifts from day to day, the coronavirus is slowing our economy to a near-standstill, and we are almost certainly anticipating a recession. You go to the streets of many cities, towns, and villages, and they are empty. Schools are closed in large portions of the country. Businesses are struggling not to lay off workers because they don't have customers, they don't have clients, and they don't have income. There is great urgency here.

There are really two separate and simultaneous emergencies—one in our healthcare system and another in the economy. We have to deal with both. If we don't solve the one in our healthcare, the economy will continue to get bad no matter what we do for it.

Less tangible than those two emergencies but still very real is the impact the virus is having on American society. My home city of New York is effectively on lockdown. You can go to a place like the Times Square subway station and see actually nobody there. Americans are being asked—rightly—not to gather in groups of 10 or more, not to go to dinner or to a bar or to their church or place of worship.

I lived through 9/11. It occurred in my city. I knew people who were lost. I lived through the days of the financial crisis in 2008 and other moments of national urgency. But there is something much worse about this crisis we face. I have never sensed a greater sense of uncertainty, a greater fear of the future, of the unknown. We don't know how long this crisis will last.

You don't even know if you contracted the virus right away, or maybe your spouse, maybe your child, maybe your parent, maybe your friend.

Then there is a much greater sense of isolation, a problem for which there is no cure. I miss not meeting and talking to my constituents. They are our lifeblood. That is not happening just to us here in the Senate; it is happening across America—friends who used to get together and families who had gatherings. Different social activities are gone—book clubs, card games. The fabric and sinew of our lives as human beings have been put on hold, and nobody knows for how long.

By necessity, Americans are now sacrificing their normal lives and daily routines and, maybe worst of all, sacrificing the sense of community because we all, each individually and together as a country, must fight this awful virus.

Unfortunately, we are only just beginning to see the necessary seriousness and mobilization of resources from the Federal Government. Sadly, unfortunately, and with awful consequences, this administration took far too long to wake up to this global crisis. It has wasted precious weeks in downplaying the severity of the coronavirus—weeks that could have been spent in earnest in the preparation of building our testing capacity. As a result, the United States continues to lag behind other countries in the number and the percentage of the population we are testing.

Stories of Americans who feel sick and show symptoms but who are unable to access coronavirus tests appear every day in every single newspaper. Warnings of the potential shortages of masks, hospital beds, and ventilators appear in the paper every day. In 2 weeks, the issue of ventilators and ICU beds will be like the issue of tests today. In other words, 2 or 3 weeks ago, many of us were saying to get those tests out. A month ago, people were saying it, and now we are seeing the consequences—lockdowns because we can't test people. We don't know who has the virus and who doesn't. The same crisis will be occurring in a few weeks. Mark our words. Unfortunately, it is true about ventilators and ICU beds. We are behind the eight ball on tests, and we are soon going to be behind the eight ball on ICU beds and ventilators as more and more people get sick.

The administration didn't pay attention to tests, and now we are paying the price even though many of us were hollering for weeks about the emerging issues with testing. The same problem is about to happen with ventilators. We know, in 2 weeks, the number of ventilators might become a massive problem. We must get ahead of it and get ahead of it now. I call on President Trump to use his existing authority to help address the widespread shortages of medical equipment, particularly ventilators, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.