

weeks of sick leave and up to 10 weeks of additional paid family and medical leave. We just had a disagreement over exactly how that is going to get paid for and how it is going to get compensated and on what timeline, and we are going to work out those details.

My office's website will have an accessible, readable summary of what is in this bill up later tonight.

The larger point was that we thought it essential that folks who we want to stay home, but who are maybe living paycheck to paycheck, know that they will get paid sick leave so they can stay home and we can slow the spread of this disease.

There is also an increase in funds from the Federal Government to States for Medicaid, because a lot of our States are going to see increased costs as folks move to Medicaid as the place they get healthcare as they move to unemployment. One hundred million dollars in additional resources will go to the State of Delaware alone to provide support for those who may be newly dependent on Medicaid.

Then, last is an expansion of unemployment benefits—26 weeks of unemployment benefits, including temporary unemployment caused because of COVID-19.

There are more details as to how this temporary unemployment insurance will work, but it will last longer and have a higher level of benefit and be more flexible than previous versions of Federal unemployment insurance, and it is being delivered in partnership with States.

So those are the biggest pieces of this bill. It is just \$104 billion, but the bill we are already hard at work on will be an order of magnitude greater, likely more than \$1 trillion. If what we have seen in terms of anxiety and concern from families up and down my State and all over our country is any indication, we must take this up quickly and enact it.

There are small business owners, whom I have heard from today, who want to keep employing the folks who work for them but have lost half of their business since our Governor took the bold and necessary step of closing our restaurants and bars to all except drive-through and delivery service. Ten percent of the folks who work in Delaware work in restaurants and hospitality. Folks who want to keep their people on payroll but have no work for them to do face a very hard choice.

We need to find ways that we can both defer the payments that are necessary for students, for homeowners, for businesses, for those who have outstanding payments on SBA loans or on federally guaranteed mortgages or on bank loans where we can work out some way to provide temporary relief, and then individual payments that will help students, that will help heads of households, and that will help individuals.

So there are a lot of different pieces that are being debated and discussed

here in the Senate—support for Amtrak, a priority for me because I commute by Amtrak and it is one of the biggest modes of transportation on the east coast; support for the airline and hospitality industries because they employ hundreds of thousands of people and have seen their business drop off sharply; support for long-term structural changes to how we provide access to healthcare, access to skills and training for our workforce, and access to higher education.

I have heard very concerning stories from the folks who lead some of the most important nonprofit and faith and educational institutions in my State, and they are looking to us for bold and decisive leadership.

Last, we must not forget those on the margins of our society—people who are homeless, people who are incarcerated, people who are uninsured, people who are undocumented. If we want to make sure that we make our country safe, we need to practice not just good hygiene, not just social distancing, but we need to refrain from moral distancing. We need to remember the words of Hubert Humphrey, and we need to be reminded exactly why people look to this Federal Government for prompt action and for significant resources: It is because they look for us to be able to make sure that we see all Americans and that we know that we are all in this together.

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. BLACKBURN. 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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have so appreciated the comments of my colleagues today as they have come to the floor and they have talked about how they are approaching what is happening with this coronavirus pandemic and what they are hearing from the citizens of their States.

I know each of us is spending our day listening to the people in our States and listening to their concerns and hearing them say: As you look at how you are going to address this, don't forget about us. Don't forget about us—whether it is independent contractors who are working in the music industry or television producers—I was talking to one last night; they lost \$9,000 worth of production work this week—or theme park owners who are trying to figure out how they are going to work through this or the CEO of one of our Nation's airlines earlier today. People are looking to us to make certain that we address this situation in a way that is going to stabilize it and that is going to provide assistance.

As we have worked through this, one of the things I think sometimes is just

a really good thing to do is to stop and kind of take stock of where we are and how it is going to be best to move forward.

I think it is important to realize that we have already directed resources to the coronavirus pandemic. There is the coronavirus supplemental, which was an \$8.3 billion piece of legislation. That may seem like a lifetime ago to some of those in our States. It was a couple of weeks ago. That money is already making its way out. Tennessee received \$10 million this week in order to work on public health needs around the coronavirus.

We also had our President move forward without hesitation to do the national emergency declaration. That freed up \$50 billion of resources. That is money that is going to our States and our localities to help with the response for this, to get those resources where they need to go.

Of course, there was legislation that passed today, and in that, I supported the Johnson amendment. I do fully believe that working through this with our unemployment insurance and our employment security system is the way to go. I have supported the payroll tax holiday. I am one of those who have always said: Why should we have to pay the government to hire somebody? So the payroll tax holiday made sense to me. The Johnson amendment that I cosponsored makes sense to me, that we could do it because we could more quickly get resources to individuals, from the Federal Government to the taxpayer, to the individual. That is what we need to do at this time.

Tennessee is very blessed. We have had a very low unemployment rate. But what we have seen in the last 2 or 3 weeks is that unemployment claims have quadrupled, and we expect this is going to continue as workers, independent contractors, sole proprietors, and small businesses see their income stream or their revenue stream go from something healthy to zero. That has happened literally overnight, just within a few days as the economy started to shut down.

What we hear from people is, look, this is not something we have done, it is something that has been done to us, and we are being asked to close our doors and to change the way we operate. So they repeatedly say: Don't forget about us, and do not give us mandates we cannot afford, because what we need is assistance to bridge that gap.

When we talk about mandates that you can't afford, Tennesseans are very concerned about the paid family leave provisions that are in the legislation today. What I have heard repeatedly—repeatedly—whether it is someone who runs a nursing staffing company or a furniture store or a small manufacturing company, is that the tax credit provision is not going to work with cash flow. They mention that repeatedly. So my hope is that we can come together on a bipartisan basis and we

can address the concerns that are there around that because we want our small businesses to keep those doors open and to return to health and vitality. We need to listen to what they are saying, which is, help to stabilize, to assist us and to help us bridge this divide so that we can come back.

We also need to be listening to our nonprofits that are saying the same thing about the family leave provisions and their concerns there.

You know, we have to bear in mind that all of these employers really care for and value their employees. They want to do right by them. They want to do right by their communities. And certainly they want to do right by the country. But they need our listening ears, and they need our attention.

Another thing that has come up that is of concern that was in the legislation that cleared the Chamber today is the Medicaid expansion provisions and the way it affects the non-expansion States. It adversely impacts States like Tennessee that were non-expansion States. There are some definitional changes that need to be made in that provision so that we are not adversely impacting these States.

For our Tennessee business owners and employers, this is a very tedious and emotional time. I talked with an employer last night who laid off 20 people at a small business. They had to do it in order to keep the doors open. But what they all tell me is that they are really very grateful that the President, the Vice President, and the task force are focused on getting the virus under control, getting the response from our country under control, and making certain that we address the economic and financial impact of this. They know that it is going to be a long way back on this one, that there isn't a quick fix. They realize that the way this all happened had to do with China and China knowing in December that they had a virus, that they had a problem. Knowing that China has lied to us; they kept hidden information; they have not been forthcoming; they did not make the viral sample available to us in a timely manner; and that lack of transparency is something that they point to and they say that we are all in this fight together, we want to make certain that China does not have the ability to take down our economy or take down our healthcare system.

It is one of the reasons—two of the provisions that I have that will come before us are provisions that are focused on, one, bringing our production of pharmaceuticals back to the United States. Senator MENENDEZ has joined me in this provision, and it is the SAM-C bill—Securing America's Medicine Cabinet, the SAM-C legislation. What this would do is incentivize returning pharmaceutical production to the United States, allowing our colleges and universities to access funds from a \$100 million grant pool to partner up with pharmaceutical companies so that we never find ourselves in the position

of not being able to get the active pharmaceutical ingredients—they are called APIs—those ingredients that are necessary to make vaccines and antivirals for viruses like the COVID-19.

Right now, China is saying they may not let us have one of the products that we need. We commend our scientists and our companies and people like the Denison Lab at Vanderbilt University for the work they are doing to find that vaccine and to test that vaccine. We commend these labs for the work they are doing to find the right antivirals to help people fight this so that we are able to slow the growth, and we are able to cap the growth in this.

Now, we know also that as we go through this, telehealth is vitally important. This is something that I have discussed. As you know, I have discussed it with our conference, I have discussed it with the White House, and with the President, and the Vice President, and I am grateful to see the changes that we have in telehealth that is making it more available.

I was talking with a physician from another State—not Tennessee. I was talking with him yesterday, and he said: Well, our insurance company, which kind of is the only big insurance provider in this State, had decided they would allow telehealth through the end of the month. It is vitally important that we move these medically complex patients and the elderly—especially elderly who have comorbidities and have complex medical situations—to telehealth. It is important that CMS provide specificity and clarity on how this is going to be paid for these Medicaid and Medicare enrollees.

We commend CMS for moving forward through the 1135 waiver system—that section of the code with Medicaid—for making some adjustments, but it is imperative that for these private insurance companies, that we allow more specificity so we can utilize them.

We have a situation. We know that this virus came out of Wuhan, China. We know they knew about it in December. We know that the rest of the world found out about it about 6 weeks later. We know it has caused a global pandemic. We know every life is precious, and we grieve the loss of those lives, the inconvenience, and also the loss of the ability of so many people to have their businesses and be able to run their businesses, and families who are not able to experience what they had planned for this year.

So we know that we are going to be working ahead. We are going to stay here until we get much of this addressed and answer some of the questions that our constituents have. We do know we have done some work, but there is a lot more work to do, and we fully realize we can rise to this occasion.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we continue to work on the next bill, which is generally referred to as phase 3. This will be needed to respond to the crisis, and the Senate is going to stay around until we finish the bill and send it over to the House.

I recommend Senators stay close. While we don't know exactly how long it will take to get this done, everyone knows that we need to do it as quickly as possible because the situation demands it. So we will keep Senators posted. I hope they don't go too far away.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 5:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HOYER) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 6201. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4333. A communication from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustments of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2020" (RIN2501-AD90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4334. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Remove From the Code of Federal Regulations the Terrorism Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 595) received in the Office of the