

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