

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

President of the Senate on March 17, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4335. A communication from the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the management of the Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on Federal lands; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4336. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "User Fee for Offers in Compromise" (RIN1545-BN38) (TD 9894) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4337. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Department of Justice Freedom of Information Act 2019 Litigation and Compliance Report," and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for all federal agencies' Freedom of Information Act reports; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4338. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from October 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Judiciary.

EC-4339. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from April 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Judiciary.

EC-4340. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for the period from April 1, 2018, through September 30, 2018; to the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Judiciary.

EC-4341. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities, Order on Reconsideration and Order Suspending Compliance Deadline" (CG Docket Nos. 10-51 and 03-123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4342. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exclusion of Demurrage Regulation from Certain Class Exemptions" (Docket No. EP 760) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4343. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report on Disability-Related Air Travel Complaints Received During Calendar Year 2018"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4344. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Section 102 of the Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4345. A communication from the Deputy Chief Counsel for Regulations and Security Standards, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Training for Surface Transportation Employees" (RIN1652-AA55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 10, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-191. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine respectfully urging and requesting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration take the lives of the men and women of the Maine lobster industry into account in the agency's decision making and understand that the agency's proposed changes to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan will not save one right whale in Maine waters but will put many human lives in danger; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE PAPER 762

We, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the Second Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as follows:

Whereas, the men and women who work in the Maine lobster industry are constantly at risk of injury and loss of life; and

Whereas, the safety of these workers must be the primary concern of all government agencies that regulate the ocean; and

Whereas, the Maine lobster industry has made many changes to help protect the right whale; and

Whereas, no right whales have been killed by Maine lobster gear and deaths in 2019 were predominantly by ship strikes in Canadian waters or in one instance due to Canadian fishing gear entanglements; and

Whereas, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has stated that right whales likely are not traveling in the waters in which Maine lobster fishing occurs; and

Whereas, the proposal to modify the existing Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will not save any right whales in Maine waters but will put the lives of workers in the Maine lobster industry at great risk; and

Whereas, the lobster industry is one of Maine's core traditional natural resource industries and has employed generations of Maine's citizens; and

Whereas, the lobster industry contributes \$1.5 billion to Maine's economy and entire communities depend upon the work that the lobster industry provides; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That We, your Memorialists, respectfully urge and request that the Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration take the lives of the men and women of the Maine lobster industry into account in the agency's decision making and understand that the agency's proposed changes to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan will not save one right whale in Maine waters but will put many human lives in danger; and be it further

Resolved, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to Dr. Neil Jacobs, acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and to each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

POM-192. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to H.R. 5383 the "New Way Forward Act"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. KING, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3515. A bill to establish the Innovation and Startups Equity Investment Program in the Department of the Treasury, through which the Secretary of the Treasury shall allocate money to certain States to assist high-potential scalable startups access venture capital to commercialize innovations, create jobs, and accelerate economic growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3516. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide emergency family relief in response to the outbreak of the NCOV-19; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3517. A bill to increase the ability of nursing facilities to access to telehealth services and obtain technologies to allow virtual visits during the public health emergency relating to an outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3518. A bill to provide grants to small business concerns, private nonprofit organizations, and small agricultural cooperatives affected by COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3519. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to subsidize payments on loans guaranteed under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs or made using funds under the microloan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3520. A bill to waive, for 1 year, the cost sharing requirements of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.