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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 23, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN KENNEDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, You are worthy of our praise. Save us from the forces that threaten our Nation and world.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers, even though the Earth seems to tremble and the mountains seem to shake. May our Senators embrace Your Divine principles and live blameless lives. Give them the wisdom to labor with integrity and to seek Your Divine approval. Illuminate the darkness that inevitably comes, and lead them to Your desired destination.

Empower us all, Almighty God, with the faith that will keep us sure-footed, even in slippery places.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, Friday, March 20, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN KENNEDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KENNEDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 3 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on September 11, America was attacked by evil. Thousands of our countrymen were murdered by terrorists. In an instant, the Nation was gripped with fear and anxiety. And as our buildings burned, we mourned the loss of our fellow Americans, but as we mourned, we also became very united as a country. We came together and stood as one against a common enemy. That unity laid a foundation for our victory, and it helped our military men and women deliver justice to those who sought to destroy us.

Now, we confront a similar challenge. Unlike the 9/11 attacks, our enemy today is faceless. We can't see or hear that enemy. We can't send our Armed Forces to hunt it down and protect us, but much like our response to the terrorist attacks nearly 20 years ago, we must unite as a country. The threat we face is perhaps the greatest since World War II. So much like our response to the terrorist attacks 20 years ago, we will be united.

Never before have we shuttered so much of our country: businesses closing, restaurants particularly, all kinds of—just stay at home, in other words. Never before has our society changed so much, seemingly overnight.

The coronavirus issue could prove as deadly as any war in recent history, and that is why it is everyone's responsibility to do their part.

In Congress, we have already passed legislation to provide emergency relief, and our job isn't done yet. Further, unprecedented economic and public health support is on the way, but what we do in Washington and State capitols across our country is only one part of that solution. It is the civic duty of every community, every family, and every individual to enlist in this fight.

Make no mistake, our Nation is at war—a war on our own soil. This war and this enemy aren't like anything that we fought before. Our strategy and tactics will be different, but the stakes are just as high.

This war will not be waged on foreign lands with tanks or guns or troops. It will be waged right here in hospitals and public places and in homes and with personal responsibility, personal

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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sacrifice, and patience on the part of our people.

It is on every American to exercise these values: Do not gather in large groups. Don't hoard crucial goods. Keep your distance from those you must be near. Protect yourself and others by washing your hands, covering your cough and sneeze, and cleaning commonly used surfaces. Work from home if you can. Check on your neighbors. Call your relatives. Offer to help each other, especially the most vulnerable. We are all in this together.

Much as we did before, we must shed party labels and put aside partisan politics. We must band together and hold on to our national identity, our families, and, most importantly, our faith.

Throughout history, Americans have risen to the occasion when confronted with crises. I am confident this time will be no different.

It is up to each and every American to fight the spread of this deadly virus. Countless lives depend on it. The days and months ahead will be tough for everyone. But just like post-World War II, a safer, a healthier, and a more prosperous United States of America is just around the corner.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act: Senate Republicans' bold proposal to continue combating this health crisis and the economic crisis it is causing. And I called on our Democratic counterparts to join us immediately at the table for urgent discussions so the Senate can deliver measured relief to the American people as soon as humanly possible.

I am glad to say that talks are already well underway. Earlier this morning, a number of our committee chairmen began indepth, bipartisan talks with their Democratic counterparts. We were joined by representatives from the administration, and those talks continue right now as we speak.

Here are the next steps: These Member-level discussions will proceed with the goal of reaching agreements on each of four components of the legislation by the end of today—by the end of today, agreements on each of these four components.

This would allow the first procedural vote to occur before the end of the day tomorrow, and that would allow a bipartisan package focused on immediate challenges to pass the Senate Monday.

The Nation's needs and expectations are perfectly clear. Workers, families, small businesses, and the foundations

of our economy itself need swift action. And in the Senate, "swift" means bipartisan.

The Senate rose to the occasion earlier this month. We united across party lines to pass billions in quick funding to support the medical response, and we did it again just this week. We passed the more modest proposal that came over from the Democratic House quickly and in a bipartisan fashion.

Now our Nation needs a major next step, and we need it fast. That is why Senate Republicans produced a bold initial proposal to give shape and structure to these discussions.

First, our CARES Act will deliver direct financial help as quickly as possible to the American people. Senate Republicans want to put cash in Americans' hands.

For Americans who have lost work, this would be the quickest possible first wave of government assistance to supplement unemployment insurance and help with bills and immediate needs.

For our Nation's seniors, this would supplement Social Security and provide further relief to those who are at heightened risk and have had to change their routines literally overnight.

And for Americans still working, this infusion of money would provide a little more certainty in this very uncertain moment and the opportunities to invest in local economies where possible.

Second, our proposal would provide the quickest possible access to desperately needed liquidity for small businesses all across our country. Our proposal would use existing channels and small businesses' existing lending relationships to provide hundreds of billions of dollars in emergency capital, a significant cash infusion as fast as possible so that more small businesses can hold on to their workers, weather this disruption, and come out on the other side instead of having to resort to layoffs or shutdowns right away.

So no tangled new bureaucracies, no delay of this urgent aid while we try to redesign complex programs from the ground up, just the most direct path—the most direct path to the cash that small businesses need to keep making payroll, while, in many cases, the government itself is chasing away their customers for the sake of public health.

This straightforward approach is already earning support. A coalition of small business advocates has already written to express their hope that "both Republicans and Democrats can come together" to pass this.

Third, our bill recognizes a big, structural, national crisis requires a big, structural response. Let me say that again. Our bill recognizes that a big, structural national crisis requires a big, structural response.

We want to empower the Treasury Department to engage in targeted lending—not bailouts but loans—to key

sectors and industries which this pandemic is hurting.

Again, we want to preserve employer-employee relationships wherever we can. We have to fight to protect jobs, and we need to recognize that our Nation will need industries to come back online quickly on the other side of the crisis.

Fourth—and this is crucial—our legislation will continue to push surged resources to the frontlines of the medical battle against the virus itself. We want to expand access to testing and treatment to further encourage and speed up research on therapeutics and eventually vaccines, to continue to fund the hospitals and health centers that are treating patients, and we want to expand healthcare workers' access to critical equipment and supplies, including—including—respirator masks.

These are the four big things our bill seeks to do. As we speak, at this very moment, Senators on both sides are discussing the details and exchanging suggestions on all four of the pillars that I have just outlined.

So, once again, this will not be the first bill we pass to combat this crisis or the second, and I do not expect it will be the last.

This legislation does not need to contain every piece of the ongoing national effort. In fact, that would be impossible. But everyone—everyone—from public health experts to economists, to working families of this country—everyone—has made it clear that we need to deliver relief and we need to deliver it now.

We need to go big. We need to minimize new complexity, and we need to move swiftly. We need to push immediate relief to Americans. We need to keep Americans employed as much as possible and help job creators literally stay afloat. We need to continue taking action to stand with medical professionals and protect our Nation's health.

Laid-off workers cannot wait. Struggling Main Street businesses cannot wait. Our hospitals and health centers cannot wait.

So, as I said, I hope these Member-level discussions will be able to produce agreements in principle on all four components by the end of the day today. In fact, they must reach agreement by the end of the day today. That would leave tomorrow for drafting legislative text and for the first procedural vote on the shell. And that should allow a bipartisan package, focused on immediate challenges, to pass the Senate on Monday.

The crisis is moving fast. The Senate is here, we are working, and we are going to deliver.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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.

The Senator from Wyoming.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to associate myself with the remarks of the leader. I want to thank him for all of his efforts to pull these task forces together who are now working across the aisle to come up with this package that we should be able to start working on today or tomorrow.

I appreciate his comments that we are going to work through the week-end. This is unusual for the Senate and for the House, but the Senate is here, the Senate is working, and we are trying to come up with solutions that will keep America moving.

I particularly want to talk about one piece of the package because I have been getting calls from small businesses—small businesses that are saying: We have been shut down; we have been told that we can't do anything with our business right now.

Now, it is not all businesses. I do know that grocery stores are doing very well, probably having their best year ever. That will tail off a little later in the year, when people are over-supplied, but right now grocery stores are probably doing well.

Every other part of the economy is doing poorly, whether it is restaurants or shoe stores. I think I saw where they even got permission now to deliver liquor. Before, you had to buy it in the store. You couldn't get it delivered to your house. But, it is a concession, because of the difficulty that we are having, to keep from shutting down every business. That concession has been made in some places now.

But my point is that small business employs most of the people in this country, and small business is the one that is having difficulty right now. Big businesses always have a little bit of leeway, a little bit more of a forward plan, and because of their size, they have more flexibility. A small business does not have that.

What has been brought to my attention this last week are people who have payroll coming up. They have said: Now, we have been kind of shut down—shut down by the government, they like to say, but it is shut down by the virus, actually. The virus is what is creating this panic, and in order to keep people well, we have suggested all these different things that people ought to be doing, and I hope they are following that.

But, for small business, this is disastrous. If they are not selling anything, they have no cash to pay their employees. If they are not selling anything, they don't need the employees. If they

don't need the employees and they fire the employees, then, they go onto unemployment. And the unemployment lines are long.

That is not where we want people. We want people—particularly the ones who are trained for a particular job—to be available for that job the minute that job is available again.

One of these packages takes care of that situation. One package will provide for loans to small businesses, provided they keep their people on.

Now, remember, these people aren't producing anything. So there is no revenue coming in to pay that loan off. So it also provides that, provided they keep their employees and when the thing is over they still have their employees, the payroll part of that and any immediate need—there are other things that they absolutely have to pay. They have to pay their rent, or somebody else has a financial problem. They have to pay for the electricity and the heat and all of the regular things that a business has to pay for, besides employees. But, provided they have kept those employees on, those direct costs will be forgiven. So that is encouragement for every small business out there to relax a little bit.

I always say that the definition of a small business is when the owner wakes up in the middle of the night and says: Tomorrow is payroll. How am I going to make payroll?

Believe you me. That happens to those small business men out there. If you have a bad week, who doesn't get paid? The owner doesn't get paid. He has to pay those people, and he does pay those people because he wants those people around.

That is the crisis we are facing: How do we keep those people around so that, when the business comes back, they are available and the business can go forward as it did in the past?

This package will do that. I only wish that there was some way we could do it faster than Monday. And don't hold your breath. We are talking about Congress. That doesn't mean things will get done by Monday. They ought to be done today, but Monday looks like the earliest possible time that they can get done.

So the message that I am giving is this: Small business men, hang on. Hang on a little bit longer. If this passes, you will be able to keep your employees.

Their employees will be paid. That is important. That is the way to get money out into the economy: Pay employees, and let them keep their health insurance that way. If they go onto unemployment, they lose their health insurance. We don't want that to happen either.

So this is the solution that needs to happen right away for the employees, as well as the employers. I had a call from one this week who said: I have to declare bankruptcy. If you do something, will I not be eligible because I declared bankruptcy? It is a reorga-

nization bankruptcy, but I need to reorganize so I can find the cash to pay my employees.

So I am pretty sure that the bill has a stipulation in it that, if you declare bankruptcy after March 1, you will be eligible for this plan and be able to keep your business going—not in a comfortable situation, because none of us knows when this is all going to be over. None of us knows what the residual effects are going to be on the business world.

But we do need to have a vibrant business world out there providing for the needs of people. We have really become reliant on others. Hardly any of us produce our own food anymore. Hardly any of us produce anything that we use anymore.

We could and we can—and people probably are—just get by, but that is not what we are used to. That is not what we expect. That is not how we live. That is not how we enjoy life. We enjoy it by being able to have a job and buy the things that we need to have and do the recreation that we want to do.

So I am hoping that this package can go through in an expedited way, and I am particularly hopeful that the small business part, which is where most of the people in the United States work, can go through so that they can be paid, so that they can keep their insurance, and so that they are ready to do what they have been trained to do and want to do and like to do when the time comes that this virus has passed and people can be out there doing all of the things that they like to do again.

So I encourage the small business men to hold on. Help is coming. That is pretty tough to hear from Congress, I am sure, but this is one where I think people are realizing the severity and the importance of speed and how many people there are. Well, I don't think we have quite grasped how many people yet are involved in this and could be saved by this, but we will.

I ask that the businesses hang on while we do our job, and I thank the Senate for staying through the week-end to work this problem so that we can do it in a timely manner—hopefully, by Monday.

Hang on out there, America. Help is on the way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday I came to the floor with some optimism about what we could be including

in the legislation currently being considered in the Senate to respond to the coronavirus public health emergency. I laid out priorities ranging from shoring up the hospital systems to measures to provide direct assistance to students, workers, businesses, and families through this economic crisis.

Since that time, Leader MCCONNELL has released the Republican draft of his offering for this third package. It is a 250-page bill that some estimate will cost \$1 trillion. That is a daunting pricetag, except when you put it in context of the American economy and what it takes to keep us on track or put us back on track.

Our top priority must be immediate, direct relief to the healthcare sector—our heroic doctors, nurses, first responders, lab techs, and the hospitals and health clinics they support.

Yesterday I spent an hour on the telephone with the Governor of Illinois, J.B. Pritzker, talking about the reality on the ground in my home State and the choices he faced. It is a tough job being Governor—never tougher than when you have to make a decision about the lifestyle of families and individuals, about the businesses and their future, and, literally, a life-and-death choice in terms of policy. No one willingly accepts that, but when you run for high office, there is always that possibility.

He is concerned—and I share his concern—about the capacity of our hospitals and clinics in Illinois to deal with the infections that are becoming more and more common in our State. The numbers of infections are growing as the number of tests are increasing, which is an indication that there are many undiagnosed people in our midst, and that number is likely to continue to increase.

Those who administer the hospitals of Illinois have given us some yardsticks to measure the future. They suggest to us that if 20 percent of the population of my State should become infected for a 12-month period of time, they will need 88 percent of our hospital resources to respond. If that same 20 percent becomes infected over a 6-month period of time, it will be double that capacity; in other words, 176 percent of our current hospital capacity. It would push our system beyond the breaking point. If the infection rate, though, is double that—40 percent for any period of time—our hospitals, as good as they are, as big as they are, as prepared as they are, can't handle it.

If that is the situation in our State, it is the situation in many other States. At that point, we will be dealing with serious overcrowding and triage decisions being made under heartbreaking circumstances.

That is why many of us on this side of the aisle feel that this third package offered by the other side really needs to be changed and improved so that we do have what Senator SCHUMER is calling a Marshall Plan for the hospital work healthcare of America. We des-

perately need it, and we need it now. Waiting to come and face us at a later date makes it that much more difficult.

Our health system is currently stretched to its absolute limit: surge staffing, emergency protocols, shortfalls of masks and protective equipment, and cashflow running out in just weeks. The plan that we have before us—the draft plan from the other side—does not address these needs. It has no new appropriations, no real funding or authorization for staffing or equipment and only meager changes when it comes to programs like Medicare.

What this pandemic demands is that Marshall Plan for healthcare, an immediate funding boost to our healthcare systems, clinics, and health departments, mass production of masks, respirators, gloves, and ventilators.

Two days ago, the President acknowledged that he has the authority, under what I believe is called the Defense Recovery Act, to say to manufacturers: change whatever you are making and make more respirators and change whatever you are making in terms of masks and make more medical-grade masks to meet the needs across this country. I hope the President will use that authority. That is why it was created in the law.

We also need to support our workforce. We need to increase Medicaid funding, and we need to put an end to Medicare sequestration and DSH cuts.

I am also calling for the inclusion in this package of a bill known as the Rural Hospital Relief Act. I am cosponsoring that bill with Senator JAMES LANKFORD, a Republican, of Oklahoma. It would keep the most financially vulnerable hospitals afloat during this challenging time by providing them access to the stability of the Critical Access Hospital Program. Every State with smalltown hospitals and rural hospitals should pay close attention to this bill that we put in. It could be a great help to hospitals that are otherwise struggling. Anything less, I am afraid, we will be turning our backs on the selfless and heroic work of the frontline health workers. How can we say enough about these nurses and doctors and healthcare workers—these men and women—who literally risk their lives for every patient that comes through the door.

We need to maintain access to healthcare for people who lose their jobs as a result of this pandemic too. We must offer Federal funding to cover the costs of COBRA coverage for people who lose their jobs but want to keep health insurance. Currently, if you lose your job and you have health insurance where you work, you can maintain your current health insurance, but you have to pay for the employer's share since you no longer work there. The premiums go through the roof in those circumstances, and many people can't afford these COBRA payments. Why don't we include in this third package coming before us a subsidy for those

families so they can keep their health insurance, even if they are not on the job? We certainly don't want them uninsured. It is not good for them. It is not good for our country. It is certainly not good for our health system. It is bad enough that millions of people may lose their jobs; we don't want to also have them lose their healthcare in the midst of a public health emergency. Let's step up and help them now.

I was not included during the drafting of the bill that was presented by Senator MCCONNELL, but I would like to give two pieces of feedback from two colleagues from his side of the aisle. The first said, referring to this package:

Relief to families in this emergency shouldn't be regressive. Lower income families shouldn't be penalized.

That was a quote from Senator HAWLEY of Missouri, a Republican Senator.

A second Republican Senator said, referring to this draft package:

[T]he current bill . . . shouldn't give lower earners smaller checks . . . that's directly contrary to my proposal . . . we need to fix this to ensure lower earners get equal payments.

That quote is from Senator ROMNEY of Utah.

I agree with both of them. We should make sure that if there is any financial relief coming to people across the country, those in lower income categories should get as much, or more, than anyone else.

I cannot agree more with their assessment. The direct cash benefit measure in this plan would give those the most in need of assistance in the lower income categories sometimes nothing at all.

Additionally, the bill contains a provision that would allow middle and higher income earners to receive more of a benefit than low to moderate earners. That is upside down.

Goldman Sachs released projections this week that unemployment claims may rise to 2.25 million this week. That would be the highest level on record. This proposal that we have been given by the other side falls far short of making sure we have enough resources to deal with this influx of unemployment claims.

The bill also lacks any moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, leaving those who are particularly vulnerable at risk of being cast out on the street during a public health crisis. Instead of expanding paid sick leave to more who need it, I am afraid the new bill tries to further limit that protection.

The McConnell bill provides no additional funds to the military. We have a supplemental appropriation which is supposed to be taken up. Why isn't it married into this bill? Why don't we do it all at once, get it done? We know we are going to need it, and there is no point in delaying it.

We need to help our military, and we need to provide resources to many of

our States that are high and dry because of the cost of dealing with this public health crisis and the additional claims on their unemployment benefits.

We need the National Guard and the Defense Department pushing assistance to every level of government during the pandemic. That means supplying masks and ventilators and beds to communities that need them.

I am also, with Senator DUCKWORTH—my colleague of Illinois—reaching out directly to the Department of Defense. I want to find out if we can start building field hospitals in the parking lots of major hospitals across our State. We have done it before when we had to—particularly when dealing with the Ebola crisis overseas—and we need to do that right here at home and take the expertise of the Army Corps of Engineers and other professionals at the Pentagon. They are ready to move at a moment's notice to build a field hospital, if needed, for our men and women in uniform. Let's take that same willingness and expertise and translate it into more bed capacity and room capacity at the hospitals most in need.

The protective equipment across this country still is not at the level it should be for the men and women in the military as well as those in civilian life.

The proposal before us ignores the desperation we are hearing from cities and town and States. Without tax revenues coming in, they are running out of cash to keep operating services and meeting payroll. We need a surge of Federal funding through current programs with flexibility for States and localities to allow them to keep paying their workers and ensuring things like transit, airports, schools, and housing.

The McConnell plan also does not provide much needed education assistance to deal with the increased expenses related to closing schools and moving to online learning. We have to make sure that this new technology keeps our kids learning, even though they may be home in the process. It provides nothing for these emergency needs. That bill, I hope, will be improved today as the Democrats get a chance to sit down with Republicans for the first time and talk about compromises.

The Republican majority leader himself said this is a public health crisis with an economic crisis strapped to its back. I couldn't agree more. Where are the test kits? Where is the protective equipment? Where is the assistance for working families? Let's get it done.

The Senator from Kentucky is giving us a deadline to do it by tomorrow. I think that is ambitious, but let's try to meet it and do it on a bipartisan basis.

I couldn't agree more that some affected industries—like the airlines and hospitality, along with small and mid-sized businesses—need to be assisted. We can also take care of American workers and families at the same time. I think it is incumbent on us to do both.

In short, the Senate needs to act now to fix the major flaws pointed out by both Republicans and Democrats in this third package. I stand ready to work on these fixes.

Just a few minutes ago, I left one of the working groups, and it was a very positive atmosphere and attitude in which the two sides were sitting down and trying to work out their differences.

For the dark time ahead, we need to continue reminding American people that we can rise to the challenge—both political parties—not to politically fight but to find political answers and compromises that solve these problems I have outlined here today.

The bottom line is, people are sitting at home. Some are even following C-SPAN in their absolute boredom, trying to figure out what to do with their lives, and they are listening to our speeches.

My report is this: We passed two major pieces of legislation involving billions of dollars. We have done it in record time. We have done it on a bipartisan basis. Both have been signed by the President. This third measure that may reach a trillion dollars in cost is a challenge, for sure, but one we can meet again on a bipartisan basis. We owe America, at this moment in our history, nothing less.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the coronavirus continues to challenge our Nation in extraordinary ways that were unimaginable a few weeks ago. Our public health systems are coming under enormous strain. Our hospitals and other medical facilities lack the necessary supplies and resources. As measures to isolate the public broaden, workers are filing for unemployment at unprecedented rates. Small businesses are on the brink of collapse. American families are desperately in need of support until they can resume their normal lives.

I have heard from these people and the people who are isolated. I have heard from people who have sick loved ones in nursing homes and can't enter to see them. I have heard from small business people who struggled their

whole lives to build a small business, and it finally looks like it is beginning to succeed, and they may be wiped out.

The urgency of doing something now is so important. Both parties in Congress must work together as swiftly as possible to get something done that is as big and bold as possible. This is one of the worst crises America has faced. The American people need help fast.

Senator MCCONNELL has proposed what is now the third phase of legislation to confront the coronavirus. We are all eager to work in a bipartisan way to quickly get another bill to the President's desk. But at the moment, the McConnell bill is inadequate. Leader MCCONNELL's proposal does not do nearly enough to address the public health crisis in terms of hospitals, medical supplies, beds, doctors, nurses, and measures to ensure that Americans can access and afford coronavirus treatment.

The bottom line is very simple: If we don't deal with the health crisis, nothing we do will make the economy any better. So that is No. 1.

If we don't have help for our hospitals, many small ones are going to close. Rural ones will close. Big ones will have real trouble. We must do something. Yet there is nothing in Leader MCCONNELL's bill to help hospitals. Now we are told we may do it later in a supplemental. Later is no good. We need a Marshall Plan for hospitals right now.

Local governments that are also on the frontlines need to get dollars in their pockets. Many of them will go broke.

Leader MCCONNELL's proposal is also skewed in favor of corporations rather than the workers and families who urgently and much more acutely feel the pain of reduced hours and unemployment. Leader MCCONNELL's proposal includes a few ideas that shouldn't be included at all, such as tax cuts for multinational corporations and restrictions on paid sick leave that Congress just expanded.

This morning, Democratic ranking members of six committees met with the Republican chairs of corresponding committees to hear the rationale behind the McConnell bill and to begin a bipartisan dialogue. Democrats will soon respond with policies we believe must be included in the legislation and things that we don't think belong in this legislation.

Our goal is twofold: Address the public health crisis now, and put workers first as we do it.

Democrats want to do as much as possible to prepare our healthcare system for the growing storm it faces, and we want to help the working Americans who are most immediately affected by the economic slowdown and help them in real and significant ways. In that respect, Democrats have five important priorities that I will speak about now, among others. We have many other priorities as well. We are sending all of our priorities over to the Republicans soon enough.

No. 1, America needs a Marshall Plan for hospitals and our public health infrastructure. In a few weeks, hospitals could be overrun with patients, and there will still be a great shortage of gloves, masks, ICU beds, ventilators, and especially testing. To cite just one example, the two biggest hospitals in Albany—Albany Medical Center and St. Peter's Health Partners—announced they are suspending testing in order to conserve the few they have for healthcare workers and high-risk patients. Access to tests continues to be a problem in other places throughout my State as well.

There is great shortage of equipment. The story that rings in my ear is that certain places that have the tests don't have the swabs so they can undertake the tests. We are short of supplies up and down the line. It is masks. It is protective clothing and gear. It is beds. It is doctors and nurses themselves. We have to do more. We need a Marshall Plan right now for our healthcare system.

Two weeks ago, 3, 4 weeks ago, many of us were talking about the problem that testing—the lack of good testing was about to occur. Many of us said 3 weeks ago, 4 weeks ago, that if we don't have these tests, everything is going to go down the drain. No one listened—at least no one in the administration—until recently. Well, we are saying now that in 2, 3 weeks, our hospital situation will be the same. It will be massive and deeply in trouble. That is why we need to act now—not later with a supplemental but now.

We also need to dramatically increase unemployment insurance—what we are calling employment insurance. It is really unemployment insurance on steroids. But it helps people furloughed from their jobs, so we call it employment insurance. Why do we need it? Because so many workers have been forced home and are prevented from working regular hours. If you work in a restaurant and there are no customers, you are not going to work. The boss you worked for and worked so well with for years can't afford to pay you.

To go on existing unemployment insurance won't work. It is hard to access. It doesn't cover a whole lot of people. Furthermore, it does not pay back workers the full wages they were earning. We need to change all three of those things so that, No. 1, every worker who is unemployed gets a paycheck equal to what they were earning before this crisis, paid for by the Federal Government. That way, the business—small, medium, large—can put them on furlough, and then, when the crisis is over, they are back. There is money in their pockets. No workers, no family, no one should lose a paycheck or go into financial ruin as a result of the coronavirus. This is a very important provision.

I talk to people all across my State and the country, and when they hear about it, they love it. It is not giving money to everybody. There are some

people, thank God, who are still employed, but there are many, many people who have lost their jobs, and one check, when they may be out of their jobs for 3, 4, 5 months, isn't going to be enough. Unemployment insurance gives money the whole period of time the crisis exists at your present salary level and covers just about everyone. It makes the most sense of any program that I have heard in dealing with those who are losing their jobs, and it helps in terms of dealing with stimulating the economy because we will bring the economy back to where it was. All these unemployed people will be getting paid the same amount of money.

Third, paid sick leave is a must. We need to be expanding paid sick leave, not restricting it, as this current proposal suggests. Senators MURRAY and GILLIBRAND, working in conjunction with their colleague Congresswoman DELAURO in the House, put together a good bill. It should be in this big proposal.

Fourth, we need to put our workers first. If we are going to consider bailing out industries, they cannot then be allowed to turn around and cut jobs, cut wages, cut benefits. They cannot be allowed to use the money for stock buybacks. They cannot be allowed to give salary increases to executives. Phase 3 needs to put workers first, period. These are our values.

Finally, we need to rescue small businesses. Many of them have been asked to close their doors for the sake of public safety. We need to help businesses access the necessary liquidity to pay their insurance bills, to pay their rent or mortgage, to pay their expenses so that when this crisis ends, they can rebound stronger than ever.

Democratic ranking members are already discussing these priorities with their Republican counterparts. Of course, there are many other priorities as well. It would take too long to highlight all of them, but they are all in white paper we have sent to Leader MCCONNELL and to the Republican chairs. In almost all these cases, Democrats already have prepared and drafted the legislative language on these priorities. We are ready to go.

About 2 hours ago, I spoke with President Trump about these five priorities. I mentioned them all, and President Trump told me he was open to these ideas. In fact, the President explicitly told me he would oppose companies using bailout money on buybacks, even though such a prohibition is not in MCCONNELL's bill.

I also urged the President to immediately employ the Defense Production Act and harness industry to get ventilators and other critically needed medical equipment to those who need it. He told me he would do so and then said to someone who must have been in the Oval Office—or wherever he was—to get it done. So I think we are on the road, because we can't waste a day in terms of getting the DPA going. Congress will make available very quickly

whatever resources are needed to the Defense Department in order to implement this act.

More broadly, I told the President we need to come together and cooperate in this time of national crisis. He agreed. We need to work with uncommon speed and make this next bill what it needs to be. We need it to be workers first, with a Marshall Plan for hospitals. The Democrats are already at work with our Republican colleagues to get this done.

Now, it has been 20 days since the first case of COVID-19 was detected in New York. Today, 20 days later, there are 7,000 cases—more than a third of the total number in our country. In a time of public emergency, New Yorkers have been asked to make extraordinary sacrifices. The Governor has just mandated that, excepting essential services, 100 percent of New York's workforce must stay home. The city that never sleeps is, for the moment, dormant.

To all of my fellow New Yorkers, stay strong. We will beat this back, and on the other side, we will come back stronger.

To the thousands of New Yorkers and more across the country who have volunteered to join our medical reserves to help sick patients, thank you. God bless you. The Nation owes you a debt for your courage and willingness to answer the call to serve.

Our medical workers are already performing a herculean task, and it will only get more daunting in the days to come.

Know this, workers: The country is with you. We support you; we respect you; we love you; and we are already working on policies that will ease your burden, as much as that can be achieved.

Finally, to my Senate colleagues, what we must do in the next few days is unlike anything any of us has ever done in our time in Congress. This is a crisis without modern precedent. We are going to have to flex some muscles that may have atrophied. We are going to have to cooperate in ways that we may not be accustomed to. We are going to have to work across the aisle and across the span of this Capitol to produce momentous legislation in the span of a few days. We will do it because we must do it. The American people are suffering. Our businesses are shuttered. Our factories lay idle. Our workers are without work. Let us come together and do whatever is necessary to protect the American people in this time of historic challenge.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, this past week, we have seen that the spread of COVID-19 has really become a crisis not just for our Nation but a crisis for every American. Today, millions of Americans are asking themselves how they will endure this crisis, how long will the crisis last, how will it affect their families, their communities, and their Nation as a whole.

We have many people who are now trying to do the dollars-and-cents of this crisis, literally sitting down to try to calculate how many weeks they can stretch the last 2 weeks of pay.

We see people who have been furloughed, had their hours reduced, been laid off.

We have seen that small businesses—from the mom-and-pop pizza joints, to small interior design shops, to barber shops—are all trying to determine how they can keep themselves afloat when their doors are closed and how they can deal with their fixed costs.

I have been on the phone with so many employers in my own State who have spoken to me about the challenges they have trying to continue to cover the health insurance of their employees even with the fact that no revenue is being brought in by their businesses.

Over and over again, restaurants, bars, coffee shops, our sports arenas, hotels—all of them have been emptied, and millions of workers have been let go and had their hours slashed.

On top of that, schools across this country, from colleges to kindergartens, have been closed, and millions of families are now scrambling to try to find childcare. College students are displaced and moving back in with families.

This is, on so many levels, a true crisis like none of us have ever faced before in our Nation. The emotions are running the gamut. People are angry. People are afraid. People are fearful for their own physical safety, as well as their economic well-being.

This is something that is challenging because we do not know how long it will last. The one thing we do know is that this crisis is a shared one, but many people face their own privately painful challenges. I will give one example.

There is a single mother in my State—a mother of two—who works at a nursing home and is also raising her granddaughter. At work, she cares for elderly patients, and because family members can no longer visit, she is rising to the challenge of not just being a professional there, but she also feels she is serving as a surrogate family member. Now, for weeks, the basic personal protective equipment she needs to keep herself safe is in short supply and is literally dwindling.

For all of this incredible work, this incredible dedication literally on the frontlines, she makes \$14 an hour. With schools now closing, her teenage children will be responsible for caring for

her granddaughter while she works because she can't afford childcare. She doesn't know what she would do if she got sick and actually had to miss work. She is living every day afraid of getting the coronavirus.

There are millions of families in a similar situation and millions of Americans who are getting up every day knowing that their going to work is essential for the well-being of others. Yet they still don't know how they will take care of their families.

The most recent bipartisan relief package that came out of Congress, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, is a very important step in helping those families and combating the spread of the virus and its effects. It will help to increase testing, ensure the availability of emergency paid family and sick leave for many workers, increase food assistance programs, and make emergency unemployment insurance available for more workers who really, really need it.

Now, as we turn to the next package of policies and funding to help Americans who are suffering now, we know this is a moment that demands bold, decisive action and doesn't leave anybody behind. We know we are a nation born out of crisis. We know that our founding ideals—you have to understand that this government was formed to protect people and to defend people. We, in our Declaration of Independence, talk about mutually pledging to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor. The spirit of this Nation is about being there for each other and coming together to be stronger despite the crisis, despite the challenge.

I am so grateful at this time that we are seeing bipartisan work on both sides of the aisle, as we are all seeing—from our personal lives to our States as a whole—we are all seeing the urgency.

I am worried now that the first proposal that we have seen, though, falls short of addressing the needs of our healthcare workers and first responders—those Americans who are really putting themselves out there. I am confident, though, that we are going to come together in the coming hours to try to create a package that rises above or rises to meet the moment we are in.

Right now, our Nation's first responders, our firefighters, and our healthcare professionals are being asked to respond to situations where they don't have the personal protective equipment they need to stay safe. In my own city, I talked to the head of public safety, who talked to me about the courage of these folks who, no matter what, are going to go to work, even without that protective gear. But, dear God, shouldn't we be doing everything we can, because if they get sick, if they can't show up, we will see a cascading crisis. It would be disgraceful. It would be dangerous.

It is not an exaggeration to say that if we don't move quickly to get personal protective equipment to our

frontline responders, we are going to be ill-equipped not just to fight COVID-19, but we could see widespread interruptions in the delivery of all lifesaving emergencies in America. Also, this bill we have seen now, which we must make better, must address not just this issue but also do more for healthcare workers and first responders to get them the equipment they need.

There are a lot of things that I feel strongly about that I know will be in these negotiations.

We should all be able to agree on supporting our veterans and VA facilities as they prepare to fight this virus. There are gaping holes in that in this bill.

We should all agree on funding for our transit systems—like Amtrak—that are going to make sure to keep our country connected, that those systems don't fail and fall, especially when we will need them switched on and running vibrantly when our economy gets going. We should all agree that this is a time to deal with some of the massive shortfalls that we have now more than ever.

While places like South Korea have universal broadband penetration, we should all agree that broadband access in devices for our students is critical if we are going to continue to educate our children for the months ahead.

We should all agree on providing tests for our troops that are still serving in high-risk areas like Afghanistan. We need to make sure these bills address these holes.

We should all agree on strengthening our community colleges and our minority-serving institutions so they, too, can continue to educate their students digitally. These are holes that must be filled.

We should all agree that we need to be providing funding and flexibility for our schools and food banks to continue to serve meals to children in our country so that, crisis or no crisis, the next generation can grow healthy and strong.

We should all agree that the utilities in our Nation should not be shut off during this crisis—we need to address that in this bill—so that families, regardless of income, who are already now struggling to make ends meet don't see themselves without light, power, and gas. These holes in this bill should be addressed.

We should all agree that everyone must have coverage for testing and access to healthcare services that keep them and their families safe, and that includes the people who are in our country, whether they are documented or not, because our health is directly interrelated with their health. And to make sure that the only people who can get treatment are citizens of the United States—ignoring the millions of people who are not—means that the citizens of the United States are at risk.

We should also think about those folks whom we don't think about

enough, like those who are incarcerated, as well as the correction officers and workers who deal with those who are incarcerated. We are not doing enough to address that pending crisis in our country. There are holes in this bill.

I want to take one moment, though, to address an aspect of this bill which there seems to be general consensus about but which can be made so much stronger, and that is the issue of cash payments.

Economic relief packages coming from this body should be about offering everyone relief, including those who, through no fault of their own, now find themselves on that financial brink.

It is why we must strengthen unemployment compensation that includes both increasing benefits across the board and expanding eligibility to include more workers, like gig economy workers and other independent workers. That is why I specifically want to address this cash payment part, because that is not enough. As for the idea of cash payments, I am so grateful to see a lot of my colleagues be supportive of that idea.

Earlier this week, Senators BENNET, BROWN, and I, along with several of our colleagues, proposed sending cash payments directly to American families, starting with \$2,000 sent immediately to every American, low- and middle-income, with additional payments if our economy remains in distress. Under our plan, in the worst case scenario, over an entire year, with three tranches of payments, if our economy remains in distress, a family of four would be eligible for \$18,000.

Critically, our plan would not require an income threshold to receive payments, which means that everyone under a certain income level would qualify.

The current proposal would exclude exactly the people and households who actually need it most. By creating an income requirement and phase-in, this plan currently proposed would be skipping over the most vulnerable people. That means a mom who quit her job to spend the last year caring for her sick child or a husband or a parent with Alzheimer's, whose full-time job has been caring for that spouse or loved one, would receive nothing under this plan.

It also means that a college student, forced to leave school, now no longer having the sources of support at college, trying to enter the job market but not able to, would receive nothing under this plan.

Some tipped workers, seasonal workers, and people coming out of the criminal justice system, who paid their debt to society, would receive nothing under this plan.

This is a moment where we have to understand that we should be thinking boldly and acting in a bipartisan way at a scale we have never seen before because we have never seen a crisis like this before. This is not a time to do

something that is anemic, that is inadequate, that leaves some of the most vulnerable people out in the cold, when we know those people—they are our family members; they are our neighbors—wouldn't qualify for the plan as it is right now.

I know those family members because they are people who live in my community. Someone who worked their entire life, who has a mother who is dying, just last year quit their job to try to support her. These are folks we know. They might even be in our own family. We shouldn't exclude them at this time. By the way, including them helps to further the impact of the stimulative effects of this plan. It literally puts more money in our economy and into the hands of people who will spend it, and that will have a multiplier effect.

We need to be injecting cash directly into our economy and giving people agency again in their lives at a time when so many people feel helpless amidst this health and economic crisis.

And, God, we need to be doing it quickly, getting payments to people as soon as possible. For seniors, these payments should simply be added to their next Social Security check. And I remind you that about 7 million of our seniors live at or below the poverty line because their Social Security checks don't go far enough. For veterans, they should receive theirs at the same time they get their VA benefits. We can do that quickly. For everyone else, the IRS should send checks or deposit funds directly into their bank account.

These are the kinds of actions we need to ensure that, once we get through this public health crisis, we have the tools in place we need to reactivate the world's greatest economy and enable it to recover.

The great thing about designing something this way is that we could put it in place now, while we are all assembled here as a body. I said this to my caucus, and I didn't mean it to be in any way draconian. But there are 100 of us, and it is likely some of us could be sick. While we are all assembled here, let's put things in place so they are triggered. If the economy is still down, it triggers the next set of actions. Instead of having to come back here and negotiate more now, put things in place with automatic triggers so 3 months from now, if the economy is down, it triggers more action, like the next tranche of payments. At the end of the year, if the economy is still where it is, let's trigger another automatic payment. That is not just common sense; it is proactive. It means that people can begin to rely on those resources and do that kind of planning, by having predictable sources of income, and not having the challenges that I am starting to find now, just for a week or 2, which are the emotional challenges, the stress of families.

I talked to medical professionals this week who worry about this home isola-

tion, people stressed over bills, and people worried about their next paycheck. This is an emotional strain to our country and will have physical manifestations.

I want to say that I love my Nation for so many reasons, but one of the reasons is because it has often been my life experience that during the toughest times, I have witnessed the best of us.

I was a college student in 1989, when a horrible earthquake hit the Bay Area. In Stanford, we were closer to the epicenter than even San Francisco was. I remember the fear, as people were knocked out of their homes. But the other thing I saw was America. I saw the best of who we are—people pulling together, sheltering friends, sharing food. It was one of these experiences, as a young person coming of age, that I will never forget. I am not happy an earthquake happened, but, God, it so inspired me to see the best of who we are.

Later, as a young man and a city councilman in Newark, about 10 miles from the World Trade Center, 9/11 happened—horrible, horrible things. I lost my childhood best friend in one of those buildings.

God, in that crisis, what did we do in this country? God, I remember the lines—people lining up in front of hospitals to donate blood—how people pulled together, stood for each other, and sacrificed for each other. There was something so powerful and so patriotic—people remembering that patriotism is not a flag pin, and patriotism is love of country. You cannot love your country unless you love your fellow country men and women, and love is not sentimentality. It is sacrifice. It is service. It is being there for each other.

God, when Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey and thousands of people lost their homes and power was shut off in our communities for days or over a week, again, I saw the best of who we are as a nation. In a crisis, in a challenge, we don't pull apart. We pull together. We stand up for each other. We serve each other. It may put us back individually, but the generosity I saw—people reaching into their bank accounts, buying blankets, buying food—was inspiring. They were putting people up in hotels who were out of their homes.

It hearkened me back to the stories I heard from my parents and my grandparents about what it was like in the Great Depression in poor communities in the South and how much people were there for each other. It reminded me of World War II. My grandmother, literally, until the day she died, an African-American woman, was bragging about her victory gardens, how eagerly and how it gave her pride that she was rationing—how this poor woman, who worked as a domestic at times, was buying war bonds. Everybody was pitching in. That is who we are. That is America.

Now the wealthiest Nation on planet Earth is facing one of its biggest trials. I pray it is one of the biggest trials in my lifetime, if not the biggest trial. The wealthiest country on the planet is showing what we are called to be. I have always felt, as the prophet Elijah says in the Bible, that we are the light onto other nations—about how we pull together, stand together, fight through a storm, and fight through a crisis. We are showing what we do for each other.

It is not just the men and women sitting in these seats. It is all of us. In the greatest crisis of our lifetime, what are you doing for other people?

I pray our legislation keeps that spirit in mind. When the most common faith talks about what are you doing for the widower, what are you doing for the orphan, what are you doing for those people in prison, I hope we keep that in mind.

It is not a time for half steps or half measures. It is time for the bold spirit of America, where we stand up for each other. We don't pull apart; we come together. We don't tear down; we rise up. That is where we are right now in American history. In this great global pandemic, we are a light unto each other, as well as to the world.

And for the Senate, right now, while there still are 100 of us here doing the work, let's do it nobly and boldly and with generosity of spirit. Let's extend civic grace because this crisis is not bigger than who we are.

We will endure. We shall overcome. May God bless America, and may God bless each and every one of us.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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, it has been so interesting talking to our Tennesseans as they have faced these issues we have with coronavirus and what is happening, our response to it, and how we are going to fight it. And yes, we are going to win this war, and we are going to defeat this, but we have to look at it as our health, food, and financial assistance.

Last night, a couple of my Tennesseans and I were discussing this—what their thoughts and their questions to me were about the relationship we have with China and how can we trust that we know what China knew, that we know when they knew it, and their lack of transparency around what happened with COVID-19.

As we have gotten a couple of months past the start of this, these questions are unanswered. As I was telling our Tennesseans on the phone last night,

even as this virus that came out of Wuhan, China—they had it in December. It has now touched six continents, and we know people are dealing with containment. They are dealing with mitigation. They are dealing with going through the process of getting the anti-virals, getting the vaccines that are necessary to deal with COVID-19.

The questions that people have around this are compounded by the growing realization of how China has chosen not to be honest and not to be transparent in their dealings with the rest of the world. The way Beijing handled its initial response to the coronavirus was nothing new. In fact, deflection and lies meant to protect the Communist Party is part of their standard operating procedure. They have defied norms governing the protection of human rights. They embrace innovation by incursion, defy property rights, and steal intellectual property as a matter of course.

We have U.S. companies that have suffered for decades from what China has done to steal their intellectual property, to infringe on their intellectual property. They defy the sovereignty of other nations and territories, and they defy what should be their role as a leader in the global economy. Certainly, they want to be a market economy or so they say, but look at their behavior. It is this act of defiance that makes them incredibly dangerous.

I have to tell you, this has been something that has been going on for quite a while, but we only need to go back a decade to place a flag marking our awareness of what has become a very familiar story. Over the decades, as China started to manufacture and started to pull U.S. manufacturers there and then started to mistreat their intellectual property rights, people became aware of what was going on. It was right at 10 years ago, when I was a Member in the House, that we were doing much of the same work that we are doing right now in the U.S. Senate; we were preparing a defense authorization bill. Even then we realized the threat that China and Chinese state-owned companies posed to our national security. We drafted amendments to that year's NDAA, blocking the purchase of Huawei-supplied equipment. Indeed, we are still hearing about the need to block the purchase of Huawei equipment not only for us but for our allies.

That action was 10 years ago, but China's influence has continued to grow. What we have done is pretty much our part in the Senate to expose those bad actions, even as the rest of the world has allowed Beijing to co-opt the trappings of capitalism to perpetuate totalitarianism.

Last year, we saw the people of Hong Kong rise up on behalf of democracy and self-determination. Indeed, to this day, that fight goes on even though the threats and fears of COVID-19 have

caused those protesters to have to protest in a different way.

I cosponsored the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act and sponsored legislation prohibiting the commercial export of covered munition items to the Hong Kong police force. But the world moves on, even as that standoff in Hong Kong continues.

The Senate was forced to pen a resolution asking the International Olympic Committee to rebid the 2022 Winter Games to a country that respects human rights. That was really quite a bold move. It leaves me to wonder, why was China given this honor in the first place? I have to tell you, nobody seems to really know the answer to that question. The aggression they display toward Taiwan and Tibet and the outright repression of the Uighurs—this is something that has gone unchecked many times due to fear of economic retaliation.

I have addressed this body several times on the subject of Huawei and China's leveraging of the impending 5G rollout to create national security vulnerabilities in our network. Their efforts to undermine our sovereignty are not limited to high-tech espionage. Indeed, their goal is to place their equipment everywhere. That is why it is so incredibly affordable to so many countries and so many of our allies. In placing this equipment, they are seeking to establish their own high-tech cyber spy network. We know what they are up to.

This month, I introduced a bill to temper the influence of China-backed Confucius Institutes on American college campuses. We all have read the stories lately of how they have infiltrated some of our institutions of higher learning and how they have co-opted some of the staff or professors.

This is something that needs our attention. It is followed on the heels of the Stop Higher Education Espionage and Theft Act—another effort to prevent Beijing from increasing its hold on the minds of our younger generations. Time and again, we have called Chinese tech companies like Tik Tok onto the carpet for their censorship, their data collection, and their privacy practices—or lack of privacy, we should say. Yet content from their popular apps still dominates social media headlines. China's hold on the global economy has never been more apparent.

Now there are reports that Beijing used the media and keyword censorship to suppress information about the coronavirus. Yet Beijing remains defiant, attacking President Trump in tweets and accusing everyday Americans of racism for daring to suggest that COVID-19 originated in Wuhan, China. They are, as many younger people like to say, gaslighting us, and it is madness.

It brings us to ask, when will enough be enough? We must not let our present concerns about the response to coronavirus deter us from thinking long term. This pandemic will change

our relationship with China in every single way. It is inevitable. Starting now, we must take advantage of this knowledge. As we think about an exit strategy from the coronavirus crisis, we have to think about this. As we think about a way forward to bring manufacturing back to the United States, we need to remember this.

SECURING AMERICA'S MEDICINE CABINET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have spoken several times about the vulnerabilities in our pharmaceutical supply chain and again encourage my colleagues to support the bipartisan Securing America's Medicine Cabinet Act—or SAM-C Act—which I am sponsoring alongside my colleague from New Jersey, Senator MENENDEZ.

Without intervention, the FDA expects the pharmaceutical industry will continue to rely on Chinese companies to make the active pharmaceutical ingredients—or the APIs—that are necessary for so many of our prescription and over-the-counter drugs. The threat it poses to our supply chain is real.

On February 27, 2020, the FDA announced the shortage of one drug that is used to treat patients with coronavirus. They attributed the shortage to difficulties obtaining the API from a site in China. That site has been affected by—guess what—coronavirus.

We do not need to remain vulnerable. We need to realize that we are dealing with someone who has not been transparent. They have hidden information from us. They are causing shortages of drugs and vaccines and antibiotics. It is time for us to learn from these lessons. If we ignore them, we do so at our own peril.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. JONES. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in the wake of what is going on.

I appreciate my colleague from Tennessee talking about supply chains. I completely agree with her. It is something that we are going to have to seriously look at as we get through this process. We have become too dependent. I appreciate her efforts in that regard.

I want to talk today—I know we have a lot going on up here. For those who are watching and the American people, you need to understand that while this Gallery may be empty and this floor may be empty, there is a lot going on in the Senate right now. There is a lot happening to try to make sure that we save this economy, that we do those things necessary to try to make sure our businesses, our workers, and our economy from all sectors are saved.

Again, I want to go back to the thing you can do as Americans, and that is to stop the spread of this virus. Do social

distancing. Do those things we have talked about now for several weeks to try to get folks to do their part because we are trying to do our part. We are doing this in an incredibly bipartisan effort. I think you will see a lot of things coming out of the Senate and out of the House, along with the administration, to try to make sure we do those things for Americans.

Over the past few weeks, I have talked with countless business owners and local and State officials. I have heard from a lot of folks who are scared to death, working folks who are now at home. They are not telecommuting because their jobs are not like that. They are alarmed about where we are today and where we are going to be tomorrow and next week and over the coming weeks and even potentially months.

Businesses are having to lay off folks. They are having to furlough workers, sending a surge of folks to the unemployment line. We have seen that in just the last few days, which is something that, as we were moving, we thought we would not see.

Small businesses, like restaurants and Main Street retailers, will go bankrupt if we are not careful. They are going to go bankrupt without customers, as folks stay home and practice the social distancing that we know we have to do and as States start enacting forced closures of schools and events. Those businesses will shutter. Hopefully, it will only be a temporary shutting.

First and foremost, there are steps we can all take to stop the spread of the virus and begin to get the economy on the right track. It is up to us individually. In the meantime, we, as Members of Congress and public officials across this country—from local county officials and city officials to the Governors and State legislators and Members of Congress—we have to do all we can to make sure our businesses, particularly the small businesses, which make up an overwhelming amount of business in the State of Alabama in particular, can continue to meet payroll and keep workers paid so that they can then continue to meet their obligations. That is where my proposal comes in that I talked to a number of colleagues about.

In addition to providing the same kind of direct assistance payments that are being kicked around now—whether it is through checks or in some form or another that people are widely talking about right now—I would also like to see a new fund that is created to quickly get cash into the hands of small businesses so they can make their payroll and not have to lay off workers. I am calling this the small business lifeline fund. It would provide a no-interest bridge loan for up to 3 months, to be paid back over 5 years with no interest. This is a work-in-progress, so there are even proposals to make sure that this loan can be forgiven in certain circumstances. It

could be administered through the Small Business Administration. It would offer loans up to 75 percent of a business's last 3 months of payroll, with no one employee receiving more than \$5,000.

I want to repeat that because it would affect so many people in this country. It would offer loans up to 75 percent of a business's last 3 months of payroll, with no one employee receiving more than \$5,000 per month.

The key to this fund is, it would pass directly through the payroll companies. Payroll companies around this country are used by about 40 percent of American businesses. They mostly cater to the small businesses with fewer than 500 employees. Payroll companies are in the best position to do this because they already have the infrastructure in place. They are a smart choice because they have payroll history. They have the employee data that makes this quick. It makes it efficient. It uses the infrastructure and the pipelines that already exist without having to go back and reinvent or create a new whole set of dynamics that may or may not work. We know the payroll company system in this country works. Again, 40 percent of folks use it.

This process would help to alleviate the strain on our unemployment program. It would be a seamless way to continue to pay workers, while also ensuring that payroll taxes can continue to fund important programs, like Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

I want you to think about this. What we are talking about doing is not just a one-time \$1,000 check or two-time \$1,000 check; it is literally funding payroll the way it exists—maybe only 75 percent of it. But people who are used to getting those payroll checks through a payroll processor have their taxes deducted, they have their Social Security deducted, and they have their Medicaid and Medicare expenses deducted. Those things would still come in. It is just that we have created a fund from the Federal Government to do that. Part of what we are fronting comes right back to the Federal Government.

As part of this, we would also like to offer assistance to folks who are self-employed or run microbusinesses. According to IRS data, in 2017, there were some 26 million sole proprietorships in the United States. That is a lot of folks out there working hard, hustling every day to make their businesses—their little piece of the American dream—successful, but they don't have the cash reserves to fall back on in times like these. We could carve this out and make sure they are taken care of in the short run.

This is not the time, in my view, to shortchange the economy. This is not the time to send out just a check here and a check there—especially for those who are the most vulnerable to the cataclysmic shocks we have seen in recent weeks. We have to be bold. We have to

be big. We need to act fast. We need to cut the bureaucracy. That is why using these payroll companies makes so much sense.

Again, I want to emphasize that this is only one piece of this overall puzzle. It doesn't cover everyone. It will not cover folks in the gig economy. We have to do other things to make sure unemployment insurance and other things are available to them in a similar fashion. But this is a big piece of the puzzle that can get money directly to folks. Their wages can get to folks—their wages can get to them right now so that if we also have to do things like forbearance on mortgages and rents, we don't have to do it across the board because these folks will have the money to pay those mortgages and pay those rents and help those businesses stay afloat as well. The ripple effect of doing something like this, I believe, would be enormous.

With this small business lifeline fund, we can send a message to folks on Main Street, who are the lifeblood of our communities. We can take this idea up and keep them afloat so they can get right back on track as soon as we get things back to normal.

Right now, they need us. They need us in Congress. They need us at the local level, and they need us at the State level.

I urge my colleagues to look at this very seriously—at this package that we are putting together and that we will, hopefully, get done in the next day or, hopefully, in hours—so we can all get back to our States and our families and do those things that are necessary. Keep in mind: I think folks will understand that whatever we do in the next day or so will only be the next step.

I mean, I don't want anybody who is listening to anything any of us has to say to think that this is the end of it and that we are just going to finish our work and go home. We are going to have to monitor this constantly. We don't know what the future holds in some aspects. So we will be back, if necessary, and, if necessary, we will do things differently.

There are two other things I want to mention before I yield the floor, one of which I have talked about with regard to my State for a long time, and that is the need for Medicaid expansion.

Alabama is one of those few States—I think out of 14 or 15 States—that did not expand Medicaid. As part of the package we are talking about now, we increase the Federal Government's portion of that and add additional Medicaid funds. For those States like Alabama, we will get the extra benefits for sure, but we will not get as much as we should because we will not have expanded Medicaid.

Senator WARNER and I have a bill. It is called the SAME Act, or the States Achieve Medicaid Expansion Act. It is not mandatory. It does not make the States that haven't achieved Medicaid expansion do that, but it gives them the same incentives they had a number

of years ago. In a State like Alabama, some 300,000 people could get access to Medicaid who do not have insurance right now and cannot get it but who are wondering in our rural communities and everywhere in the State of Alabama: What in the world am I going to do if I catch this virus? Where am I going to go?

Ultimately, with our hospitals, our doctors, and our safety nets that we are putting in as part of this package, we are going to have to cover it anyway. We all know that, sooner or later, we are going to have to cover it. So I would love to see the SAME Act, or the States Achieve Medicaid Expansion Act, get out there and be a part of this package. Let States have the opportunity. It is a States' rights issue. Not a single State would have to expand Medicaid if we pass this bill, but we would at least let those local leaders decide for themselves whether it would be time to give this opportunity to so many of the people in our States who are caught between Medicaid and jobs in which they are eligible for health insurance benefits. It would be a quick, easy way to make sure we are doing our part, and I urge that this be put in there.

Finally, I have heard from so many people today who are in our underserved communities in Alabama—the African-American community, the poor communities in Alabama. The preachers are calling, and the mayors are calling. I have been on the phone all day because they are concerned. It is not just that they are concerned because they don't believe the State has them in mind, for I have talked to State officials in Alabama, and there are plans.

The fact of the matter is that in this country, across the 50 States, we still don't have enough tests, and we don't have enough personal protection equipment for my hospitals, for my testing labs, and for everybody in Alabama. It is just like in every other State. We are hurting, and we need those supplies. We are giving them money, and the States are doing a good job. Yet I want to make sure that, in Alabama and across this country, we don't leave out the poorest of the poor; that we don't leave out the underserved communities; and that we just don't put testing facilities in the big, urban areas—at the mega churches or the big hospitals, like I have in Birmingham, which are awesome. We have to make sure that we have these clinics set up around the State, such as in the Black Belt of Alabama—the poorest of Alabama's counties—wherein people can't drive an hour and a half or 2 hours to get tests. We have to make sure that we spread this out, because this disease is going to spread out. This disease is not just going to be concentrated in our urban areas. It is going to continue to spread.

In these underserved areas in particular, families live together. Grandmothers take care of their grand-

children. Aunts and uncles take care of their nieces and nephews. They are all there together, and we have to figure out a way to protect them. We have to figure out a way to get those tests to them and to make sure that they are treated just as if they were part of our urban areas that have easier and ready access.

I end with what I talked about the other day and with which I have ended so many of my talks, and that is back to the people of Alabama and the American people.

I can assure you we are doing a lot up here. I see my friend from Alaska, who is presiding today. I know she has been working. I have watched her back here as she has worked the phones and talked to different people. Everywhere I go, I do see that Senators—most of us—are doing things by phone and are doing things remotely. Everybody is working the phones back in their States to make sure we do the right thing.

Yet, at the end of the day, this is about you. This is about the people of America. Everyone in this country—to use a phrase from the old civil rights days in Birmingham, AL—is a foot soldier in this movement. Everyone can do his part. We can appropriate money, and we can designate, and we can give tax breaks. We can do those things that are necessary that we as the Federal Government can do, but we can't stop the spread of this virus. A U.S. Senator cannot stop the spread of this virus. We can only stop it among ourselves. We can't stop it across this country. Only you can do that.

Only the foot soldiers in America—the hundreds of millions of people we have in this country—can stop the spread of the virus by heeding the warnings and by doing the things that are necessary with social distancing and washing their hands. I think my hands are just about raw since I have washed them so much. We are the foot soldiers.

You are the foot soldiers. You can stop the spread. The other day, when I was here on the floor, I pulled out a picture of my old friend from my childhood, Smokey Bear, who said that only you can prevent forest fires. I talked about the fact that the coronavirus, the COVID-19 virus, is a forest fire across the country, and you can help to stop the spread.

I want to be a little bit more patriotic about it today. I invoke one of my heroes who used this desk at one point, John F. Kennedy. It was 59 years ago when John F. Kennedy was sworn in as President of the United States and uttered the famous words that sent such an emotion throughout America and that really got so many in this country to be patriotic and stand up for what we do.

He said: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country."

That is what all Americans have to ask themselves today: What can I do for my country?

It is not like a day when we have a tornado that has ripped through, and you can go out and get a chain saw and help your neighbor. It is not like a day when a hurricane has come through, and you can go get bottles of water and diapers to send to folks. What you can do for your country today is to stop the spread of this virus. What you can do for your country is to try to stay home as much as you can—social distancing. Work those things. That is what you can do for your country.

If you do that, yes, businesses are going to have problems. We know it. That is what we are trying to work on—making sure we provide that safety net and making sure we provide the necessary tools so that, if we can blunt that curve—if we can get past this—then we will come back even stronger.

To get there, we have to have you. We have to have you stand up and speak out to everyone—to do your part, to do those things that are necessary to make sure you do for your country what you should be doing. Help everyone in this country, and help everyone around you. When we do that, we will blunt this curve. We will make this the least severe as possible, and we will move forward and be stronger and better because, at the end of the day, we are the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

(Ms. MURKOWSKI assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 604 and 606 through 628 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Jason E. Bailey
Col. Kenyon K. Bell
Col. William D. Betts
Col. Shawn W. Campbell
Col. Houston R. Cantwell
Col. Eric A. Carney
Col. Sean M. Choquette
Col. Michael E. Conley
Col. Eric P. Delange

Col. Daniel A. Devoe
Col. Gerald A. Donohue
Col. Russell D. Driggers
Col. Michael R. Drowley
Col. John R. Edwards
Col. Todd A. Fogle
Col. Jennifer Hammerstedt
Col. Matthew W. Higer
Col. Jason T. Hinds
Col. Stacy J. Huser
Col. William H. Kale
Col. Joseph D. Kunkel
Col. Leslie A. Maher
Col. Michael H. Manion
Col. Paul D. Moga
Col. Joshua M. Olson
Col. Derek J. O'Malley
Col. Brandon D. Parker
Col. Stephen G. Purdy, Jr.
Col. Mark B. Pye
Col. Neil R. Richardson
Col. Patrick S. Ryder
Col. Christopher S. Sage
Col. Jennifer M. Short
Col. Dale R. White
Col. Parker H. Wright

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Scott F. Benedict
Brig. Gen. Jason Q. Bohm
Brig. Gen. Francis L. Donovan
Brig. Gen. Bradford J. Gering
Brig. Gen. James F. Glynn
Brig. Gen. David W. Maxwell
Brig. Gen. William H. Seely, III
Brig. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr.

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Edward M. Daly

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Randy B. Crites

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Samuel J. Paparo, Jr.

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Steven L. Allen
Col. Robert L. Barrie, Jr.
Col. Guillaume N. Beaupere
Col. Christopher G. Beck
Col. Trevor J. Bredenkamp
Col. Winston P. Brooks
Col. Jacqueline D. Brown
Col. Larry Q. Burris, Jr.
Col. Paul G. Craft
Col. Lance G. Curtis
Col. Glenn A. Dean, III
Col. Matthew L. Eichburg
Col. David C. Foley
Col. Patrick L. Gaydon
Col. Clair A. Gill

Col. Mark A. Holler
Col. Daryl O. Hood
Col. Mark J. Hovatter
Col. James P. Isenhower, III
Col. Ryan M. Janovic
Col. Michael B. Lalor
Col. Steven M. Marks
Col. Gene D. Meredith
Col. Thomas W. O'Connor, Jr.
Col. Isaac J. Peltier
Col. Keith C. Phillips
Col. Ronald R. Ragin
Col. Hope C. Rumpy
Col. William A. Ryan, III
Col. David F. Stewart
Col. David C. Trybula
Col. Colin P. Tuley
Col. John W. Weidner
Col. Timothy P. White
Col. David B. Womack
Col. Richard L. Zellmann

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Marion

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. David A. Krumm

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Timothy G. Fay

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Jon T. Thomas

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Adm. Robert P. Burke

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Anne M. Swap

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Michael W. Studeman

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (lh) Stuart P. Baker
Rear Adm. (lh) Michael D. Bernacchi, Jr.
Rear Adm. (lh) Frank M. Bradley
Rear Adm. (lh) Daniel L. Cheever
Rear Adm. (lh) Yvette M. Davids
Rear Adm. (lh) Daniel W. Dwyer
Rear Adm. (lh) Peter A. Garvin
Rear Adm. (lh) Alvin Holsey

Rear Adm. (lh) William J. Houston
 Rear Adm. (lh) Frederick W. Kacher
 Rear Adm. (lh) Douglas G. Perry
 Rear Adm. (lh) Fred I. Pyle
 Rear Adm. (lh) Charles W. Rock

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Dion D. English
 Capt. Matthew N. Ott, III

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Thomas M. Henderschedt

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Kevin P. Byrne
 Capt. Jason M. Lloyd
 Capt. Howard B. Markle
 Capt. Elizabeth S. Okana
 Capt. Kurt J. Rothenhaus

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army in the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. Christopher Z. Barra
 Col. John C. Hafley
 Col. Jeffrey B. McCarter
 Col. Jonathan C. Moyer
 Col. Peder Swanson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Flem B. Walker, Jr.

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Stephen T. Koehler

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. William J. Galinis

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Vice Adm. Ross A. Myers

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Jeffrey E. Trussler

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Roy I. Kitchener

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1513 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning WESLEY M. BAKER, and ending JOSEPH M. TEMPLE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1546 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning NIREN ANGLE, and ending MARISSA V. YLAGAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1547 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning SANDRA L. CASTLE OH, and ending JOEL ADLAI REYES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1548 AIR FORCE nominations (14) beginning TRACEY G. ATHERTON, and ending SCOTT A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1549 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning RAFAEL V. ANDINO, and ending RICHARD E. YENKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1550 AIR FORCE nomination of Alexander L. Millman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1551 AIR FORCE nominations (124) beginning KIMBERLY A. ADAMS, and ending JAMEY L. WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1552 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning CHRISTOPHER T. PROTT, and ending YVONNDE M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1553 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning MARK ALAN BOWDITCH, and ending DANIEL R. SWEENEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1554 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning CURTIS J. HAYES, and ending MARK R. SHEILS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1555 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning DAVID P. BENNETT, and ending TIWANA LATISE WRIGHT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1556 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning MARK S. BREIDENBAUGH, and ending BARBARA ANN WUJCIAK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1634 AIR FORCE nomination of John P. Kennedy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1665 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning JULIAN C. GAITHER, and ending TRAVIS C. YELTON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

PN1666 AIR FORCE nominations (427) beginning DAVID M. ABEL, and ending STEVEN M. ZOLLARS, which nomination were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

PN1667 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning FARA M. BUSS, and ending JOHN M. WILLIAMSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

PN1668 AIR FORCE nominations (19) beginning GRAHAM W. BAILY, and ending CARLOS A. RAMOSGRAULAU, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

PN1514 ARMY nomination David D. Hawkins, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1515 ARMY nomination of Robert M. Wagner, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1516 ARMY nomination of Peter J. Young, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1517 ARMY nomination of Andrew S. Evans, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1518 ARMY nomination of John M. Craighead, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1519 ARMY nomination of Jose Garcia, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1520 ARMY nomination of Osaze E. Okoro, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1521 ARMY nomination of Seth P. Olcese, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1523 ARMY nominations (6) beginning RYAN T. ARMSTRONG, and ending SCOTT C. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1524 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL L. MARSH, and ending BRIAN W. STEVENS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

PN1558 ARMY nomination of Alexander D. Dowds, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1559 ARMY nomination of Phillip W. Mazingo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1562 ARMY nomination of Paul Holoye, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1563 ARMY nomination of Aaron S. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1564 ARMY nomination of Carlson D. Chow, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1565 ARMY nomination of Demetrius D. Howard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1566 ARMY nomination of Lesly C. Calix, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1567 ARMY nominations (4) beginning DOUGLAS T. FRANK, and ending GRANT C. MARKS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1635 ARMY nomination of John G. St. Romain, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1636 ARMY nominations (14) beginning MARGARET E. BIELENBERG, and ending

LEONARD A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1637 ARMY nomination of Kimberly A. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1638 ARMY nominations (4) beginning BENJAMIN T. CLEGHORN, and ending MATTHEW M. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1639 ARMY nomination of Kevin D. Bradley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1641 ARMY nomination of Jeffrey T. Lopez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1642 ARMY nominations (2) beginning ADAM N. ARAUJO, and ending KYLE P. BAIR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1643 ARMY nomination of James A. Attaway, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1644 ARMY nominations (3) beginning ALLAN J. CATINDIG, and ending BENJAMIN J. VANMETER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1645 ARMY nomination of Matthew D. Clark, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1646 ARMY nomination of Stefanie B. Schwarz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1647 ARMY nomination of David S. Horlacher, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1648 ARMY nominations (3) beginning PAUL R. HELTEN, and ending REECE D. ROBERTS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1649 ARMY nomination of Edward J. Benz, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1650 ARMY nomination of Peter D. Hudspeth, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1651 ARMY nomination of John R. Hollar, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1669 ARMY nomination of James C. Cheney, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

PN1670 ARMY nomination of Amy L. Breguet, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

PN1671 ARMY nomination of Adam R. Eidson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1364 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning ROBERT T. DAVIS, and ending CLARENCE A. WOLF, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1365 MARINE CORPS nominations (6) beginning MATTHEW S. PULTORAK, and ending JOHN D. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1375 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning JIMMY W. DARSEY, and ending GERALD E. PIRK, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1377 MARINE CORPS nominations (4) beginning TYSON E. PETERS, and ending BRIAN G. WISNESKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 6, 2020.

PN1486 MARINE CORPS nominations (36) beginning BRIAN J. AMEND, and ending GREGORY J. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2020.

PN1527 MARINE CORPS nominations (786) beginning BENJAMIN M. ABLES, and ending GREGORY R. ZINGLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 12, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

PN1223 NAVY nomination of Nicholas W. DiGeorge, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 15, 2019.

PN1568 NAVY nomination of Freeman W. Davenport, IV, which was received and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1569 NAVY nominations (70) beginning JOHN P. BARRIENTOS, and ending MICHAEL A. WREN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2020.

PN1652 NAVY nomination of Erick G. Garcia, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1653 NAVY nomination of Gary C. Grothe, Jr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1655 NAVY nomination Jonathan E. Dowling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1656 NAVY nomination of Elaine M. Jensen, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 2, 2020.

PN1673 NAVY nomination of Gerald P. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 3, 2020.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1611 and that the Senate proceed to consideration of that nomination.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business and Senators be permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:19 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. BROWN) has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 3503. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes.

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

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 20, 2020, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 3503. An act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to treat certain programs of education converted to distance learning by reason of emergencies and health-related situations in the same manner as programs of education pursued at educational institutions, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. INHOFE for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

*William Jordan Gillis, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Bradley J. Andros and ending with Capt. Thomas R. Williams II, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 2, 2020. (minus 2 nominees: Capt. Mark A. Melson; Capt. Michael S. Sciretta)

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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 Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3549. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide advance tax refunds to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3550. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to permit to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to engage in certain open market operations during unusual and exigent circumstances; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3551. A bill to help small businesses access capital and create jobs by reauthorizing the successful State Small Business Credit Initiative; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3552. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide payments to cattle producers to offset losses due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PERDUE:

S. 3553. A bill to modify the schedule for estimated tax payments for 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3554. A bill to provide assistance to small businesses impacted by COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3555. A bill to expand the trade adjustment assistance for workers program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROMNEY:

S. 3556. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferral of loan repayment for graduates during the period of the coronavirus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 549. A resolution designating April 2020 as "Second Chance Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3486

At the request of Ms. WARREN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to improve State, local, and tribal public health security.

S. 3502

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Georgia

(Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3502, a bill to delay the implementation date of the current expected credit losses methodology for estimating allowances for credit losses, and for other purposes.

S. 3504

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3504, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend, until not earlier than September 30, 2021, the requirement that State-issued identification must be compliant with the REAL ID Act of 2005 to be accepted by Federal agencies for certain purposes.

S. 3533

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3533, a bill to authorize and establish minimum standards for electronic and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court located in a State to recognize notarizations performed by a notary public commissioned by another State when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notary public commissioned by another State when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce or when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public act, record, or judicial proceeding of the State in which the notary public was commissioned.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 549—DESIGNATING APRIL 2020 AS "SECOND CHANCE MONTH"

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 549

Whereas every individual is endowed with human dignity and value;

Whereas redemption and second chances are values of the United States;

Whereas millions of citizens of the United States have a criminal record;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals return to their communities from Federal and State prisons every year;

Whereas individuals returning from Federal and State prisons have paid their debt for committing crimes but still face significant legal and societal barriers (referred to in this preamble as "collateral consequences");

Whereas collateral consequences for an individual returning from a Federal or State prison are mandatory and take effect automatically, regardless of—

- (1) whether there is a nexus between the crime and public safety;
- (2) the seriousness of the crime;
- (3) the time that has passed since the individual committed the crime; or
- (4) the efforts of the individual to make amends or earn back the trust of the public;

Whereas, for individuals returning to their communities from Federal and State prisons, gaining meaningful employment is one of the most significant predictors of successful reentry and has been shown to reduce future criminal activity;

Whereas many individuals who have previously been incarcerated struggle to find employment because of collateral consequences, which are often not directly related to the offenses the individuals committed or any proven public safety benefit;

Whereas many States have laws that prohibit an individual with a criminal record from working in certain industries or obtaining professional licenses;

Whereas, in addition to employment, education has also been shown to be a significant predictor of successful reentry for individuals returning from Federal and State prisons;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record often has a lower level of educational attainment than the general population and has significant difficulty acquiring admission to, and funding for, educational programs;

Whereas an individual who has been convicted of certain crimes is often barred from receiving the financial aid necessary to acquire additional skills and knowledge;

Whereas an individual with a criminal record—

- (1) faces collateral consequences in securing a place to live; and
- (2) is often barred from seeking access to public housing;

Whereas collateral consequences prevent millions of individuals in the United States from contributing fully to their families and communities;

Whereas collateral consequences can contribute to recidivism, which increases crime and victimization and decreases public safety;

Whereas the inability to find gainful employment and other collateral consequences of conviction inhibit the economic mobility of an individual with a criminal record, which can negatively impact the well-being of the children and families of the individual for generations;

Whereas the bipartisan First Step Act of 2018 (Public law 115-391) was signed into law on December 21, 2018, to increase opportunities for individuals incarcerated in Federal prisons to participate in meaningful recidivism reduction programs and prepare for their second chances;

Whereas the programs authorized by the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199)—

- (1) have provided reentry services to more than 164,000 individuals in 49 States and the District of Columbia since the date of enactment of the Act; and
- (2) were reauthorized by the First Step Act of 2018 (Public law 115-391);

Whereas the anniversary of the death of Charles Colson, who used his second chance following his incarceration for a Watergate-related crime to found Prison Fellowship, the largest program in the United States that provides outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, falls on April 21; and

Whereas the designation of April as "Second Chance Month" may contribute to—

- (1) increased public awareness about—
 - (A) the impact of collateral consequences; and
 - (B) the need for closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt; and
- (2) opportunities for individuals, employers, congregations, and communities to extend second chances to those individuals; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2020 as “Second Chance Month”;

(2) honors the work of communities, governmental institutions, nonprofit organizations, congregations, employers, and individuals to remove unnecessary legal and societal barriers that prevent individuals with criminal records from becoming productive members of society; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe Second Chance Month through actions and programs that—

(A) promote awareness of those unnecessary legal and social barriers; and

(B) provide closure for individuals with a criminal record who have paid their debt.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1561. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3548, to provide emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1561. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3548, to provide emergency assistance and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic; which was referred to the Committee on Finance; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . COVERAGE FOR ALLERGY DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE AND MEDICAID.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Allergies, when not properly diagnosed, cannot be effectively treated.

(2) Allergies to food, inhaled particles, or other sources can cause debilitating and, in some cases, fatal reactions.

(3) Allergies can substantially compound other illnesses, including asthma, emphysema, and adult obstructive pulmonary diseases, leading to social and economic costs for families and our Nation’s health care system.

(4) According to clinical guidelines from the National Institutes of Health and recommendations from peer-reviewed literature, in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests are considered equivalent as confirmatory tests in terms of their sensitivity and accuracy.

(5) Despite these recommendations, some current Medicare local coverage determinations and Medicaid coverage policies deny equal access to in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests.

(6) In vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests must be equally accessible for clinicians and patients to improve health outcomes, reduce system costs, and reduce current health care disparities caused by the lack of equal coverage.

(b) MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR ALLERGY DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 1902(a)—

(i) in paragraph (85), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (86), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (86) the following new paragraph:

“(87) provide, with respect to the provision of allergy diagnostic testing services (as defined in section 1905(gg)) under the State plan, for equality in the treatment of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests with respect to—

“(A) any medical necessity or other coverage requirements established for such in vitro specific IgE and percutaneous tests;

“(B) any frequency limits established for such tests; and

“(C) any allergen unit limits established for such tests.”; and

(B) in section 1905—

(i) in subsection (r)—

(I) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(II) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) Allergy diagnostic testing services (as defined in subsection (gg)).”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(gg) ALLERGY DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES DEFINED.—The term ‘allergy diagnostic testing services’ means in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests that—

“(1) have been cleared under section 501(k), classified under section 513(f)(2), or approved under section 515 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and

“(2) are provided to individuals for the purpose of evaluating immunologic response to certain antigens.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to items and services provided on or after January 1, 2021.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR STATE LEGISLATION.—In the case of a State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation in order for the respective plan to meet any requirement imposed by amendments made by this subsection, the respective plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such title solely on the basis of its failure to meet such an additional requirement before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of the enactment of this subsection. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of the session shall be considered to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

(c) MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR ALLERGY DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES.—

(1) COVERAGE.—Section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

(A) in subsection (s)(2)—

(i) in subparagraph (GG), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (HH), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(II) allergy diagnostic testing services (as defined in subsection (kkk)).”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(kkk) ALLERGY DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘allergy diagnostic testing services’ means in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests—

“(A) that have been cleared under section 501(k), classified under section 513(f)(2), or approved under section 515 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and

“(B) which are furnished to individuals for the purpose of evaluating immunologic re-

sponse to certain antigens, as determined appropriate by the practitioner ordering such test.

“(2) EQUAL ACCESS TO TESTING METHODS.—The Secretary shall ensure equality in the treatment of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests described in paragraph (1) with respect to—

“(A) any medical necessity or other coverage requirements established for such in vitro specific IgE and percutaneous tests;

“(B) any frequency limits established for such tests; and

“(C) any allergen unit limits established for a year for such tests.”.

(2) PAYMENT.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(x) ALLERGY DIAGNOSTIC TESTING SERVICES.—For purposes of payment only, in the case of allergy diagnostic testing services (as defined in section 1861(kkk))—

“(1) in vitro specific IgE tests shall be treated as clinical diagnostic laboratory tests; and

“(2) percutaneous tests shall be treated as physicians’ services.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to items and services furnished on or after January 1, 2021.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, March 20, 2020, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on military nominations.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 157, H.R. 748.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 748) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby

move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 157, H.R. 748, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Mitt Romney, James E. Risch, Lamar Alexander, Steve Daines, Kevin Cramer, Rick Scott, Martha McSally, Deb Fischer, Marco Rubio, John Boozman, James Lankford, Rob Portman, Tom Cotton.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion be waived.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I just filed cloture on the motion to proceed to a shell that will serve as the vehicle for the CARES Act. Member-level discussion is going on as we speak. The goal is to reach agreements on each of the four components of the legislation by the end of the day. Senators are here; we are working; and we are going to deliver.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Saturday, March 21; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 748.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:30 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, March 21, 2020, at 12 noon.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

ALMA L. GOLDEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 20, 2020:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JASON E. BAILEY

COL. KENYON K. BELL
 COL. WILLIAM D. BETTS
 COL. SHAWN W. CAMPBELL
 COL. HOUSTON R. CANTWELL
 COL. ERIC A. CARNEY
 COL. SEAN M. CHOQUETTE
 COL. MICHAEL E. CONLEY
 COL. ERIC P. DELANGE
 COL. DANIEL A. DEVOE
 COL. GERALD A. DONOHUE
 COL. RUSSELL D. DRIGGERS
 COL. MICHAEL R. DROWLEY
 COL. JOHN R. EDWARDS
 COL. TODD A. FOGLE
 COL. JENNIFER HAMMERSTEDT
 COL. MATTHEW W. HIGER
 COL. JASON T. HINDS
 COL. STACY J. HUSER
 COL. WILLIAM H. KALE
 COL. JOSEPH D. KUNKEL
 COL. LESLIE A. MAHER
 COL. MICHAEL H. MANION
 COL. PAUL D. MOGA
 COL. JOSHUA M. OLSON
 COL. DEREK J. O'MALLEY
 COL. BRANDON D. PARKER
 COL. STEPHEN G. PURDY, JR.
 COL. MARK B. PYE
 COL. NEIL R. RICHARDSON
 COL. PATRICK S. RYDER
 COL. CHRISTOPHER S. SAGE
 COL. JENNIFER M. SHORT
 COL. DALE R. WHITE
 COL. PARKER H. WRIGHT

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SCOTT F. BENEDICT
 BRIG. GEN. JASON Q. BOHM
 BRIG. GEN. FRANCIS L. DONOVAN
 BRIG. GEN. BRADFORD J. GERING
 BRIG. GEN. JAMES F. GLYNN
 BRIG. GEN. DAVID W. MAXWELL
 BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM H. SEELY III
 BRIG. GEN. ROGER B. TURNER, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. EDWARD M. DALY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. RANDY B. CRITES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. SAMUEL J. PAPARO, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEVEN L. ALLEN
 COL. ROBERT L. BARRIE, JR.
 COL. GUILLAUME N. BEAURPERE
 COL. CHRISTOPHER G. BECK
 COL. TREVOR J. BREDEKAMP
 COL. WINSTON P. BROOKS
 COL. JACQUELINE D. BROWN
 COL. LARRY Q. BURRIS, JR.
 COL. PAUL G. CRAFT
 COL. LANCE G. CURTIS
 COL. GLENN A. DEAN III
 COL. MATTHEW L. EICHBURG
 COL. DAVID C. FOLEY
 COL. PATRICK L. GAYDON
 COL. CLAIR A. GILL
 COL. MARK A. HOLLER
 COL. DARYL O. HOOD
 COL. MARK J. HOVATTER
 COL. JAMES P. ISENHOWER III
 COL. RYAN M. JANOVIC
 COL. MICHAEL B. LALOR
 COL. STEVEN M. MARKS
 COL. GENE D. MEREDITH
 COL. THOMAS W. O'CONNOR, JR.
 COL. ISAAC J. PELTIER
 COL. KEITH C. PHILLIPS
 COL. RONALD R. RAGIN
 COL. HOPE C. RAMPY
 COL. WILLIAM A. RYAN III
 COL. DAVID F. STEWART
 COL. DAVID C. TRYBULA
 COL. COLIN P. TULLEY

COL. JOHN W. WEIDNER
 COL. TIMOTHY P. WHITE
 COL. DAVID B. WOMACK
 COL. RICHARD L. ZELLMANN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT L. MARION

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID A. KRUMM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. TIMOTHY G. FAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JON T. THOMAS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be admiral

ADM. ROBERT P. BURKE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) ANNE M. SWAP

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL W. STUDEMANN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STUART P. BAKER
 REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL D. BERNACCHI, JR.
 REAR ADM. (LH) FRANK M. BRADLEY
 REAR ADM. (LH) DANIEL L. CHEEVER
 REAR ADM. (LH) YVETTE M. DAVIDS
 REAR ADM. (LH) DANIEL W. DWYER
 REAR ADM. (LH) PETER A. GARVIN
 REAR ADM. (LH) ALVIN HOLSLEY
 REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM J. HOUSTON
 REAR ADM. (LH) FREDERICK W. KACHER
 REAR ADM. (LH) DOUGLAS G. PERRY
 REAR ADM. (LH) FRED I. PYLE
 REAR ADM. (LH) CHARLES W. ROCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. DION D. ENGLISH
 CAPT. MATTHEW N. OTT III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. THOMAS M. HENDERSCHIEDT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KEVIN P. BYRNE
 CAPT. JASON M. LLOYD
 CAPT. HOWARD B. MARKLE
 CAPT. ELIZABETH S. OKANA
 CAPT. KURT J. ROTHENHAUS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER Z. BARRA
 COL. JOHN C. HAFLEY
 COL. JEFFREY B. MCCARTER

COL. JONATHAN C. MOYER
COL. PEDER SWANSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. FLEM B. WALKER, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. STEPHEN T. KOEHLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WILLIAM J. GALINIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. ROSS A. MYERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. JEFFREY E. TRUSSLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. ROY I. KITCHENER

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH WESLEY M. BAKER AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH M. TEMPLE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NIREN ANGLE AND ENDING WITH MARISSA V. YLAGAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SANDRA L. CASTLE OH AND ENDING WITH JOEL ADLAI REYES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TRACEY G. ATHERTON AND ENDING WITH SCOTT A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RAFAEL V. ANDINO AND ENDING WITH RICHARD E. YENKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALEXANDER L. MILLMAN, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KIMBERLY A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH JAMBY L. WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER T. PROTT AND ENDING WITH YVONNDE M. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK ALAN BOWDITCH AND ENDING WITH DANIEL R. SWENEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CURTIS J. HAYES AND ENDING WITH MARK R. SHELLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID P. BENNETT AND ENDING WITH TIWANA LATISE WRIGHT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK S. BREIDENBAUGH AND ENDING WITH BARBARA ANN WUJCIAK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN P. KENNEDY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JULIAN C. GAITHER AND ENDING WITH TRAVIS C. YELTON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 3, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID M. ABEL AND ENDING WITH STEVEN M. ZOLLARS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 3, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FARA M. BUSS AND ENDING WITH JOHN M. WILLIAMSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 3, 2020.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GRAHAM W. BAILY AND ENDING WITH CARLOS A. RAMOSGRAULAU, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 3, 2020.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID D. HAWKINS, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ROBERT M. WAGNER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PETER J. YOUNG, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW S. EVANS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN M. CRAIGHEAD, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSE GARCIA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF OSAZE E. OKORO, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SETH P. OLCESE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN T. ARMSTRONG AND ENDING WITH SCOTT C. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL L. MARSH AND ENDING WITH BRIAN W. STEVENS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ALEXANDER D. DOWDS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PHILLIP W. MAZINGO, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL HOLOYE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AARON S. BROWN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CARLSON D. CHOW, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DEMETRIUS D. HOWARD

ARMY NOMINATION OF LESLY C. CALIX, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DOUGLAS T. FRANK AND ENDING WITH GRANT C. MARKS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN G. ST. ROMAIN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARGARET E. BIELENBERG AND ENDING WITH LEONARD A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 2, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KIMBERLY A. BROWN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN T. CLEGHORN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW M. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 2, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KEVIN D. BRADLEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEFFREY T. LOPEZ, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM N. ARAUJO AND ENDING WITH KYLE P. BAIR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 2, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES A. ATTAWAY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALLAN J. CATINDIG AND ENDING WITH BENJAMIN J. VANMETER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 2, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW D. CLARK, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEFANIE B. SCHWARZ, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DAVID S. HORLACHER, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PAUL R. HELTEN AND ENDING WITH REECE D. ROBERTS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 2, 2020.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EDWARD J. BENZ III, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PETER D. HUDSPETH, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN R. HOLLAR, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES C. CHENEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF AMY L. BREGUET, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM R. EIDSON, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT T. DAVIS AND ENDING WITH CLARENCE A. WOLF, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW S. PULTORAK AND ENDING WITH JOHN D. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JIMMY W. DARSEY AND ENDING WITH GERALD E. PIRK, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TYSON E. PETERS AND ENDING WITH BRIAN G. WISNESKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 6, 2020.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN J. AMEND AND ENDING WITH GREGORY J. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN M. ABLES AND ENDING WITH GREGORY R. ZINGLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS W. DIGEORGE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF FREEMAN W. DAVENPORT IV, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN P. BARRIENTOS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL A. WREN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2020.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ERICK G. GARCIA, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GARY C. GROTHE, JR., TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JONATHAN E. DOWLING, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ELAINE M. JENSEN, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF GERALD P. SMITH, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ALMA L. GOLDEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1861–S1878

Measures Introduced: Eight bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3549–3556, and S. Res. 549. **Page S1875**

Measures Considered:

Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage. **Pages S1876–77**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Sunday, March 22, 2020. **Pages S1876–77**

Prior to the consideration of this motion to proceed, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1874**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 12:00 noon, on Saturday, March 21, 2020. **Page S1877**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

38 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
45 Army nominations in the rank of general.

8 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

31 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.
Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S1872–73, S1877–78**

Messages from the House: **Page S1874**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S1874**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1874**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S1875**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1876**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S1876**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 4:30 p.m., until 12 noon on Saturday, March 21, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1877.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Matthew P. Donovan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, William Jordan Gillis, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary, and 15 military nominations in the Navy, all of the Department of Defense.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2020.

D304

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D291)

H.R. 5214, to amend title 5, United States Code, to prevent fraud by representative payees. Signed on March 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–126)

H.R. 6201, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30,

2020. Signed on March 18, 2020. (Public Law 116–127)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Saturday, March 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Saturday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 748, Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act (The legislative vehicle for COVID III).

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11:30 a.m., Monday, March 23

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11:30 a.m.



Congressional Record

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