

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS
TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has the responsibility to help individuals and businesses through this crisis because it is the government that shut down the economy—not American workers. Americans and their employers are not responsible for the economic damage being wrought by coronavirus, and I am pleased that the CARES Act will provide an unprecedented amount of immediate relief. However, I have deep concerns about this legislation, and I will be voting in opposition.

First, there has been absolutely no discussion on how we will ultimately pay for the trillions of dollars of new federal spending in this bill. As we incur this massive debt, we should be at least considering how we will one day pay it. The House has failed in its duty to take up consideration of this legislation by regular order. There has been no due diligence to review the language in detail within our committees, no opportunity to hear from expert witnesses regarding its effectiveness, and no option for our Members to address concerns or provide thoughtful solutions through the amendment process. Moreover, language within the bill willfully shirks our oversight authority and responsibility by waiving the open meetings requirement.

Furthermore, I fear this legislation is still just the tip of the iceberg. In a short period of time, we have moved from a few billion in phase one to over a hundred billion in phase two, and we now are considering \$2.2 trillion in phase three. There is already talk of a fourth and fifth package to allow Democrats to advance many of their liberal partisan policies that did not make it into this bill during a time when no funding that is not directly related to crisis assistance should be considered. We must also weigh what precedents we are establishing. The CARES Act brings with it a massive expansion of the size and role of the Federal Government outside the scope of what our Founders intended. What we are doing here today is unsustainable and cannot be repeated for subsequent future emergencies that will undoubtedly and unfortunately occur. Maximum freedom exists within a context of limited government, and we have seen on countless occasions that once the Federal Government institutes new programs or spending that it is almost impossible to reverse the trajectory of its new footprint on our lives.

Secondly, while I am supportive of providing Americans a bridge of assistance through the coronavirus, I am concerned that this legislation will cause some to obtain significantly more in unemployment benefits than they would normally earn through their jobs, inad-

vertently incentivizing unemployment. We must strike a balance between smart health policy and smart economic policy, and that means Americans should be allowed to go back to work as soon as it's safe to do so. Unfortunately, the language in the bill creates a disincentive for many to return to the workforce over the next four months.

Third, it is unacceptable that Democrats have stuffed this bill with funding for agencies and causes completely unrelated to the coronavirus outbreak. Just to name a few, the bill contains within it \$1 billion for Amtrak, \$37 million to the Forest Service, \$25 million for the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, \$75 million to the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities and a combined \$10.8 billion for several international development organizations. Many of these are fine institutions that do good work for our Nation, but they have no place in an emergency package aimed at rescuing American families and stimulating our economy during a time of crisis.

President Donald Trump has done an incredible job leading America through this crisis. We are blessed to have his leadership, and while I am unable to support this particular legislation, I look forward to continuing to support him and working with his Administration in combatting the coronavirus.

May God pour out his mercy and grace on our Nation during this time and heal our Land. God bless the great State of Georgia, and God bless America.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS
TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, in my congressional career I've served during many challenging times. Each one required Members of Congress to understand the national crisis, appreciate the separation of powers, and know his or her district.

Some events were long and protracted like impeachment, but others, like 9/11 for example, hit like a lightning strike, unpredictable, powerful and life altering. The coronavirus outbreak is one of these events that struck out of the blue.

Yes, it started in China. Yes, the world was slow to understand its true danger. But even as the world scurries around in an attempt to mitigate its damage and slow its spread, the United States is rising to the challenge with unheard of speed—amazingly so during this time of divided chambers and divided government.

On March 4, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriation Act was signed into law. This quick response provided \$4 billion to increase the availability of tests. \$2.2 billion went to the Centers for Dis-

ease Control and \$1 billion to state and local response efforts. It also jump-started public and private efforts toward developing a vaccine (which is already being tested).

On March 18, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was signed into law. The bill's \$2.5 billion ensured that the government would cover the cost of testing. Anyone becoming sick themselves, or needing to care for an infected loved one, would be entitled to paid leave. Food assistance was expanded for the needy. Some federal Unemployment Insurance requirements were also relaxed, making it easier to apply and quicker to receive benefits.

On March 27, the Coronavirus Aid and Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act will be signed into law. This bill directed cash assistance to most Americans. In my district, two-thirds of my constituents are eligible for the full amount and 97 percent of all households in my district should be eligible for some amount. For those who may not need this cash assistance for themselves, the bill also authorized a \$300 charitable tax deduction whether a taxpayer itemizes or not.

To help ensure workers have jobs to return to, the CARES Act provided \$500 billion to the Treasury Stabilization Fund to make loans, loan guarantees and other investments. To benefit, borrowers must maintain employment levels as March 24, 2020 and retain 90 percent of employees. The bill also directed \$349 billion to the Small Business Administration's 7(a) Loan Program. These loans will be administered through local financial institutions and are available to eligible to small businesses, independent contractors, self employed individuals, nonprofits and veteran organizations.

Other notable provisions of the CARES Act included \$100 billion for unreimbursed COVID-19 costs, \$1.32 billion for community health centers, \$15.5 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (known more commonly as food stamps), \$25 million for long distance learning and telemedicine through USDA Rural Development, and liability protection for medical device manufacturers. The provisions in the CARES Act are much more extensive than my short summary, and I would direct those interested in learning more about the bill to the Ways and Means Committee website.

It is always fashionable to look for someone to blame in these situations. Even within our legislative branch, Members have communicated for or against certain aspects of the response, whether for sincere policy objections or in hopes of gaining some local political benefit. Make no mistake, this always happens because it's part of our human nature. The Framers understood this well, and that's why our bicameral legislative branch creates its own checks on each Chamber. The Senate remains the cooling saucer of debate, just as Washington and Jefferson discussed more than two centuries ago.

In times like these, I'm thankful we have a constitutional republic under a federal system

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of governance, with the limited duties and powers of the federal government spelled out clearly in our Constitution. Over the years the federal government has crept into the responsibilities of the states, but the 10th Amendment stipulates that if those duties are not listed they are the responsibility of the states. We are partners and all have to play our respective part. I think the Congress, in passing three response bills in twenty-three days, has done its part.

I am also a capitalist and believe that free markets provide the highest quality goods and services at the lowest cost. I also believe in risk and reward—the power of individuals or groups raising capital and assuming risk with the hope of earning a return on that investment. Notice I say “hope” because in a free market a return is not guaranteed. During the financial collapse of 2008 I voted against the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). I did so because the market collapse was due to bad management and those responsible should have borne the cost. I also believed allowing this to occur would speed up the recovery.

This market involvement is fundamentally different. For me and many conservatives this is a takings debate. The government—whether federal, state or local—is forcing businesses to freeze economic activity. In essence, the government is depriving businesses of income they would otherwise be free to earn. What we have done in the third coronavirus bill is attempt to keep the employee and employer afloat until economic activity can resume, and to compensate those who have been ordered to forgo the fruits of their investment and labor.

As a retiring Member I have the ability to step back and observe the big picture while still having access to some inner rooms, or in this case some inner (and many) conference calls. The crying and gnashing of teeth has occurred on both sides. Whether it was Republicans attacking Speaker PELOSI for delaying the process with her attempt to jam in Green New Deal inspired provisions, or Democrats attacking Congressman MASSIE who thought it was not too much to ask for a recorded vote on an unpaid-for \$2 trillion spending bill that would immediately increase the national debt to \$25 trillion.

Members were thrown into a real quandary by the looming request for a recorded vote on this bill. Some were hunkered down in D.C. Most, like myself, were hunkered down in our home districts. Many Members would make a long drive to D.C. while others would risk air travel. To some it was an impossible commute with the limited time. I have the concern of an elderly parent living with me. Emotions were running high for everyone.

I think that what we observed is Congress working at its best. A recorded vote was requested by Congressman MASSIE, which was his right. Democrat Whip CLYBURN and Republican Whip SCALISE did their jobs and counted to ensure that a quorum of 216 Members were present. If my inside information is correct, 130 Democrats along with 120 Republicans were present. But while the Rules of the House dictate that any Member may ask for a recorded vote, his or her request must be supported at least one-fifth of a quorum. No one joined Congressman MASSIE in support of his request.

Mr. Speaker, the bill will pass by voice vote and signed into law that same day. Members

were also given the opportunity to include in the RECORD how they would have voted, should a recorded vote have been ordered. I would have voted yes.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BEN MCADAMS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, as I continue to receive treatment in a Utah hospital for COVID-19, I am not able to vote on H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Had I been present and able to vote, I would have voted ‘aye’. This bill is certainly not perfect and raises significant concerns about fiscal responsibility and appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

Nonetheless, we have a responsibility to protect the health and economic well-being of our state and our country. This bill provides critical support for working families, our front-line health care providers, community workers, state and local governments, and Utah small businesses and their employees. Coronavirus remains a danger to our lives and our livelihoods. I am proud to have championed a key oversight provision—a Treasury Department Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery—to track and account for disbursement and spending of taxpayer dollars. I will work to ensure we fix problems as they arise and focus on doing what is best for Utahns.

I believe we will get through this by giving communities, health care providers and local governments the tools they need to respond quickly and efficiently to what’s happening on the ground with maximum flexibility and accountability. I believe in Utahns and I believe in Americans; everyday heroes will help us overcome and as a Representative, I must do my part to get urgently needed resources to Utahns.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, America is facing a very serious public health crisis that also has the potential to affect the long-term health of our economy.

The people on the front lines fighting the spread of COVID-19—our doctors, nurses, first responders, and other health professionals—need help. Congress should be stepping up to ensure America’s health care system has access to needed personal protective equipment—like masks and face shields—and testing supplies to identify those infected and to help stop the spread of the virus. Businesses and employees affected by this virus also need help. Congress should be providing short-term financial assistance such as loans and in the form of a tax holiday. I recognize these needs and fully support action to pro-

vide resources to stem the damage being caused in the present crisis.

There is no question that this crisis is a direct result of the Chinese government’s cover up of the dangers posed by COVID-19. The Chinese government failed to heed the early warnings of medical professionals, going so far as to persecute individuals like Dr. Li Wenliang, who was among the first to raise concerns, forcing him to sign a confession that his concerns were false. China ordered destruction of early research samples of the virus. The Chinese government also denied World Health Organization (WHO) investigators access inside the country’s borders and they withheld critical information. The Chinese Communist Party falsely denied the evidence of human-to-human transmission. Contrary to WHO guidelines, Chinese officials manipulated statistics by failing to report infected individuals who tested positive for the virus if they exhibited mild to no symptoms. China’s authoritarian government also allowed up to 5,000,000 people, including potentially tens of thousands of infected individuals, to leave Wuhan and travel across the globe, spreading the virus. The reality is that China was more interested in saving face than stopping the problem before it became a global pandemic. China was more interested in waging an international public relations campaign than getting the necessary help from the world community.

The United States and countries across the globe are now dealing with the fallout of China’s deceit and misdeeds. We are wrestling with how to address a public health crisis, contain this deadly virus, and respond to unprecedented economic fallout. To address the current situation, Congress must act responsibly and thoughtfully but also with urgency. We must work together to support doctors, nurses and other health professionals. We need to also help suffering families, assist businesses and non-profits that have been ordered to close, and to set the stage for yet another American comeback.

Nearly every American has been affected by this virus. All levels of government have asked our citizens to stay home. Government has asked businesses to shutter their doors, and for America’s health care professionals to courageously work longer hours, sometimes without the necessary supplies to protect themselves. Americans are tired, fearful, and distancing themselves from friends and neighbors when what they truly desire is community. The American people have been told this was necessary and that if they made these sacrifices we could “bend the curve” and stop the spread of the virus.

While President Trump and Republicans have been trying to lead, and the American people have been doing their part, Democrats have engaged in political games. The House Democratic Whip told his colleagues that this crisis was a “tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.” In the Senate, all but one Democrat voted to hold up debate on this bill for several days, simply to extract as many political concessions as possible. In response to the tremendous and patriotic sacrifices by the American people, Democrats have played politics. They saw a crisis that they did not want to let go to waste and chose to exploit the American peoples’ fear and misery for political gain. That is unconscionable.

Today, we finally reached the point where we could debate the merits of this bill in the

House and fulfill our Constitutional responsibility. Every Member's duty was to read the bill, evaluate its merits, and then vote his or her conscience. I concluded that, if I were given the chance, I would vote against this bill. History and experience tell us that the provisions in this bill will do long-lasting damage to the economic well-being of millions of American families and small businesses, delaying a future economic recovery and harming the people most in need of help.

This bill repeats the mistakes of the past. It contains the same kind of flawed provisions that the Democrat-controlled Congress enacted in 2008 to deal with the mortgage crisis. America cannot afford another slow growth decade like we had under President Obama. Yet that is exactly the kind of future this bill is poised to give us. I want to put a stop to the damage that COVID-19 is doing, including to our economy, but this bill will only prolong the economic recovery.

Many provisions of this bill recognize that economic stability depends on employment stability. This bill, however, contains provisions unrelated to fighting the disease, and worse, incentives that will lead to more, not fewer, layoffs. The people most likely to be affected will be primarily middle-class families and lower wage earners.

The bill incentivizes layoffs by providing for "unemployment insurance (UI) on steroids," or regular unemployment benefits together with \$600 per week above the traditional benefit level. One of the perverse incentives of this bill is that it would leave many employees financially better off if they were laid-off than if they continued working. On the one hand, Congress is incentivizing small businesses to borrow billions of dollars from the Small Business Administration to keep people employed while simultaneously creating counterincentives that will encourage unemployment. That makes no sense.

I support policies that will encourage job stability. Our economic recovery will be hastened if people have a job ready and waiting for them once we get past the current health crisis; it will help people maintain their health insurance; it will give people hope; and a ready workforce will help avoid supply chain disruptions and shortages of critical supplies needed to fight this virus.

This bill also contains provisions that will unnecessarily extend the recovery of America's capital markets. Currently, the markets are down about 30-percent from their all-time highs from just a few weeks ago. In this next economic recovery, we must focus on bringing stability to capital markets as we rebuild the job market. This bill, however, contains provisions that will deny this needed stability. Section 4003 prohibits businesses that utilize the lending and loan guarantee programs from engaging in stock buybacks and issuing dividends—not only during the term of the loan but even after the loan has been repaid. Allowing stock redemptions and dividends could help calm volatility in the capital markets. Congress should not discourage these kinds of actions. We need to help bring stability back to the stock market.

Other provisions give a green light to union organizers while preventing a business from speaking out against union activities. Businesses that access government loans in the short term, including so that they can pay their employees, are being given a long-term

"stand-down" order by Congress when it comes to this issue. Businesses that will be affected by this are currently in crisis and Congress' response is to put its thumb on the scale in favor of labor, a Democrat constituency that funnels millions into Democrat campaign coffers.

These provisions also lose sight of the fact that many businesses that utilize these programs will do so not because of their own mismanagement or malfeasance but because government told these businesses to shut their doors. Or, in some cases, because patriotic business owners took out a loan to retool or ramp up production to manufacture critical medical supplies like ventilators, hospital masks and testing kits even when that is not their normal business.

It makes no sense to punish these companies with these kinds of restrictions but especially after the loan has been repaid. If we tie the hands of business for years to come, we should not expect a full and robust economic recovery. These restrictions are unreasonable. They may discourage companies from taking out loans. This, in turn, will put people out of work, harming American families and small businesses.

Dating back to Greek times, physicians swore the Hippocratic Corpus. It was an oath, a code of medical ethics, in which a physician pledged to "help the sick and abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm. . . ." That obligation is sometimes summarized as, "First, do no harm." As Congress considers this legislation, we would do well to follow the Hippocratic Oath ourselves. We should not pass a law that includes extraneous spending or that would further impose economic harm on struggling American families and small businesses.

Finally, I want to make this point. It is often said that "crisis reveals character." The response of the American people to this crisis says a lot about their character. Over and over again, Americans have demonstrated that they are strong, independent, entrepreneurial, resilient, patriotic, and compassionate and that they are willing to sacrifice to get our nation through. I am encouraged by their spirit.

What the present crisis reveals about Congress, however, is tragic. The simple truth is that Congress has failed to plan and budget for an emergency such as an economic recession, a natural disaster, a national security threat, or a public health crisis. Every member of Congress knows that, once every few years, we will be called on to respond to a disaster. Yet, Congress fails to plan properly. Our budget does not include any reserves to deal with these emergencies.

Accordingly, when faced with a crisis, Congress rushes to pass an emergency spending bill—like this one—that adds billions and billions or trillions more to the deficit. Today's bill spends nearly \$6 trillion when we factor in the anticipated response of the Federal Reserve. This spending is on top of the already projected annual deficit of \$1.083 trillion and a national debt of \$23.6 trillion. Congress cannot keep doing this. Congress needs to cut spending, balance the budget, and establish an emergency fund so that we can deal with these crises responsibly.

I also want to note an additional way in which Congress has failed in its Constitutional responsibilities. The House of Representatives is a co-equal to the Senate. While the Senate was working this past week, the Democratic

House leadership had members sitting at home. Speaker PELOSI should have convened the House on Monday. This would have made it possible for the House to engage in a full debate, to deliberate, and even propose better ideas. That did not happen. Instead, this bill, which is the single largest supplemental spending bill in U.S. history, will pass without a vote of the full House—with every member voting.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. On Thursday, the United States gained the unfortunate distinction of being the country with the largest number of known COVID-19 cases in the world. As people across the country struggle to stem the COVID-19 pandemic, this bill is an urgently needed \$2 trillion disaster-relief package that delivers immediate support to individuals, families, and small businesses across the country, while also providing worker-centered relief for some industries.

My home state of Washington has been reeling from the spread of COVID-19, with over 3,200 cases and 147 deaths as of last night. I am so proud that we have one of the finest public health systems in the country, but it is under siege—as are our healthcare institutions, our economy, and my constituents. I have been focusing my efforts wholly and completely on ensuring that we in Congress do everything in our power to deliver a response from the Federal government that matches the enormous scale of this crisis.

This bill is an important step in that direction, though we will certainly need to do even more. The CARES Act puts \$100 billion into ensuring hospitals and healthcare providers can cover COVID-19-related costs and \$200 million to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in nursing homes. Importantly, after years of disinvestment in the Strategic National Stockpile, the CARES Act adds \$16 billion to the Stockpile to provide essential personal protective equipment for our frontline workers and emergency responders.

This bill also includes a critical priority for me: the largest expansion of unemployment insurance in decades to ensure that most workers get nearly 100 percent of their pre-layoff wage without traditional restrictions. It also creates a special Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program to provide relief to those who may be ineligible for regular unemployment benefits, like gig workers and people who are self-employed.

Because people are suffering right now, I believe we must include direct cash support to individuals. I had advocated for double the amount that is in the bill, for monthly instead of a one-time payment, and for everyone to be included. We were not able to get that. However, the CARES Act delivers \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per child in cash relief to the vast majority of everyday people to immediately help put cash in people's pockets to pay those mounting bills.

To keep people in their homes, the bill provides \$3 billion in rental assistance. It enacts a 120-day moratorium on evictions for properties receiving federal assistance as well as a 60-day foreclosure moratorium on federally backed mortgages and up to 180 days of forbearance. The bill also includes crucial funding to the Emergency Services Grant to ensure we are providing care to people experiencing homelessness. However, we still need a real response to the surge of homelessness in this time of crisis. My Housing is a Human Right Act, introduced last week, puts important measures on the table to ensure that we address homelessness in the short and longer-term.

One of the most important things I heard from my district was the pain and suffering of small business owners and non-profits of all sizes. The CARES Act creates a Payment Protection Program that helps businesses keep workers on payroll, through \$350 billion in forgivable loans that can also be used for payroll, rent, utilities, and other necessary costs that will help small businesses weather the crisis. Small businesses will also have some opportunity to receive direct grants of \$10,000 as an emergency bridge loan. The bill creates safeguards to protect against employers gaming the program. It also recognizes that some employers will be forced to do temporary furloughs, but then bring their employees back on. This is a pro-worker provision that will incentivize employers to avoid layoffs. It is crucial that we in Congress ensure that these loans are carefully managed and scrutinized to prevent predatory lenders from taking advantage of desperate times to force unfair or exploitative loan terms on small businesses, and to prevent bundling or repackaging in ways that would create expanded economic inequality or lead to the unstable market conditions that caused the last major recession.

On education, the bill invests over \$30 billion for states, school districts, and institutions of higher education to help alleviate the challenges educators, students, and families are struggling with in light of school and childcare center closures. This is especially acute for students with disabilities, English language learners, and students experiencing homelessness. However, as state budgets decline due to the pandemic response, it will be critical for Congress to step in and ensure equity for our nation's students. Specifically, Congress must take further steps to address the "homework gap" and ensure the tens of millions of students at home have the technology they need to ensure they do not fall behind.

The CARES Act also helps borrowers facing insurmountable student loan payments during the pandemic. It suspends payments for all federally-held student loans through September 30, 2020, during which time interest will not accrue, and borrowers will continue to receive credit toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Income-Driven Repayment forgiveness, and loan rehabilitation. It also prohibits forced collections such as garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits, and negative credit reporting during this time period. While the bill does require the Education Secretary to keep borrowers apprised of when normal payments will resume after the pandemic ends, Congress will need to exert strong oversight over servicers and Department of Education to ensure that students aren't penalized for taking advantage of

this program. I am disappointed that millions of borrowers holding over \$300 billion in private student loans, federal Perkins loans, and commercially held federal student loans are left out of the relief this bill provides. There is no doubt that Congress must take significant additional steps to expand student debt relief during this pandemic to avoid another crisis that followed the last financial meltdown. Adopting pieces of my College for All Act and, at a minimum, cancelling student loan debt for the duration of this crisis would not only provide enormous relief and avoid fiscal cliffs for student loan borrowers, it would also contribute to stimulating the economy as we move into recovery. I will be pushing for this in the next package.

It is critically important that we immediately address the unique funding delays that Native American tribes have faced in the COVID-19 response and supports chronically underfunded programs in the Indian Health Service. I'm proud that this bill begins to do that. It ensures Native American Tribes, Tribally owned businesses and Native American owned businesses have equal access to federal COVID-19 economic recovery resources by establishing an \$8 billion Tribal Coronavirus Relief fund and ensuring parity in access to other crucial programs to help Native American communities across the country.

There is no question that this bill is not perfect. There are many things in our Democratic House bill that reflect the urgency and scale of the crisis that did not make it into this bill. There are also things in the bill that Republicans insisted on—such as a \$500 billion "slush fund" for the Treasury Secretary—that allow for giant corporations to get enormous amounts of taxpayer dollars with little oversight or accountability. We must immediately work to strengthen those accountability provisions and ensure that there is real authority for the Oversight Panel that was established as a last-minute concession to Republicans. We should use the kinds of worker-centered conditions that we were able to include in the provisions on airline industry assistance as a model: ensuring that funds go to support the payroll and benefits of employees, prohibiting stock buybacks and dividends, as well as real limitations on executive compensation for corporations that receive taxpayer assistance. That will ensure that corporations and CEOs are not getting blank checks while millions of people remain unemployed, without paid leave or health care during this crisis and the subsequent recovery period.

Nor is this package sufficient. Unfortunately, the scale of this crisis is enormous and we are only beginning to see the devastation it will wreak on our families, communities, and economy. I will immediately begin drafting priorities for the next package. These will include: more money for states and localities, our health care system, and a strong and robust safety net that includes everyone. We must ensure health care—from testing to treatment to recovery—for everyone without costs. We have to immediately fix the fact that too many immigrants—including those who are working right now to guarantee food is put into food banks and on tables across the country—are excluded from any relief we have passed, simply because they are undocumented, DACA and TPS recipients, or legal permanent residents who have been here for less than five years. This is immoral. COVID-19 does not discrimi-

nate based on country of origin or immigration status and our relief packages cannot discriminate either.

Our next package must include strong protections against price-gouging, including a specific mandate that the Federal Trade Commission prioritize and proactively prosecute cases of COVID-related price gouging, and safeguards to prevent large corporate mergers from taking place while oversight bodies are distracted by this pandemic. And all federal agencies must temporarily halt all rulemaking that is unrelated to COVID-19 as our states and municipalities struggle to respond to urgent community needs.

In addition, we must ensure that robust paid leave provisions apply to all workers in this time of crisis, including at companies that employ 500 or more workers. These large companies are best situated to implement leave policies that will be most impactful in preventing the spread of COVID. It is vitally important that they play their part during this pandemic and meet, at minimum, the paid leave standards we laid out in our second relief package for small businesses. We also must protect seniors and people with disabilities who rely on homecare and direct care workers to live independently by continuing to add Medicaid FMAP increases that specifically allow for higher wages, paid leave, and safety equipment for this crucial workforce. In this time when so many working parents are struggling to both care for children and work, we must also ensure that the childcare providers funded through Childcare Development Block Grants are paid living wages and have access to paid leave. Further, large on-demand companies that benefit from the labor of low-wage workers, but classify those workers as independent contractors, must pay their fair share and put money into the unemployment insurance state system.

Our next package must immediately enact strong OSHA emergency standards to protect our frontline health care workers. This was stripped out by Republicans and that is unconscionable. Failure to include these protections will devastate our frontline workers in health care and other critical functions that we need to keep our communities functioning even during Stay Home orders. As our nation depends on health care workers and other essential employees to help and protect all of us from the spread of COVID-19, the very least we can do is require employers to take the necessary steps to mitigate hazards that jeopardize worker safety and health.

Finally, we must also protect the health and safety of people in the criminal justice and immigration detention systems. These people are dependent on the government for everything; and it is incumbent on us to ensure their safety. People should not have to go on hunger strike to get soap simply so they can follow public health guidance and wash their hands—one of the most basic protections to guard against the spread of COVID-19. These jails, prisons, and detention centers are so crowded, it is nearly impossible to practice social distancing in congregate settings. We must immediately take basic steps to reduce the risk of what would be a catastrophic outbreak in institutional settings. First, we must release as many people as we can, starting with those who are most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19, such as people who are age 50 and over and people with medical conditions. The criminal justice and immigration

detention systems have a broad menu of alternatives to detention to facilitate release—we have a duty to use them. Second, for those who remain in custody, these facilities must do the essential work to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in close consultation with public health officials.

I am proud of House Democrats who fought very hard to include many of these protections and issues in our House bill. It is unfortunate that Republicans fought us on so much. However, at the end of the day, this is still a bold, bipartisan, and urgently necessary bill to deliver critically timed relief to individuals, families, businesses, and communities across the country who are suffering and I am proud to cast my vote for its passage. This is a crisis of epic proportions and we must continue to do everything we can to respond with the scale sufficient to address the suffering of people across our country. I am also proud to represent a district and a state that has responded with so much compassion, caring, and commitment, and I will continue to fight for all my constituents as we weather this together.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, it is not lost on me how consequential the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act is for our nation.

Along with many of my colleagues, I wish I could be there in person to voice my support for this historically massive and wide-reaching legislation. The absence of Members from our chamber doesn't make the House of Representatives any less united in our support of this significant relief package for the American people, who are greatly suffering by no fault of their own due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The natural disaster caused by COVID-19 is unlike any other our nation has encountered in modern history. Its impact is severely felt across the whole of society—causing an unprecedented strain on our public health defenders and medical providers as well as sharp economic losses and unexpected disruptions for Americans of all stripes.

Hardworking Americans, families, communities, small businesses and numerous industries have been hit hard and fast in a matter of days and weeks. Given the enormous scope of this disaster, its consequences and the damage already done, it is critically important to get help to those Americans facing difficult times. I am encouraged that the CARES Act extends a much needed helping hand.

To help individuals and families weather this storm, the CARES Act provides financial assistance in the form of direct cash payments and unemployment support. The legislation provides unprecedented help to sustain small businesses and their workers, after many businesses on Main Street have been forced to close their doors to comply with the guidance and orders from federal, state, local and tribal officials.

For our health workers fighting on the front lines across the nation, this relief package re-

plenishes vital medical supplies like masks, respirators and other equipment. Moreover, it provides reinforcement supplies and resources for state and local response efforts.

Finally, I worked very hard to ensure tribal nations are equipped to face and fight the unknown challenges ahead with this coronavirus like other state and local authorities. Oklahoma is home to 39 sovereign tribes, and each one plays an invaluable role in the lives and health of their members and surrounding communities. I am proud that this relief package dedicates generous resources specifically for tribal nations to respond.

Therefore, had I been present, I would vote "yea" if there was a recorded vote.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID P. JOYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we prepared to appropriate supplemental funding for Indian Country through the Bureau of Indian Affairs budget, my colleagues and I became keenly aware of the need to mitigate the hardships that this pandemic has caused for Tribal governments who have to rely on business revenues—rather than taxes—to fund essential services for their Tribal members. In addition, Tribal governments are often the largest employers on reservations, where unemployment rates are already significantly higher than the rest of the country.

For these reasons, this bill directs that not less than \$400 million—nearly 90 percent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs supplemental appropriation—shall be made available to meet the direct needs of Tribes. For these same reasons, this bill directs that not less than \$450 million of the Indian Health Service supplemental appropriation be distributed to directly operated programs and to Tribes and Tribal organizations by utilizing existing contracts, compacts, and other agreements to speed up the process.

In addition, I was pleased to see and support an additional \$8 billion for payments to Tribal governments through the Coronavirus Relief Fund in this bill. Because of the Federal Government's unique government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes, providing these funds to Tribes directly—rather than through the States—is the right approach. It is critical that the Secretaries of the Treasury and the Interior consult with Tribal leaders immediately to determine the most expeditious, transparent, and fair method of allocating these funds.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID KUSTOFF

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of The CARES Act.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has greatly affected the health and livelihoods of people around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is not perfect but it is a solid step forward to providing the stimulus needed to revive our economy.

There is no that doubt that as a nation we have endured tough times in our history, but we have always come back stronger and more resilient.

I am proud to be here today, representing West Tennessee during this trying time.

There may be more challenges coming in the days ahead, but we know that the American people will meet them head on and we will prevail—just like we always do.

As a body, we need to demonstrate our support for all of the brave men and women working to protect us, for our fellow citizens and for the President—and pass the CARES Act.

CONGRATULATING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 H.E.B. ISD AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate thirty-three outstanding students from the Hurst Euless Bedford Independent School District who have been selected to receive the District's Awards of Excellence for the 2019–2020 school year.

These accomplished students possess unique talents that have enabled them to succeed in their respective disciplines. This year's recipients have been recognized for their achievements in a diverse field of subjects which include visual and performing arts, business and industry, science, mathematics, and communications to name but a few. Through their hard work and dedication, the following young men and women have built a strong foundation upon which they will continue to enhance their education.

Asim Adhikari, Kierra Ashford, Lexie Barthelemess, Khaezer Xann Bellen, Indya Bobb, Erin Brewer, Melanie Butcher, Tanvi Dalal, Kameron Dancy, Antoni Davila, Marcos De La Liana, Zachary Deande, Giandré Dejesús, Maliabo Diamba, Sofia Dominguez, Lyra Ehninger, Anna Maria Glowacki, Myra Gordon, Mason Hunter-Gray, Kya Jordan, Charlotte Lewis, Alec Liu, Savannah Lo, James Mahon VI, Hayley Otteson, Elizabeth Perry, Alana Rada Pico, Nicolas Sears, Devashree Shah, Grant Trusty, Mahanga Uhilamoelangi, Yulisa Villeda, Allyrica Williams.

In addition to recognizing the above, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the instructors who have worked tirelessly to ensure the needs of their students are met. It is with great praise that I recognize the following teachers from Hurst Hills Elementary, Central Junior High, L.D. Bell, Buinger CTE Academy, KEYS, and Trinity High School for their invaluable role as educators:

Lauren Allen, Jo Ann Antinone, Shawn Bemis, Andy Bloodworth, Pamela Bracken, Tammy Brown, Mario Casanova, Monica Chavez, Jennifer Choate, Amanda Collins, Ken Davis, Michael Dean, Bianca Diaz, John Fetters, Kenda Fries, Mark Gustafson, Candace

Harris, Tara Hernandez, Susan Kaufman, Cathy Kazyska, Courtney Koder, Amelia Langi, Stormee Massey, Allen Matthews, Laurel McClanahan, Karen McCurdy, Joseph Mendenhall, Thomas Montelongo, Alyssa Nabors, Amanda Stevens, Kent Wooley.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these outstanding students and teachers and congratulate them on their admirable achievements. I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2020 HEB ISD Awards of Excellence.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of this chamber that States, Tribal governments, and local units of governments use the funds in the Coronavirus Relief Fund to recover any necessary monies that they would have otherwise collected or generated in order to pay their employees and cover costs but for the COVID-19 pandemic. As the legislation indicates, these funds are specifically targeted towards expenditures incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. I agree that it is important to try to keep American workers employed and paid during this time. And, I agree with the assessment that these governments rely on the collection of taxes and generation of revenues to pay the wages of these employees, and those costs were an anticipated expenditure to be allowable under the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, the House considered the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. I would vote YEA on this important measure.

As the coronavirus spreads throughout our country, the devastating impact of this pandemic becomes clearer each day. The bipartisan CARES Act makes an important down payment on needed economic relief for Americans and their families, especially in California. It provides critical cash assistance to people who need it. It grants crucial resources to small businesses, helps prevent layoffs, and delivers urgently needed funds to hospitals, schools, and local governments.

This bill is huge, by any measure. It will provide critical assistance. I am proud of the tireless efforts by House Democrats to secure the best possible deal for working families, and proud that we can reach a bipartisan agreement.

We simply cannot afford to declare victory, though. More will be needed. We're just beginning to understand the full scope of the impacts.

This is the third relief bill Congress will pass related to the coronavirus outbreak, and while they have each been critical in helping us in this fight, we know they are just first steps. Many families, workers, small businesses, first responders, and health care professionals will need more assistance, and we are already working on additional help to address this unprecedented public health threat.

The American people need and deserve a coordinated, fully-funded, whole-of-government response to keep them and their loved ones safe from the coronavirus epidemic, and to protect our economy. I will continue to work relentlessly to put families, workers, and small businesses first.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the CARES Act. We are in the middle of an unprecedented public health crisis and the American people need help.

Over the past two weeks, I have had countless calls with constituents, and they have all said the same thing: they're hurting. Our small businesses, our farmers and ranchers, our teachers, our Tribal governments, our health care workers, and first responders on the front lines—we are all hurting right now.

While this bill won't fix all their problems, it brings them some much-needed relief and confidence that the federal government is taking action to combat this crisis.

In Oklahoma, we call it the Oklahoma Standard. Neighbors helping neighbors through hard times. Together, as a country, we will help our neighbors and get through this together.

I support this bill and look forward to continuing to work with the Administration.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I care deeply about the health of our citizens and our economy. We are in the midst of a National Emergency that has taken lives, disrupted the economy, and threatened the health and economic security of our nation. Americans have called on Congress to pass legislation that provides relief, and we cannot let another day go by without answering that call. While this bill is not perfect, and I disagree with a number of specific provisions within, unprecedented crises demand unprecedented solutions, and I am confident the CARES Act as a whole will assist Missourians and Americans around the country in our time of need.

COVID-19 has prevented too many Americans from working to support their families, and could overwhelm our heroic health care

workers and other first responders. I have worked day and night with my colleagues in Congress and our state and local officials to find a way to get people back on their feet. Just days ago partisanship threatened to destroy all of that work, abandoning the people who need this assistance most. But I am grateful that Leader MCCONNELL was able to get a historic and unanimous vote in support through the Senate, and that Speaker PELOSI and Senator SCHUMER finally realized they needed to put politics aside and join us in placing our countrymen and women above petty political fights.

Americans are resilient and, although these are difficult times, I have faith we will emerge stronger as a nation, a people, and an economy. The CARES Act will help Missourians get back to work, keep businesses open, and allow our economy to rebound. This legislation gives financial support directly to families and workers who need it most and provides assistance to struggling small businesses so they can keep their doors open and pay their employees. If you have lost your job, unemployment insurance has been expanded so you can feed your family and keep a roof over your heads during this uncertain time, and this was done in a temporary fashion so we do not disincentivize people from working. Our health care workers and first responders who have worked long hours on the front lines of this crisis will receive vital personal protective equipment and other resources to keep up the fight. This is an extraordinary piece of legislation, but the work doesn't stop here. Congress will keep working to improve upon this legislation, mitigate the effects of this pandemic, and ensure the safety of the American people.

I am disappointed that Democrats insisted on adding many extraneous provisions that are not relevant to the crisis at hand. Millions of dollars for forest research and other items do not belong in urgent coronavirus relief legislation. I am also extremely concerned they insisted on including over \$1 billion for Amtrak and \$10 billion for the Postal Service. We can have a reasoned debate on these items, but in another forum. The issue at hand is relieving our distressed families and small businesses, not trying to tack on political pet projects when so many people across America need our help. We are in a National Emergency and it is shameful Democrats tried to force through partisan issues, including aggressive union mandates and taxpayer funded abortion. I fought these provisions and am grateful they were ultimately left out of the final bill.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, this crisis has devastated our families, our communities, and our entire way of life. Americans are suffering, our health care workers are exhausted, and businesses are struggling. Americans need relief, and they need it now.

We are battling an unprecedented global crisis, and it calls for an unprecedented response. While no legislation is perfect, I'm glad Congress could come together to send this package to the President's desk to quickly deliver the relief our country desperately needs.

The CARES Act will provide families with immediate support by putting cash in their pockets. It will protect Americans' livelihoods by keeping workers employed and helping businesses stay afloat to ensure American workers have jobs to come back to. This package stands up for our heroes fighting on the frontlines by ensuring our nurses, doctors, and countless health care professionals have the resources they need to continue saving lives.

When faced with a challenge, America always rises to the occasion. I'm proud of the way our country has rallied together to support one another in the face of this crisis, and I'm proud we can finally deliver the quick relief Americans have been asking for. We will beat this virus, and our nation will emerge stronger than ever before.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, through no fault of their own, hospitals, families, and businesses are facing a public health crisis causing unprecedented hardships for millions of employees and families. In the 3rd District, I have heard from heartbroken families who don't know how to afford next month's rent, small business owners who don't know how they will pay their loyal employees or if they will be able to hold out and reopen their doors ever again, and healthcare workers desperate for more medical supplies. I applaud President Trump and the Senate for focusing on the dire and urgent needs of hospitals, families, and small businesses affected by COVID-19 and standing firm against loading this bill with radical leftist gimmicks that were included in Speaker PELOSI's unserious legislation. I am obviously deeply cautious about the staggering cost, but the cost of inaction today means putting a price tag on lives tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and the President in doing what is necessary to support the American people and position our economy to make a strong recovery once we defeat this terrible virus.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

This \$2 trillion legislation—the largest aid package in American history—is shaped to

help meet the great challenges we face during this crisis.

As Americans stay home to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus, the economy has ground to a halt. Nearly 3.3 million Americans filed unemployment claims last week, an all-time record. Our frontline health care workers are working around the clock to care for the tens of thousands of Americans who have contracted the virus, requiring a surge of hospital beds, masks, personal protective equipment, and ventilators to safely care for the sick.

The Democratic House has led the way to respond to this emergency. At the beginning of March, we passed a bipartisan \$8.3 billion funding package to strengthen our nation's public health response to the coronavirus. A week later, we passed another bipartisan bill, the Families First Act to provide paid sick leave and nutrition assistance to working families, as well as free coronavirus testing to anyone who needs it.

Today's legislation continues Congress's fast-moving bipartisan emergency response to the pandemic. Democrats fought successfully to flip the original Senate bill from a trickle-down, corporation-first approach to a families and workers-first approach.

The four major pillars of the legislation are: A "Marshall Plan" for our Health Care System, Expanded Unemployment Benefits and Direct Cash Assistance for Americans, Assistance for Small Businesses, Relief for state, tribal, and local governments.

A \$150 billion "Marshall Plan" for our health systems with funding to hospitals and other health providers to buy protective equipment, testing supplies, new construction, and to cover unreimbursed costs or lost revenue. Funding is also provided to increase the supply of health care equipment in the Strategic National Stockpile, implement the Defense Production Act, and boost FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund.

\$260 billion for unemployment insurance, providing an additional \$600 weekly for every American receiving unemployment benefits. Many Americans will also receive a one-time cash payment of up to \$1,200, and \$500 per child.

A \$350 billion small business rescue plan that provides loan forgiveness grants to small businesses to keep their workers on payroll and help to pay rent and utility bills. Coverage also goes to independent contractors, gig workers, and nonprofits.

A \$150 billion relief fund to assist state, local, and tribal governments maintain essential public services for their residents.

Democrats also successfully prevented secret corporate bailouts. Thanks to a strong Democratic effort, corporations that receive aid must use it to keep workers on their payrolls. They're prohibited from giving bonuses to executives, exercise buyback of stocks, or give dividends to shareholders. We launched many attempts to remove the \$500 billion fund under the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, but we were unable to do so because of the support of Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and the White House. What we were able to secure is an Inspector General to oversee the funds to ensure transparency and accountability, and a Board to do so as well.

Finally, the legislation includes \$100 billion in emergency appropriations for education, childcare, housing, and homelessness, as well

as grants for states to prepare for the upcoming election in November.

Taken together, this legislation will go a long way to help workers, families, small businesses, state and local governments, hospitals, and health care workers, and California will receive approximately \$15 billion from the legislation.

Congress's work to respond to the pandemic is not complete, and the House is already working on a fourth package to help our nation during these critical times.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation to come to the aid of the American people during this time of crisis. They deserve swift action by a united Congress.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I add my voice in support of the CARES Act.

This sweeping, bipartisan legislation is the work of a Congress that soberly understands the gravity of the emergency facing our nation. It is only because Congress has set aside partisanship and disagreements that I am able to say, help, my friends, is on the way.

For the 3.3 million who filed for unemployment last week and the millions more who have not yet been able to navigate states' overwhelmed unemployment servers, this new law will provide an additional \$600 per week in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

I fought for this \$15 per hour living wage to give a hand to the servers, bartenders, and other tipped employees that are the backbone of Florida's tourism and services sector.

The law provides a \$1200 check to all Americans, including those on Social Security, who make less than \$75,000.

It includes a \$100 billion "Marshall Plan" for our hospitals and public health system and \$150 billion for states and tribes.

It provides over \$350 billion for small businesses on Main Street in grants, forgivable loans, and tax credits so they can make payroll and pay monthly bills to keep their businesses afloat.

The new law provides 6 months relief for federal student loan payments, blocks evictions for 150 days, blocks foreclosures for 60 days, and offers mortgage forbearance for up to 6 months—all penalty-free. No interest, fees, or negative information on your credit report.

This bill is neither perfect nor the last word. As this crisis unfolds and America rises to face unthinkable challenges, so too must their Representatives in Congress.

We need more masks, protective equipment, and ventilators. And we need testing everywhere.

We need more help for our cities like St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo, and Pinellas Park.

We need to do more for essential employees—the grocery store checkers, truck drivers, farmers, sanitation workers, pharmacists, cooks, home care workers, and delivery workers that are enabling the rest of us to shelter-

in-place and fight the spread. They deserve more than our thanks. They deserve child care, overtime, and hazard pay.

Finally, but of the highest priority, we need to do all we can for doctors, nurses, and other frontline healthcare workers—those risking it all to save lives. They are the true heroes of this pandemic. Angels, not with wings but with masks and protective gowns. You have our undying gratitude.

Never in any of our lifetimes has America stared down an enemy so insidious and so devastating. But we will answer this call of history with courage and resolve. We must.

Be safe. Stay healthy. Stay home. And God bless. We will get through this. We're all in this together.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Senate Amendment to H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. This bill will provide emergency relief to millions of Americans as we fight the coronavirus outbreak.

I want to highlight Title VI, which establishes a Coronavirus Relief Fund that provides \$150 billion for the Secretary of Treasury to disseminate to States, Tribal Governments and units of local government in fiscal year 2020. Tragically, in recent days I've heard from many tribal nations in California, and they are really struggling. That's because they did the right thing to help our country combat this virus by closing their businesses.

It is worth noting that they did so proactively and were under no obligation to take such drastic steps. But, as we have come to expect from our leaders in the tribal community, they did the right thing because it was the right thing to do.

These closures have been nothing short of catastrophic. The very resources that had been used to fund the tribal government and provide services virtually evaporated overnight. These governments run, for the most part, on these tribal funds. The funds provided by the federal government via the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other federal programs, often only make up a very small percentage of the total cost of running Tribal governments. So, when these businesses closed, the Tribes knew that doing so would compromise their ability to serve their people during this time of crisis.

I heard these stories and knew that Congress had to respond. This \$8 billion fund will address the decrease in revenues, and we have mandated that the Secretary of Treasury work with the Secretary of Interior, to make sure that these decreased revenues are into their determination when making funds available to tribes.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I will vote in support of the Senate Amendment to H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This economic stimulus represents a wartime level investment in our nation as we continue our fight against an invisible enemy: COVID-19.

Public health experts agree the consequences of the virus will only get more devastating in the coming days. People we know and love will get sick. People we know and love may die despite the heroic efforts of our health care workers who are on the front lines, sacrificing the health of themselves and their families to give their neighbors and communities a fighting chance.

We also know that the financial fall-out from this crisis is unprecedented. On Thursday, the Department of Labor announced that nearly 3.3 million people lost their job the prior week, an unfortunate record number of claims. Through no fault of their own, millions of Americans were sidelined by a vicious virus that has brought our economy to a stunning but necessary halt as we work to "flatten the curve" to protect our health and safety.

Our next steps in this battle—to both contain the virus and prevent further layoffs—are critical.

And while Members of Congress can't be the experts in the lab developing a vaccine, or flying the cargo planes with medical supplies, there is something we can do today: get desperately needed funding and medical supplies to hospitals and frontline healthcare workers, and provide critical relief to the millions of laid-off workers and small business owners who are hurting right now.

Now, without question, the bill the Senate sent us isn't perfect.

Remember, the Republican starting point was a massive corporate slush fund with no transparency, accountability, or worker protections.

But we could not allow a repeat of the failed bailout of 2008. I'm proud to be part of the Democratic negotiating team that protected jobs because we know that putting working people and families first is how we as a country can get back on our feet. Prioritizing their needs over the profits of giant corporations is how we build an economy that works for everyone—not just a wealthy few.

This bill will put checks in the mail to 80 percent of Americans who make under six figures, and it will boost critical benefits for anyone who lost their job amid this crisis.

We fought hard so this bill will ensure millions of bus drivers, train operators, railroad workers, flight crews, airline ground workers, airport workers, and more not only remain on the job but keep as many of their hard-earned health and retirement benefits as possible during this crisis. The relief in this package flows to workers first, not last—and it makes clear to any industry getting relief: no stock buybacks, no executive giveaways, no layoffs. Workers first—period.

For the millions who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, this legislation

vastly strengthens and makes critical reforms to Unemployment Insurance programs—ensuring 100 percent wage replacement for the average American worker struggling without a paycheck during this crisis. It also provides federal incentives for states to eliminate waiting week requirements, expands access to part-time, self-employed, and gig economy workers, and adds an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded UI benefits.

To support the many small businesses across the country that have been forced to shutter, the bill designates \$350 billion worth of 100 percent guaranteed SBA loans, a portion of which SBA will be able to forgive. These loans will be up to \$10 million and provide incentives to keep employees on the payroll and pay them at their regular salary levels.

For our state, local, and tribal governments, this legislation establishes a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund so that they have desperately needed additional funding to build field hospitals, buy ventilators and other personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as offset the cost of other essential government services not budgeted in the wake of the economic downturn. While this fund is a good start, we must do more to ensure our localities, especially those in rural areas, have what they need in this fight.

It allows for the temporary suspension of excise taxes on spirits for those used in the production of hand sanitizer in compliance with guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), like Swallowtail and Thinking Tree Spirits in my district in Oregon.

The CARES Act provides \$1 billion for the Defense Production Act, allowing the Department of Defense to invest in the manufacturing of PPE and other critical medical equipment in short supply. While this isn't the \$3.5 billion allocated for the DPA in the House bill, it is still a notable sum to ramp up production for PPE and other supplies.

The President should have unleashed the full power of the Defense Production Act (DPA) weeks ago. He still hasn't, and his lack of leadership means health care workers and their patients are suffering because there are not enough ventilators, PPE, or other medical supplies. I am continuing to call on the President to immediately ramp up domestic production of these crucial supplies.

This legislation also provides much-needed help to hospitals and healthcare providers by allocating \$100 billion to cover unreimbursed health care-related expenses and lost revenues attributable to COVID-19. It also increases Medicare reimbursement for treatment of inpatient COVID-19 patients by 20 percent, and it allocates more than \$27 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, investing billions into vaccines and therapeutics and \$16 billion into the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS).

It mandates all private insurance plans to cover testing for COVID-19 without cost-sharing and provides free coverage for a COVID-19 vaccine or other preventive service within 15 days. It also protects the uninsured by allowing them to receive a coronavirus test and related services with no cost-sharing in any state Medicaid program that elects to offer such an enrollment option.

To protect and bolster our frontline health care workers, rural providers, and the health care of those with most need, the bill invests \$1.32 billion in supplemental funding for Community Health Centers; reauthorizes Human

Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant programs; reauthorizes HRSA grants to strengthen rural community health; expands telehealth capabilities; grants liability protections to doctors who provide volunteer medical services; and establishes a Ready Reserve Corps to ensure there are enough trained doctors and nurses to respond to COVID-19 throughout our country.

To protect our students and schools, this package provides \$30.75 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts, and institutions of higher education (IHEs) for COVID-19 costs. \$13.5 billion will ultimately be distributed to local education agencies to use for coronavirus response activities. \$14.25 billion will be used for higher education emergency relief to help defray costs, such as lost revenue, to support social distancing and distance education, and to issue emergency grants to impacted students for food, housing, course materials, tech, and healthcare and childcare.

The package also bolsters programs that America's families depend on by: providing billions for childcare programs such as Head Start and the Child Care Development Block Grant, strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program through billions in additional funding, providing millions for utility assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and extending the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

In a bid to keep Americans housed during this crisis, the CARES Act institutes a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for renters and homeowners in federally subsidized housing. The bill also provides \$4 billion in Emergency Solution Grants and \$3 billion in rental assistance to help those most at-risk of homelessness or who have already become homeless. It also provides \$5 billion for the Community Development Block Grant to enable nearly 1,240 states, counties, and cities to rapidly respond to COVID-19 and the economic and housing impacts caused by it.

The investments this bill makes are critical, they are bipartisan, and they are desperately needed.

However, there are areas where the legislation falls short.

The bill fails to help the U.S. Postal Service and its millions of employees—employees who are ensuring medicine and supplies are delivered for those staying at home. In protecting our public Postal Service, the bill fails utterly—providing a \$10 billion line of credit with onerous terms and conditions of accessing said credit set by the Treasury Secretary. There are reports noting the Postal Service may cease operations by June because of lack of funds. The House bill included \$20 billion for the Postal Service in lost revenues due to COVID-19 impacts, forgave their current debt to the Treasury, and opened up a \$15 billion line of credit should they need to access it. I will work with my colleagues to make sure the needs of the Postal Service are addressed in future COVID-19 response packages. We all depend on it now more than ever. We can and must do more to help our Postal Service.

Issuing a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures in federally assisted housing was a great first step, but more must be done to ensure that Americans are able to keep their homes while our current crisis rages on. We must provide relief to renters and homeowners

in the commercial market. I am calling for a national moratorium on mortgage payments, rental payments, eviction filings, and foreclosures. We can and must do more to help Americans stay housed.

The House proposal was far superior in providing relief to the millions of students and student loan borrowers who are being profoundly hurt by the crisis. Democrats proposed paying \$10,000 of every student loan borrower's current balance and would have directed the Treasury to cover monthly payments for private borrowers for the span of the crisis. We can and must do more to help student loan borrowers.

As public health experts recommend drastic social distancing measures, House Democrats took steps to protect the integrity of our elections and the health of the people by fighting for a national, no-excuse, prepaid, vote-by-mail guarantee. This provision was not included in the Senate package. We can and must do more to protect the integrity of our 2020 elections.

To help Americans keep food on the table, House Democrats proposed raising the minimum SNAP benefit from \$18 to \$30 and blocked the Trump administration from implementing harmful guidelines that could kick 3 million people off of SNAP—even while our nation reels from the economic fallout of the COVID-19 outbreak. SNAP works—we already know every \$1 spent generates \$1.70 in economic activity. Sadly, these provisions were not included in the CARES Act. We can and must do more to keep Americans fed.

While I also applaud the extension of numerous crucial healthcare programs in this bill, which were set to expire on May 22, we can't forget that these extensions will delay needed debate and reforms on enormously important issues like prescription drug costs and surprise billing. These issues long plagued our broken healthcare system before COVID-19, and they will continue to do so once we beat this virus. I look forward to finally addressing these long-overdue issues once this crisis is over.

But such is the nature of compromise. In divided government, you don't always get what you fight for. But that does not mean you stop fighting.

This CARES Act, with all its flaws, is triage: keep workers on the job and avoid economic collapse.

Beyond addressing some of these shortcomings I've mentioned, our next step is recovery and rehabilitation—a true stimulus that creates jobs and rebuilds our decaying infrastructure. In the coming days and weeks, I will double down on an infrastructure package that repairs the breach left by years of neglect—that rebuilds failing bridges, restores crumbling highways, and puts people to work on projects with jobs that cannot be exported.

But let me be absolutely clear—we have a long way to go to address what truly ails the United States economy: corporate greed.

COVID-19 is the virus we are battling right now, but our economy has been sick for a very long time.

Corporate greed, Wall Street demands that consistently puts profits over people, nearly 2 trillion dollars in Trump tax cuts that went straight to the top—all of that is symptomatic of a system that for far too long has kept working people down even as the stock market soared.

We need a system that always puts workers and families first—not just during a national emergency and not just when it's politically convenient.

I'll always be ready to roll up my sleeves for that fight.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, a key part of the relief package was the tribal government stabilization fund. This fund would be used by tribal governments to offset the dramatic losses they are facing at this time. This funding would be used to help them continue to do the right thing and keep their employees on the job—paid, and supported—as our nation responds to, and recovers from the pandemic.

Title VI, Sec. 601(c)(7) provides \$8,000,000,000 in relief to tribal governments for losses of revenues and increased expenditures associated with COVID-19. The bill provides:

[T]he amount paid under this section for fiscal year 2020 to a Tribal government shall be the amount the Secretary shall determine, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and Indian Tribes, that is based on increased expenditures of each such Tribal government (or a tribally-owned entity of such Tribal government) relative to aggregate expenditures in fiscal year 2019 by the Tribal government (or tribally-owned entity) and determined in such manner as the Secretary determines appropriate to ensure that all amounts available under subsection (a)(2)(B) for fiscal year 2020 are distributed to Tribal governments.

Tribal governments or tribally-owned entities can demonstrate “increased expenditures” relative to 2019 by listing expenditures associated with the closure or diminished operation of business and government facilities, including payments made to employees or other entities while businesses or government operations are closed or operating in a limited capacity, as well as the difference in revenues transferred to tribal government accounts in 2020 versus the same period in 2019.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, as the American people do their part to stop the spread of coronavirus, they've made enormous personal sacrifices on behalf of the entire country's health and safety. Over the past few weeks, this deadly pandemic has taken over 1,000 lives in the United States and infected tens of thousands more, with a negative ripple effect plaguing nearly every family and individual to some degree.

During this time, I've heard from business owners in Northeast Texas who are worried

about how they'll pay their employees and the possibility of being forced to close up shop for good. I've heard from mothers and fathers who are unable to bring paychecks home to feed their children. I've heard from health care providers who are struggling to gain access to the medical equipment they need to treat the patients exposed to this highly infectious disease. They asked for their elected representative to step up to the plate and help.

It's no secret that I don't ordinarily support sweeping legislative packages that cost trillions of dollars. But this pandemic presents us with dire and sweeping circumstances on a level I hope we'll never have to face again in our lifetime. Due to the gravity of situation that the coronavirus pandemic has placed us in, I support the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. While this bill is certainly far from perfect, it contains critical relief for the people I represent in Northeast Texas and throughout the country, which will help ensure we successfully defeat this invisible enemy in the days, weeks and months ahead.

I'm grateful this critical legislation will finally head to President Trump's desk. Let's get the American people the relief they need, as we continue fighting this battle together.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as of the time of this debate, there are 6,876 positive COVID-19 cases in New Jersey. And tragically 81 individuals in our state have lost their lives. These are friends, family and loved ones. This virus has touched each and every one of us. I grieve for all the lives lost and for those who are fighting tooth and nail to beat this nasty virus. Our front lines are staffed with brave first responders and health care workers doing their best to help those impacted. Across my state, we are hard at work making sure those who need a test are getting tested and we have expanded bed capacity to care for those in need. The coming weeks will be hard for all. And I remain ready and willing to do everything I can for our state and country.

I rise today because I support the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act because it provides immediate and needed assistance for workers, families, small businesses and hospitals across our country weathering the COVID-19 crisis. Democrats stood strong against the partisan, corporate-focused bail out prioritized by Senate Republicans. Through tough negotiations, we secured payments of as much as \$1,200 for individual taxpayers and \$500 per child. Democrats also secured expanded unemployment insurance for any worker affected by COVID-19, including an additional \$600 a week in additional and expanded benefits and protections for self-employed and nonprofits. And we guaranteed inclusion of \$150 billion to help states and territories respond to this crisis. After I led a letter signed by over 100 members of Congress, first responders will receive nearly \$1 billion in federal assistance to help purchase needed personal protective

equipment. Our hospitals and providers, who stand on the frontlines of this pandemic, will receive \$100 billion in funding to reimburse for COVID-19 related costs. This was a top priority for our state's delegation, which stood united demanding this relief. But I know it is not enough. I will keep fighting for more aid for our first responders, for our hurting small business owners, and for the millions of Americans being pummeled by this terrible time.

Like millions of Americans across the country, I am practicing safe social distancing measures by working from home. I am connecting everyday with my constituents and local, state, and federal officials making sure New Jersey's voice is being represented and our needs are being met. I support this relief legislation for our nation. Talk has already begun about what to do next, and I am fully focused on making sure New Jersey gets its due.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I was absent on March 3, 2020 due to my primary election. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call No. 81 YEA, and Roll Call No. 82 YEA.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the CARES Act, and I look forward to Arizonans and Americans across our nation receiving the benefits of this bill during this difficult time. I support this relief package to help workers, small businesses, hospitals and healthcare workers, and to increase production of needed medical supplies and treatments. America is strong, and we will get through this by working together.

HONORING JOSEPH LOWERY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable leader and civil rights activist, Mr. Joseph Lowery.

Mr. Joseph Echols Lowery was born to Leroy and Dora Lowery on October 6, 1921, in Huntsville, Alabama. At age 11, Lowery was abused by a white police officer for not stepping off the sidewalk as a white man passed by. From there, his parents sent him to Chicago, Illinois, to stay with family and attend junior high. He later returned to his hometown to complete his secondary education at William Hooper Council High School. Lowery at-

tended Knoxville College, Alabama A&M College, and concluded at Paine College. He also attended ministerial training at Payne Theological Seminary and completed a Doctor of Divinity degree at the Chicago Ecumenical Institute.

From 1952 to 1961, Lowery pastored Mobile's Warren Street Methodist Church. His Civil Rights career started in the early 1950's. He helped lead the Montgomery bus boycott—headed the Alabama Civic Affairs Association. He founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference along with Martin Luther King, Jr., Fred Shuttlesworth, and a few others—leading the organization as President from 1977 to 1997. Also, he was co-founder and President of the Black Leadership Forum. He served as the pastor of Cascade United Methodist Church in Atlanta from 1986 through 1992.

In 1950, Lowery married Evelyn Gibson. They had three daughters together: Yvonne Kennedy, Karen Lowery, and Cheryl Lowery-Osborne. He also had two sons from an earlier marriage with Agnes Moore: Joseph Jr. and LeRoy III.

In 1965, Lowery participated in the Selma-to-Montgomery march. Atlanta's city government renamed Ashby Street to Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard which travels past Atlanta's prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Clark Atlanta University, Spelman College, Morehouse College, and Morris Brown College.

As a member of the esteemed brotherhood of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, Lowery received the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997, the inaugural Walter P. Reuther Humanitarian Award from Wayne State University in 2003, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center Peace Award, and the National Urban League's Whitney M. Young, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. Ebony named him one of the 15 greatest black preachers. He received several honorary doctorates from colleges and universities, including Dillard University, Morehouse College, Alabama State University, University of Alabama in Huntsville, and Emory University. Lowery was honored at the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2004.

On January 20, 2009, Lowery delivered the benediction at the inauguration of Senator Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America. On July 30, 2009, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama. He was also given the Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Joseph Lowery died on March 27, 2020, in Atlanta, Georgia, at 98 years old.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Mr. Joseph Echols Lowery for his passion and dedication to ministry and civil rights.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the bill that we are voting on today, the

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act"). This bill is incredibly important to all of our citizens and communities. Our country is going through a war with this new virus, and we need to get every resource possible out into our communities to help fight this pandemic. We also need to protect our workers and keep them paid so they can purchase the food and supplies they need to get their families through this crisis safely.

That is what I want to speak to. One of the last provisions added to this bill was Title VI, which establishes a Coronavirus Relief Fund that provides \$150 billion for the Secretary of Treasury to disseminate to States, Tribal Governments, and units of local government in fiscal year 2020. These funds are to alleviate severe financial pressure these governments are under during this public health emergency.

Specifically, the funds are intended to cover expenditures that were not accounted for in the budgets of these governments prior to the COVID-19 virus outbreak. For most of these governments, their budgets are based on the revenues they accounted for over the course of the fiscal year, including from revenues anticipated to be generated from business enterprises. These anticipated revenues are what these governments use to pay the wages of their employees.

I want to memorialize that it is the intent of this Chamber that the funds in the Coronavirus Relief Fund are intended to help

cover the loss of revenues that would have otherwise been collected and generated by these governments to cover the wages of their employees. We need to make sure these employees continue to be paid and that every effort is made to prevent them from losing their jobs during this pandemic.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS
TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 27, 2020

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, America is in the middle of a crisis, and our constituents are looking to us for help.

COVID-19 has shuttered businesses, closed schools, left millions of Americans without the means to pay rent or put food on their tables, and worst of all, killed over a thousand of our neighbors.

Congress has passed two bills to address the stubborn lack of testing that still plagues our health system, and to provide Americans with federally guaranteed paid sick leave for the first time ever.

However, it's clear that the scope and impact of this pandemic is far greater than we could have imagined.

So today, we take another step towards giving Americans a helping hand and some needed relief from an emergency that has changed life as we know it.

I support H.R. 748, the CARES Act, because it reflects a bipartisan compromise that will allow our elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools to pay their faculty and staff, and continue providing nourishment to their students.

I support the CARES Act because it will put money directly into the pockets of working Americans who aren't looking for a handout, but who need assistance to make it through the next few weeks.

I support the CARES Act because it provides billions in assistance to our number one job creators, our small businesses, as they look to make payroll and keep their workers employed.

It was the author William Feather who said: "The prizes go to those who meet emergencies successfully. And the way to meet emergencies is to do each daily task the best we can."

The American people have done their best to meet each day of this crisis with resolve.

Now it is up to Congress to meet this crisis with the same kind of moral fiber.