

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