The House met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of mercy, thank You for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people’s House today. For those who have tested positive, bring them healing; for those in quarantine, keep them safe; for those working hard here or at home, give success to their efforts to benefit our suffering Nation and world.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be Your loving embrace to our neighbors.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the privilege of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.

Every day we are called to be holy people. Help us to be our best selves, and may all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 7(a) of House Resolution 891, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on March 27, 2020:

H.R. 748, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage;

H.R. 4771, to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appellants to appear in cases before the Board of Veterans’ Appeals by picture and voice transmission from locations other than facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to include their stated position on the voice vote on the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 748, and those statements will appear at the appropriate point in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, had there been a recorded vote on H.R. 748, the CARES Act, the Republican Members listed below would have voted as follows.

YEA; McKinley, YEA; Miller, YEA; Mitchell, YEA; McCaul, YEA; McClintock, YEA; McHenry, YEA; Mast, NAY; Lesko, YEA; Luetkemeyer, YEA; Hagedorn, YEA; Hartzler, YEA; Horn, YEA; Himes, NAY; Higgins (LA), YEA; Hill, YEA; Holding, YEA; Hudson, YEA; Huizenga, YEA; Johnson (OH), YEA; Joyce (OH), YEA; Joyce (PA), YEA; Keller, YEA; King (NY), YEA; King (IA), YEA; Kinzinger, YEA; Kustoff, YEA; Lamborn, NAY; Lesko, YEA; Luetkemeyer, YEA; Marshall, YEA; Mast, YEA; McCarthy, YEA; McCaul, YEA; McClintock, YEA; McHenry, YEA; McKinley, YEA; Miller, YEA; Mitchell,
YEA; Moore, YEA; Morgan, YEA; Morris, YEA; Morrell, YEA; Ndenge, YEA; Nieves, YEA; Olson, YEA; Palazzo, YEA; Pence, YEA; Posey, YEA; Ratcliffe, YEA; Reed, YEA; Reschenthaler, YPA; Rice (SC), YEA; Riddle, YEA; Roe, YEA; Rogers (KY), YEA; Rogers (AL), YEA; Rooney, YEA; Rose (TN), YEA; Rouzer, YEA; Rutherford, YEA; Scalise, YEA; Schweikert, YEA; Scott (GA), YEA; Shimkus, YEA; Simpson, YEA; Smith (NE), YEA; Smith (NJ), YEA; Smucker, YEA; Slotkin, YPA; Steinka, YEA; Steil, YEA; Thompson (PA), YEA; Timmons, YEA; Tipton, YEA; Upton, YEA; Van Drew, YEA; Wagner, YEA; Walberg, YEA; Waltz, YEA; Weber, YEA; Webster, YEA; Wenstrup, YEA; Williams, YEA; Wilson (SC), YEA; Yoho, NAY; Young, YEA; Zeldin, YEA.

Mr. AMASH. Madam Speaker, had there been a recorded vote I would have voted “nay” on H.R. 748, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, as amended.

Mr. AMODEI. Madam Speaker, had I been able to make the journey to Washington, D.C., I would have voted AYE on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 748—CAPES Act.

STUDENT VETERAN CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT OF 2020

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the Chair lays before the House the following bill (H.R. 6322) to make certain emergency situations, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6322

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be called the “Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. PAYMENT OF WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCES TO VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

Section 3485 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) If in case of an individual who is in receipt of work-study allowance pursuant to an agreement described in subsection (a)(3) as of the date on which an emergency situation occurs and who is unable to continue to perform qualifying work-study activities described in subsection (a)(4) by reason of the emergency situation—

“(1) the Secretary may continue to pay work-study allowance under this section or make deductions described in subsection (e)(1) during the period of such emergency situation notwithstanding the inability of the individual to perform such work-study activities by reason of such emergency situation; and

“(2) the amount of work-study allowance payable to an individual under paragraph (1)(A) during the period of an emergency situation shall be an amount determined by the Secretary but may not exceed the amount that would be payable under subsection (a)(2) if the individual worked 25 hours per week paid during such period.”.

SEC. 3. PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCES TO VETERANS ENROLLED IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION CLOSED FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

(a) TEMPORARY PROVISION—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the period beginning on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020, the Secretary may pay allowances to an eligible veteran or eligible person under section 3680(a)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code, if the veteran or person is enrolled in a program or course of education that—

(A) is provided by an educational institution that is closed by reason of an emergency situation; or

(B) is suspended by reason of an emergency situation.

(2) AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE.—The total number of weeks for which allowances may be paid under this section may not exceed four weeks.

(3) NOT COUNTED FOR PURPOSES OF LIMITATION.—Any amount paid under this section shall not be counted for purposes of the limitation on the aggregate amount for which a veteran may use entitlement under this chapter otherwise applicable under section 3680(b)(2)(A) of title 38, United States Code.

(b) PERMANENT PROVISION.—Section 3680(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “12-month” and inserting “six-month”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “six-months” and inserting “six-months”.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF CHARGE TO ENTRYPersonal Use of Students Unable to Pursue a Program of Education Due to an Emergency Situation.

Section 3699(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (B) by striking and inserting “; or” and “; and”;

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

“(K) the temporary closure of an educational institution or the temporary closure or termination of a course or program of education by reason of an emergency situation;”.

SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATIONS FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.

(a) Montgomery GI Bill.—Section 3031 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(J) In the case of an individual eligible for educational assistance under this chapter who is prevented from pursuing the individual’s chosen program of education before the expiration of entitlement, the Secretary shall extend the period during which the individual may use such entitlement for a period equal to the number of months that the individual was so prevented from pursuing the program of education, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(b) Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3212(b)(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting “in” at the end of “Subparagraph (A)’’;

(2) by striking “and (d)” and inserting “(d)”;

(3) by inserting “(d)” at the end of “Subparagraph (A)”;

(4) by striking “and (d)” and inserting “(d)”;

(5) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(G) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran who is a participant in the Education Long-Term Care Assistance Program has been prevented from participating in such program for a period equal to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in such program, such months shall be added to the period during which the veteran may use such entitlement.”.

(c) Vocational Rehabilitation and Training.—

(1) PERIOD FOR USE.—Section 3103 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “or (e)” and inserting “or (e)”;

(B) by striking at the end of “Subparagraph (d)” and inserting “; and”;

(2) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—Section 3105(b) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

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

“(3A) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Training Program, the Secretary shall extend the period during which the Secretary may provide such counseling and placement services for the veteran to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in such counseling and services, as determined by the Secretary.”.

(d) Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3212(b)(1) of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting “in” at the end of “Subparagraph (A)’’;

(2) by striking “and (d)” and inserting “(d)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(G) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Training Program under this chapter by reason of an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, such twelve-year period—

“(1) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from participating such program; and

“(2) shall again begin running on the first day after the individual is able to resume participation in such program.”.

(2) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—Section 3105(b) of such title is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

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

“(3A) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Training Program under this chapter by reason of an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, such twelve-year period—

“(1) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from participating such program; and

“(2) shall again begin running on the first day after the individual is able to resume participation in such program.”.

SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application thereof; and it is the sense of Congress that every provision of this Act and the application thereof to every person and circumstance is intended to be in effect to the maximum extent possible consistent with constitutionality.
to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period of the veteran’s vocational rehabilitation program for a period equal to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in the vocational rehabilitation program, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) Educational Assistance for Members of the Reserve.—Section 434 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) In any case in which the Secretary concerned determines that a person entitled to educational assistance under this chapter has been prevented from using such person’s entitlement by an Executive order of the President or to an emergency situation, the Secretary concerned shall extend the period of entitlement prescribed in subsection (a) for a period equal to the number of months that the person was so prevented from using such entitlement, as determined by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 6. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLOSURES OR DISAPPROVAL.

(a) Entitlement.—Section 3699 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “chapter 36,” each time it appears and inserting “chapter 30.”

(b) Payment of Subsistence Allowances.—Section 3699(a)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “or a subsistence allowance described in section 3108” before “,” during; and

(2) by inserting “or allowance” after “such a stipend.”

(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply as if included in the enactment of section 109 of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–48; 131 Stat. 978).

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF PAYMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES.

In the case of any veteran who the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines is satisfactorily following a program of employment services provided under section 3108(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, during periods ending on March 1, 2020, and ending on December 21, 2020, the Secretary may pay the veteran a subsistence allowance, as prescribed in section 3108 of such title, if the veteran is enrolled in a program or course of education that—

(1) is provided by an educational institution that is closed by reason of an emergency situation; or

(2) is suspended by reason of an emergency situation.

(b) Amount of Allowance.—The total number of weeks for which allowances may be paid under this section may not exceed four weeks.

(c) Not Counted for Purposes of Limitation.—Any amount paid under this section shall not be counted for purposes of the limitation on allowances under section 3108 of such title.

SEC. 8. PROHIBITION OF CHARGE TO ENTITLEMENT OF STUDENTS UNABLE TO PURSUE A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3699(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as if it were amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “and at the end and inserting “or”; and

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

“(C) the temporary closure of an educational institution or the temporary closure or termination of a course or program of education by reason of an emergency situation; and

SEC. 9. EXTENSION OF TIME LIMITATIONS FOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.

(a) Montgomery GI Bill.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3631 of title 38, United States Code, as if it were amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(l) In the case of an individual eligible for educational assistance under this chapter who is prevented from pursuing the individual’s program of education before the expiration of the 10-year period for the use of entitlement under this chapter otherwise applicable under this section because the educational institution closed (temporarily or permanently) under an established policy based on an Executive order of the President or to an emergency situation, such 10-year period—

“(1) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from pursuing such program; and

“(2) shall again begin running on the first day after the individual is able to resume participation in such program.”.

(b) Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.—

(1) In General.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3321(b)(1) of such title as if it were amended—

(A) by inserting “(A)” before “Subsections”;

(B) by striking “(d)” and inserting “(d), and (i)”;

and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Subsection (i) of section 3321 (as described in section 6 of the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act of 2020) shall apply with respect to the running of the 15-year period described in paragraphs (4)(A) and (5)(A) of this subsection in the same manner as such subsection applies to section 3321 with respect to the running of the 10-year period described in section 3321(a).”.

(2) Transfer Period.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3319(b)(6) of such title as if it were amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A) by inserting “or” after “in”; and

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

“(C) for an emergency situation.”.

(c) Vocational Rehabilitation and Training.—

(1) Period for Use.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3333 of such title as if it were amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “or” in clause (8) of section 3333(b); and

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

“(g) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in a vocational rehabilitation program under this chapter within the covered period of eligibility prescribed in subsection (b) by reason of an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, such twelve-year period—

“(1) shall not run during the period the individual is so prevented from participating in such program; and

“(2) shall again begin running on the first day after the individual is able to resume participation in such program.”.
(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(b) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3)(A) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in a vocational rehabilitation program or a placement and postplacement service described in section 310(a)(2) and (5) of this title by reason of an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period during which the Secretary may provide such counseling and placement and postplacement services for a period equal to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in such counseling and services, as determined by the Secretary.

(B) In any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran has been prevented from participating in a vocational rehabilitation program or a placement and postplacement service described in section 310(a)(2) and (5) of this title by reason of an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, the Secretary shall extend the period of the veteran’s vocational rehabilitation program for a period equal to the number of months that the veteran was so prevented from participating in the veteran’s vocational rehabilitation program, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.—During the covered period, the Secretary concerned shall apply section 163(b) of title 10, United States Code, as if it were amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) In any case in which the Secretary concerned determines that a person entitled to educational assistance under this chapter has been prevented from using such person’s entitlement by reason of an Executive order of the President or due to an emergency situation, the Secretary concerned shall extend the period of such person’s entitlement prescribed in subsection (a) for a period equal to the number of months that the person was so prevented from using such entitlement, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 7. RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT TO REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AFFECTED BY SCHOOL CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL.

(a) Entitlement.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3689 of title 38, United States Code, as if it were amended by striking “paragraph 30,” each time it appears and inserting “paragraphs 30 and 31.”

(b) Payment of Subsistence Allowances.—During the covered period, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall apply section 3689a of title 38, United States Code, as if it were amended—

(1) by inserting “or a subsistence allowance described in section 3108b” before “, during”;

(2) by inserting “or allowance” after “such a stipend”.

SEC. 8. EXTENSION OF PAYMENT OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCES.

In the case of any veteran whom the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines is satisfactorily following a program of employment services provided under section 310(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, during the covered period, the Secretary may pay the veteran a subsistence allowance, as prescribed in section 3108b of such title for full-time training for the type of program that the veteran was pursuing, for two additional months.

SEC. 9. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.

(a) In General.—This Act is designated as an emergency pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) Designation in Senate.—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 412(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the reading of the amendment is dispensed with.

There was no objection.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill, as engrossed, read a third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DENISE O’LEARY AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the Chair lays before the House the following joint resolution (S.J. Res. 66) providing for the appointment of Denise O’Leary as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. Res. 66
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes (20 U.S.C. 38), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the resignation of Barbara M. Barrett of Arizona on October 17, 2019, is filled by the appointment of Denise O’Leary of Colorado. The appointment is for a term of six years, beginning on the date of the enactment of this joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a substitute was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), the whole number of the House is 429.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED
Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were theretofore signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 27, 2020:

H.R. 748. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

H.R. 4771. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appellants to appear in cases before the Board of Veterans’ Appeals by picture and voice transmission from locations other than facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT
Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported that on March 18, 2020, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 6201. Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT
The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 7(b) of House Resolution 891, the House stands adjourned until Friday, April 3, 2020, at 10 a.m.

The House then adjourned at 3 o’clock and 5 minutes p.m., under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, April 3, 2020, at 10 a.m.
EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

4180. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of designation of funding as an emergency supplemental appropriation to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 116-9, Sec. 8(a); (133 Stat. 2318) (H. Doc. No. 116-112); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

4190. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a notice to Congress of the anticipated withdrawal of Selected Reserve units that will be ordered to active duty under the authority of Title 10 U.S.C. 1230b, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1230b(d); Public Law 112-91, Sec. 516(a)(1); (125 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4190. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Chromium Propionate [Docket No.: FDA-2018-F-3417] received March 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4191. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Banned Devices; Electrical Stimulation Devices for Self-Injurious or Aggressive Behavior [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-1111] received March 17, 2020, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4192. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting communication of the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 116-111); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

4193. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of National Emergency Authority to order the select and certain units of the Individual Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to active duty, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1631; Public Law 94-412, Sec. 301; (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 116-113); to the Committees on Armed Services and Transportation and Infrastructure, and ordered to be printed.

4194. Communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of measures taken to address the threatened impairment of the national security from the receipt of titanium sponge imports, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1631; Public Law 94-412, Sec. 301; (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 116-113); to the Committees on Ways and Means and Financial Services, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. POCAH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. SCHENKELBERG, Mr. BROWN, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 6417. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from withdrawing funds for certain research using human fetal tissue, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. PALMER, and Ms. SWEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 6418. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 509 Fairhope Avenue in Fairhope, Alabama, as the “William ‘Jack’ Jackson Edwards III Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NEGRE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 6419. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize a national network of Statewide senior legal hotlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. REYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENTAUFER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPEZ, Mr. ESPOSITO, Mr. ESPAÑA, Mr. ESPAÑOLL, Mr. FOSTERBERRY, Mr. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. HOUSING of New York, Ms. JACKSON Lee, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAP- TUR, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KISHINAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LASEG, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEBO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LUIJAN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCADAMS, Mr. MIEKIS, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MCCAUSSEL-Powell, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PETITSON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. PINSER, Mr. PLINTZ, Mr. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROSH of New York, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. ROYBAL ALFARO of California, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SARLIN, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SWEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA of Florida, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TLAIB, Mrs. TRANH, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDER-WOOD, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILD, Mr. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. KATKO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan):

H.R. 6420. A bill to allow 2020 recovery rebates with respect to qualifying children over the age of 16; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. CHERRY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. BAKES, Mr. YONGE, Mr. BUSCH of Utah, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 6421. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the deliberate concealment or distortion of information about public health emergencies of international concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:

H.R. 6423. A bill to provide for a temporary debt collection moratorium during the COVID-19 emergency period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 6424. A bill to extend the charitable deduction to all taxpayers regardless of whether a taxpayer itemizes deductions in order to encourage and increase charitable giving, and to provide for loans and loan guarantees to certain public charities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 6425. A bill making emergency appropriations for the United States Postal Service due to the coronavirus pandemic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSE of New York:

H.R. 6426. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program under which loans shall be made to certain health care providers to assist such organizations with anticipated revenue loss or higher operating costs as a result of the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committees on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself and Mr. TRONE):

H. Res. 914. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 6 through April 10, 2020, as National Assistant Principals Week; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 6422. A bill to facilitate efficient investments and financing of infrastructure projects and new job creation through the establishment of a National Infrastructure Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, Education and Labor, Natural Resources, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 6417. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. BYRNE:
H.R. 6418.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 6419.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)
By Ms. CRAIG:
H.R. 6420.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.
By Mr. CURTIS:
H.R. 6421.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 6422.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. LAWSON of Florida:
H.R. 6423.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
"Article 1, Section 8: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof" By Mr. MOULTON:
H.R. 6424.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 6425.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. ROSE of New York:
H.R. 6426.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.
ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 1364: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 1610: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2150: Ms. MENG and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2371: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3929: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4230: Ms. HAALAND.
H.R. 5289: Mr. STUERE.
H.R. 5770: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. NEGUZE.
H.R. 5887: Mr. HUDSON, Ms. GHANTER, and Mr. CARRAJAL.
H.R. 6072: Mr. ROSE of New York.
H.R. 6139: Mr. NEGUZE, Ms. TLALI, Mr. McNerney, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. MENG, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. SIBES.
H.R. 6242: Mr. BUD and Mr. EMER.
H.R. 6275: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 6319: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 6364: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, and Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 6365: Ms. Torres Small of New Mexico, Mr. GOHMIET, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. NEGUZE, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 6394: Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BALDERSOON, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 6396: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 6398: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MOUTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. ESPIRITU, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H. Res. 373: Mr. CLINE.
H. Res. 672: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Res. 697: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 906: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. SHALALA.
H. Res. 907: Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. DESJARDINS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. ADERHOLT.
Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has the responsibility to help individuals and businesses through this crisis because it is a 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 opportunity 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 the 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, inadvertently 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 combating the coronavirus.

May God bless you, our Nation during this time and heal our Land. God bless the great State of Georgia, and God bless America.
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 therein, the responsibility of the states 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 lose jobs. I also believe that if we are hunkering down in our homes, 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 frontline health care providers, community workers, state and local governments, and Utah small businesses and their employees. Coronavirus remains a dangerous disease 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 any problems 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.

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 country. This bill provides critical support for working families, our frontline health care providers, community workers, state and local governments, and Utah small businesses and their employees. Coronavirus remains a dangerous disease 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 any problems and focus on doing what is best for Utahns.

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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 provide 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, did 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 existence 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 50,000 people 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. It was more interested in reaping political gain, and in the form of a tax holiday. I recognize 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 alive until economic activity can resume, and to compensate those who have been ordered to forgo the fruits of their investment and labor.

As a sitting 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 was present. But while the Rules of the House dictate that any Member may ask for a recorded vote, they are partners and all have to play our respective part.

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. 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.

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 country. This bill provides critical support for working families, our frontline health care providers, community workers, state and local governments, and Utah small businesses and their employees. Coronavirus remains a dangerous disease 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 any problems 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.

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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 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 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 were employed. 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 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.

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.

Insurance companies that are responding to 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 needs a one-time payment, and for everyone to be entitled to the largest expansion of 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 case of most majority of everyday people to immediately help put cash in people’s pockets to pay those mounting bills.

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 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 continue to deliver life-saving care. It provides $100 billion 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 case of most 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, including critical steps towards providing access 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 small businesses will still be forced into 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 special needs, 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. The bill waives interest on 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 and 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 who 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 critically 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 equitable 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.

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—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 health and safety of passengers and 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 have 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 their families are not able to pay for health insurance. We need to expand protection of DACA and TPS recipients, or legal permanent residents who have been here for less than five years. This is immoral. COVID-19 does not discriminate 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 aggressively 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 suspend any rulemakings 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 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 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 all workers and their families. 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 this pandemic. The bill 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 people who are innocent, or who are contracting COVID-19, such as people who are age 50 and over and people with medical conditions. The criminal justice and immigration
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 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.
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 relying 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.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of this coalition of tribal governments, local units of governments, and local units of governments to 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.

Mr. KILDEE. 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.

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Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, this crisis has devastated our families, our communities, and our entire way of life. American 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 to 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.

Ms. ESHEL, Ms. Speaker, I rise in support of Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and the control of the Secretary of the Treasury, 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 Dire 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 avoid 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.

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 through 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.

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.

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We need 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-
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March 31, 2020

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. 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 tell 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 filed for unemployment 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 any-one 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 automobile workers will 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 wait-in periods for their 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 lay off their workers, the bill designates 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 ex- cess taxes on spirits for those used in the production of hand sanitizer in compliance with guidance from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), like Swallotail 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 and supplies. Though 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 coming to call on the Presi- dent to immediately ramp up domestic produc- tion 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 in- creases 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 Develop- ment Authority, investing billions into vaccines and therapeutics and $5 billion into the Strateg- etic 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 al- lowing 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 Com- munity Health Centers; authorizes 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 medical personnel 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) who face 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 in child care 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 assisted housing impacts caused by it.

We must provide relief to renters and homeowners while our current crisis rages on. 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. 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 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 on 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 President Trump has called 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 61 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 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 aide for our first responders and for our courting small business owners, and for the millions of Americans being pummelled 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 courting small business owners, 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 Ellender 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 his older sister and attend junior high. He later returned to his hometown to complete his secondary education at William Hooper Council High School. Lowery attended 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 President 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 GALLEGO
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, March 27, 2020

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the bill that we are voting on today, the
March 31, 2020

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — Extensions of Remarks

E347

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.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 2, 2020.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 10 public bills, H.R. 6417–6426; and 1 resolution, H. Res. 914, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Making certain improvements in the educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations: The House agreed to take from the Speaker’s table and pass H.R. 6322, to make certain improvements in the educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, as amended by Representative Pelosi.

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Meadows, wherein he resigned as Representative for the Eleventh Congressional District of North Carolina, effective at 5 p.m. on March 30, 2020.

Whole Number of the House: The Speaker announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Meadows, the whole number of the House is 429.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Thursday, April 2

Senate Chamber
Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Friday, April 3

House Chamber
Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

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