

they want us to do, and we could do it probably just as quickly if the majority leader took a moment to sit down with us and negotiate that piece.

There are also other major demands on the system right now that we should address at this moment, and one of them is something I know we are all hearing about every day, which is to protect the healthcare workers on the frontlines. After all, if we want to address the economic crisis, we need to address the health crisis that precipitated that. We need to flatten this virus out, bring it down, and that is the best way to get on the road to economic recovery.

I am sure all of my colleagues are hearing from their nurses and doctors and frontline healthcare workers about the urgent need for personal protective equipment. We provided funds in the original bill, but we know, today, that that will be exhausted quickly. We know it because we can add up the requests coming from around the country. So let's address that issue. We are hearing about it every day.

Just yesterday at our delegation, our region, Senator CARDIN and I and other members of the Maryland delegation, we wrote to FEMA just yesterday, to the Administrator of FEMA. We pointed out that in our most recent requests, Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia received just a small percentage of the equipment that we requested from FEMA. The District received no hospital ventilators. I would point out for all of us who are following this, it is predicted that this—Maryland, DC, and Virginia—is going to be one of the next hotspots. Zero ventilators, zero safety goggles—we asked for 663,000 gloves, and over 1 million respirators masks. We got 4,000 of one. That is one problem we need to

address on an urgent basis, just as urgently as we need to address the small business situation.

Testing—my goodness, look, this virus, we all know, got an 8 to 10-week head start on us because we were flat-footed when it came to testing. We need a national rapid testing system so that we can ensure that people will get the tests and find out whether they have the virus. That not only helps us fight the virus, but it will also help us as we try to get the country back to work on the other end of this. I would propose those are real needs as well and that we can address those here now.

In addition to that, as Senator CARDIN said, we just spoke to Maryland's Governor yesterday who, in addition to being Maryland's Governor, is the head of the National Governors Association. He and Governor Cuomo have worked very closely together. We have a bipartisan request from the National Governors Association to help States and local jurisdictions. We have been on the phone nonstop with our local officials. They are running out of equipment. We have got firefighters who need help. We have emergency responders who need help.

All of these requests are urgent and, I believe, could be dealt with on a bipartisan basis, if the majority leader would just take a moment, instead of trying to rush this through, and we could actually get it done, as we were able to do before with the 96-to-nothing vote.

So, at this time, Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk. I know people are anxious to get out of here. We didn't have to come in at all, if it hadn't been for the decision to try to ram this through. I just want to make that point. To the majority lead-

er, we knew this wasn't going to get through. I see people are frustrated and want to leave, but let's get it done, and let's get it done right, and let's have another 96-to-nothing vote here in the U.S. Senate.

So I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader modify the request and ask that the amendment at the desk, which is the text of the interim emergency COVID-19 Relief Act, be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed with no further intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. CARDIN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would just repeat that all the amendment I offered would do is change the amount in the bill—that is all—to respond to the obvious emergency we have with the Paycheck Protection Program.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
APRIL 13, 2020, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. McCONNELL. With that, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned in accordance with the order of March 26, 2020, for previously ordered pro forma sessions.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:34 and 7 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, April 13, 2020, at 10 a.m.