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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Your words are true. Guide our lawmakers with Your precepts. Give them a passion for whatever is just, worthy, and honorable. Guide them to cultivate such reverence for Your providence that they will repeatedly pray for Your will to be done. Remind them that if they faint under pressure, then their strength is too small. Help them, therefore, to look to You, for You are able to do immeasurably, abundantly above all that they can ask or imagine, according to Your power, working in and through them.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, despite the hardships and headaches and heartaches that so many families are experiencing right now, there are countless acts of kindness that show humanitarian goodness taking place in the entire country, but I notice them

across my State of Iowa. From rainbow art decorating windows to inspirational chalk messages on sidewalks, Iowans are donating their time, talent, and treasure to support local businesses, food pantries, and grab-and-go meals for students.

As just one example, the residents of a retirement community are sewing 35 to 40 masks per day for healthcare professionals and laundry service workers at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. They are also supplying local food banks and others who need them in their community. The Iowa City senior threaders are among the countless silver linings that are lighting America's path to recovery.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it has been a little more than 100 days since the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the United States. Since then, our Nation has come face-to-face with this full-scale pandemic. Families have hunkered down and changed their routines. Bustling Main Streets have literally come to a halt. Essential workers have taken new precautions to keep the supply chains running. And, of course, brave healthcare providers have stretched the limits of their supplies and their stamina to care for patients. All the while, even with the entire country doing its best to fight this disease, it has stolen the lives of nearly 70,000 of our fellow Americans.

Our Nation is facing the most severe pandemic since 1918 and quite possibly the worst economic shock since the Great Depression. And we are facing

them at the same time. This is a historic challenge, and the Senate is helping the country meet it.

In early March, we passed an initial response to help communities handle the outbreak. We spent billions of dollars to enhance our public health response, to promote development of vaccines and treatment, and to help the healthcare providers and small businesses in places that were bearing the brunt of the virus.

Just days later, we delivered billions more in phase 2. It sought to expand access to testing and to help workers.

Then we built the historic CARES Act, the largest rescue package in America's history, and then passed it without a single vote in opposition. It sent more than \$2 trillion in direct money to American households, support for employees' paychecks, stability for major employers, and resources for the healthcare fight itself.

Predictably, these huge, historic efforts have encountered some challenges along the way. There is no way the Federal Government could make years' worth of small business loans in a few weeks or rapidly cut checks to most American households without any hiccups at all. But on the whole, it has been encouraging to see Congress, the administration, the Federal Reserve, and the American people—all of us—leap into action together to help our country.

Our work is making a difference. But, ultimately, we know there is no policy Congress could pass, nor any amount of money we could spend, that would keep the entire economy glued together if these blunt shutdowns continue indefinitely.

So while our legislation has rightly poured money into short-term help for the economy, we have also made sure to invest in the tools and tactics we will need to contain and beat the virus so that our country can step back toward normalcy: testing, tracking, treatments, and the race for a vaccine.

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



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