

What is more, this return-to-work bonus would put additional cash in the hands of individuals who lost their jobs due to the health crisis, which would provide additional stimulus to the economy, which is experiencing historic declines in consumer spending. This incentive for people to get back into the workforce to get our economy running again is exactly the kind of policy we should all want. Instead, I will tell you that as for the \$3 trillion House bill we talked about earlier, all it does is to propose extending the \$600 per month from the end of its expiration at the end of July into the beginning of next year.

We talked earlier about how the next package—whatever it is—ought to encourage the economy to get moving again, right? The House bill doesn't do that in a lot of respects we talked about. But, specifically, on unemployment insurance, what it says is, let's continue this policy of making it harder for people to get back to work. It will ensure that that 60 or 70 percent of the workforce that the study showed are making more on unemployment insurance would be better off staying on the unemployment rolls.

By the way, it is also another \$300 billion of taxpayer spending in this \$3 trillion bill. I don't think it is going to move our country forward. It is going to make it even harder to get back on track.

By the way, our back-to-work bonus also benefits taxpayers. So instead of \$300 billion in additional funding that is going to go into the House bill for unemployment insurance, if we assume that States would have trouble enforcing their UI laws, which we talked about earlier, and that individuals would choose unemployment over returning to work, even if 25 percent of those who were on unemployment insurance today chose to take advantage of this \$450 bonus—and I think a lot will; I think a lot more than that will, but let's be conservative, and let's say that just 25 percent take advantage of it—that will result in tens of billions of dollars of savings to the taxpayer.

Think about it. For the State, they will not have the unemployment insurance benefit that they are providing because the person will be at work. That is good. And for the Federal Government, the \$600 is reduced to \$450. So that enables savings to the taxpayer. It enables people to get back to work. It allows our small businesses to be able to reopen.

It is a solution that I think Republicans and Democrats alike can get behind. Let's continue to help the people who can't return to the workplace through no fault of their own, but let's also remember that the American people right now are looking to us here in Congress to come together on a bipartisan basis to put in place policies that will actually help move us forward in this crisis, get back to normalcy, get back to work safely, and get our economy back on the historically strong

footing it had here only a few months ago.

Back in February, we had the 19th straight month of wage increases of over 3 percent, most of which was going to lower income and middle-income workers. We had unemployment tied with the 50-year low. Unemployment was low then. It is incredibly high now.

To get back to that, we have to put some more policies in place, and I believe the back-to-work bonus is exactly that. It will not solve everything, but it will help people get back into jobs, and it will send a clear message that Congress is looking forward and providing a positive path forward for workers, for small businesses, and for taxpayers.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I was unable to attend the vote No. 93 on May 18, 2020, on the nomination of Scott H. Rash to be the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported the nomination.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Michigan heroes who have given their lives for their country while serving in our military. This is an especially fitting time to do so as we commemorate the 75th anniversary this year of the end of World War II.

The people of Michigan have always stood up whenever our Nation has needed us. That was certainly the case during World War II. Perhaps no State was as crucial to our Nation's victory in the fight against tyranny as was Michigan.

More than half a million Michigan men and women proudly served in uniform in the Pacific Theater, the Atlantic Theater, and anywhere and everywhere we were called. Back home, the people of our State were hard at work producing the bombers, tanks, trucks, helmets, and guns needed to win the war. We were the Arsenal of Democracy, and both at home and abroad, victory depended on us, the people of Michigan.

We won that fight; yet the costs were staggeringly high. Sadly, more than 10,000 Michiganders never made it home. These were our beloved children and parents, siblings and cousins, friends and neighbors. We were so incredibly proud of their willingness to give everything—even their lives—to defend freedom; yet that pride could never fully fill the aching loss our families and communities endured. Those losses are still felt 75 years later.

Now, once again, Michigan is mourning. Far too many of our beloved children and parents, siblings and cousins, friends and neighbors have been lost to

an invisible enemy that can't be seen or heard; yet just as we did in World War II—just as Michigan has always done—we are standing up, and we are fighting back, together.

Our plants once produced bombers and tanks; today, they are producing ventilators and respirators, gowns and testing supplies. People are stepping up to serve across our State: tending the sick in our hospitals and clinics, delivering food to neighbors in need, even sewing masks to keep one another safe.

Seventy-five years after World War II, a lot of things have changed, but one thing hasn't: The people of Michigan are still willing to step up and serve whenever and wherever we are needed, and we are needed today.

On Memorial Day and every day, let us remember all servicemembers we have lost, thank those who are still with us, and surround our military families with love and support. Our military members and veterans have provided us the very best examples to follow. Let's honor their service and sacrifice with our actions.

TRIBUTE TO MYRON LEPP

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor the half century of distinguished Federal service of a remarkable North Dakota man who is retiring at the end of May.

Myron Lepp has been the administrative program director for the North Dakota office of USDA Rural Development for the past 13 years. He took this position after 37 years in the military, retiring as a full colonel. In these 50 years of service, Myron has brought knowledge, intelligence and dedication to everything he has undertaken.

He began his military service in 1971 and became a commissioned officer in 1976. Myron served in the North Dakota National Guard as director of information management for 12 years and later held other positions such as chief of staff for the adjutant general, State director of maintenance, and joint forces logistics director. In his final 2 years in the military, he was the national command logistics inspector for the National Guard Readiness Center in Washington, DC, traveling every other week to conduct combat readiness inspections at all State Army National Guard units.

Myron brought this invaluable background to the USDA Rural Development office, giving exemplary guidance to the crucial work this agency does to support our rural communities in North Dakota. His lifelong background in farming and ranching enhanced this work. Myron has raised crops such as wheat, oats, and corn, and he has a cow/calf operation near his hometown of Lehr.

I came to appreciate Myron's dedication and professional expertise when we worked together on North Dakota's Roughrider Honor Flight program. As president of this program, Myron oversaw the work of many dedicated