

flows to small businesses and enterprises that truly need it. I look forward to working with him and our colleagues on reforms to the program should Congress make the decision to extend it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter I send to the desk be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESSIONAL INTENT FOR H.R. 7010

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, would like to clarify the congressional intent for H.R. 7010, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was authorized by Congress under the CARES Act as a short-term solution to help businesses make ends meet and continue to pay their employees during the initial shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the CARES Act, authorized funds for the program are set to expire on June 30, 2020, allowing for no new loans to be issued after this date.

H.R. 7010 amends the CARES Act to provide businesses with greater flexibility for their use of PPP loans. Section 3(a) of H.R. 7010 changes the definition of the "covered period" defined by section 1102(a) of the CARES Act to be from February 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020 instead of from February 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020, as under current law. We wish to clarify the congressional intent of this extension of the covered period to December 31, 2020, and our expectations about how the amended program will operate.

The CARES Act requires that PPP loans may only be spent on allowable uses during the covered period. In addition to the uses otherwise allowed by section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, the CARES Act authorizes as allowable uses "payroll costs; costs related to the continuation of group health care benefits during periods of paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums; employee salaries, commissions, or similar compensations; payments of interest on any mortgage obligation (which shall not include any prepayment of or payment of principal on a mortgage obligation); rent (including rent under a lease agreement); utilities; and interest on any other debt obligations that were incurred before the covered period." The intention of the extension of the covered period in H.R. 7010 is to allow borrowers who received PPP loans before June 30, 2020 to continue to make expenditures for allowable uses until December 31, 2020. The extension of the covered period does not authorize the Small Business Administration (SBA) to issue any new PPP loans after June 30, 2020, as this date remains fixed by section 1102(b) of the CARES Act.

The extension of the covered period defined in section 1102(a) of the CARES Act should not be construed so as to permit the SBA to continue accepting applications for loans after June 30, 2020. Our intent and understanding of the law is that, consistent with the CARES Act as amended by H.R. 7010, when the authorization of funds to guarantee new PPP loans expires on June 30, 2020, the SBA and participating lenders will stop accepting and approving applications for PPP loans, regardless of whether the commitment level enacted by the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act has been reached.

MIKE LEE,
United States Senator.
MARCO RUBIO,

United States Senator.
DEAN PHILLIPS,
Member of Congress.
RON JOHNSON,
United States Senator.
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
United States Senator.
CHIP ROY,
Member of Congress.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7010) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the Pack nomination ripen at 11:40 a.m. tomorrow, with 20 minutes of debate under the control of Senator MENENDEZ prior to the vote; I further ask that if cloture is invoked on the Pack nomination, the postcloture time expire at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow; finally, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

TRIBUTE TO PIA CORONA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are so many critical jobs that go on around the Capitol that may not always get the spotlight or appreciation they deserve.

Today, I would like to mention one such amazing person, Pia Corona, or as she is affectionately known, Ms. Pia.

You see, Pia is a teacher at the Senate Employees Childcare Center, a caring, nurturing, and deeply special component of the Senate community.

Six years ago, on the 30th anniversary of the center, then-Senator Tom Harkin described the teachers and administrators at the center as, "some of the unsung heroes of the Senate."

I couldn't agree more, and it is a privilege to pay special tribute today to one of those unsung heroes.

This month marks Pia's 25 year anniversary teaching at the center, a mon-

umental accomplishment that has allowed her the opportunity to have a lasting impact on countless young lives.

A number of children of my staff were fortunate to have Ms. Pia as a teacher and cannot say enough wonderful things about her, so much so that they still keep in touch and bring their children by to visit years after leaving the center. Elle, Oliver and Leo, just three of many examples, still recognize Ms. Pia as an impactful figure in their early lives and in their education.

Pia, a stalwart New York Yankees fan, started at the Senate Employees Childcare Center in May 1995, always working in the pre-kindergarten class to help children prepare for the big jump to elementary school kindergarten. Over the last two and half decades, she taught more than 400 children, including many siblings.

Ms. Pia has a unique understanding of how each child learns differently and loving ability to meet those individual needs at such a tender and formative age. Not surprisingly, she is described by her colleagues as a walking encyclopedia of knowledge on child development, and her classroom lessons and caring style reflect these incredible talents.

One of her special field trips was a walk over to the late Senator John Glenn's office when her students were studying space. A picture of this outing still hangs at the center.

Pia also helped organize a visit to this very Senate floor for her class. They listened patiently as the Secretary of the Senate gave her own pre-K version of School House Rock. It was, without a doubt, the most well-behaved gathering that the Senate floor has seen in years.

Pia makes such an impression on children that many of her former students still reach out to her, including one recent college graduate who wanted to say thank you all these years later. I know children of some of my staff have returned to the center to read to Ms. Pia's students during storytime.

As we struggle with the coronavirus pandemic, we have all been reminded once again of the critical importance of our teachers and schools. Ms. Pia's students certainly knew that was the case from their time in her class.

We all remember a teacher or two who made a lasting impact on our lives growing up—challenging us, inspiring us, nurturing us. Ms. Pia will surely be one that many remember as just such a special teacher.

I congratulate Pia Corona on her notable anniversary and deeply meaningful contribution to the Senate community. Our country and our world need good news and kindness right now. Simply put, that is Ms. Pia.

CONGRESSIONAL POWER OF THE PURSE ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the authors of our Constitution purposefully built checks and balances into the foundation of our democracy, and the power of the purse is a critical part of those checks and balances. Article 1, section 9 of the Constitution states "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." That means Congress, not the executive branch, is charged with making decisions about how to invest and spend Federal revenue. As the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I take this responsibility very seriously.

When Congress appropriates Federal dollars, we expect those dollars to be used as directed. We expect appropriations laws to be upheld, and we expect the administration to be transparent in its actions.

But for too many years, Presidents of both parties have encroached on the power of the purse as they have tried to expand their budgetary powers and, in some cases, substitute their judgment for that of Congress. This has been acutely true under this administration. No President has pushed the boundaries of and contorted appropriations law more than President Trump.

When Congress refused to give President Trump the money he requested for a wall on the southern border, he directed his administration to sidestep Congress and take it from funding for our military and their families. He continues to do so to this day.

The President wanted to pressure the Government of Ukraine into investigating his political rival, so he withheld security money for Ukraine in violation of the Impoundment Control Act. An action that would eventually lead to his impeachment.

Last year, the administration asserted to Congress that it had the power to propose rescissions in the last quarter of the fiscal year and further asserted it had the power to allow the funds to lapse if Congress did not act on its proposal, essentially claiming the executive branch, not Congress, had the last word on spending. The Government Accountability Office, GAO, thankfully and rightfully, disagreed. Last year, this administration also overturned a long held precedent that the executive branch did not need to respond to findings by GAO of violations of the Anti-Deficiency Act. Finally, this administration has suppressed OMB and executive branch agency cooperation with GAO in investigating the execution of appropriated funds.

The push and pull over the power of the purse between Congress and the executive branch did not start with President Trump and will not end when he is no longer in office. Administrations of both parties have clashed with Congress over this authority. But the actions of this President make clear that Congress needs to reassert itself

and defend its constitutionally granted prerogatives. This should not be a partisan issue. The Founders chose to vest the power of the purse with Congress. It is an important part of our system of checks and balances, and we must defend it.

That is why I am introducing the Congressional Power of the Purse Act. This bill will restore Congress's central role in funding decisions, increase transparency in the executive branch, and add teeth to existing budget laws.

The bill strengthens the Impoundment Control Act, including the addition of penalties for failure to comply. The bill strengthens administration reporting requirements and congressional oversight tools, so Congress can better follow the money and ensure the law is being complied with. Finally, the bill reforms the National Emergencies Act of 1974 to provide more Congressional control over these designations and how they are used. I hope all members can support it.

I commend Representative LOWEY and Representative YARMUTH for introducing a similar bill in the House, and I hope that the House will send the bill to the Senate in July.

I ask unanimous consent that the following members be listed as original cosponsors: Senators MURRAY, VAN HOLLEN, FEINSTEIN, COONS, BALDWIN, WYDEN, MERKLEY, WHITEHOUSE, SCHATZ, SANDERS, SHAHEEN, TESTER, UDALL, CARDIN, REED, DURBIN, MURPHY and MANCHIN. I would note that this list of cosponsors includes every Democratic Member of the Appropriations Committee.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 104 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 655. Victor G. Mercado, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vote No. 105 to confirm Mr. Mercado, vote No. 106 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 652, Brian D. Miller, of Virginia, to be Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery, and vote No. 107 to confirm Mr. Miller. On votes Nos. 104 and 105, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture and confirm Mr. Mercado. On votes Nos. 106 and 107, had I present, I would have voted no on the motion to invoke cloture and confirm Mr. Miller.

Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 108 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 656, James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense. On vote No. 108, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Mr. Anderson.

Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 109 to confirm Executive Calendar No. 656, James H. Anderson, of Virginia, to be a Deputy

Under Secretary of Defense. On vote No. 109, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to confirm Mr. Anderson.

Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 110 to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 644, Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. On vote No. 110, had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to invoke cloture on Mr. Tipton.

Mr. President, I was absent when the Senate voted on vote No. 111 to confirm Executive Calendar No. 644, Drew B. Tipton, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. On vote No. 111, had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to confirm Mr. Tipton.●

DEFENSE NOMINATIONS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, after Monday's shameful display by the Secretary of Defense, I voted against the President's nominees to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

The language of war has no place on American streets in the face of peaceful protests. Secretary Esper's dangerous comment that the military needs to "dominate the battlespace"—referring to American cities—threatened the lives of American citizens exercising their constitutional rights. His willingness to accompany the President to a photo-op after gassing peaceful protesters underscores the moral rot in the Department's leadership.

At this time, I have lost confidence that any nominee can be trusted to stand up to the President's attempts to weaponize the Defense Department for his personal and political ends. For that reason, I voted against his nominees in the Department.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA AND BIPHOBIA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I rise to mark the start of LGBT Pride Month with reflections on the recent International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia—IDAHOBIT. For more than 50 years, Pride Month has been a reminder that, despite recent progress, every day, millions of people around the world face social stigmatization, legal prosecution, and even violence based on their sexual orientation or because of their gender identity. COVID-19 is necessitating adjustments to how this month is celebrated, with organizers moving large-scale parades from the streets of towns and cities to the internet, where a 24-hour online Global Pride celebration is planned for later this month.

Two short weeks ago was the annual commemoration of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia