

turn supports as many as 30 American jobs.

So I am extremely proud to be a co-sponsor of the Great American Outdoors Act, I am proud of the work our colleagues have put in to get it this far, and I look forward to seeing it passed.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1957, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 75, H.R. 1957, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday at the Fountain of Praise Church in Houston, TX, a funeral service was held in honor of the life of George Floyd, whose death has moved hundreds of thousands of people across America and around the world to peacefully march against police violence. Today, his brother Philonise Floyd will testify in front of the House Judiciary Committee.

It is hard to imagine the courage it takes, so soon after the tragic, awful, and brutal loss of a family member, to not only grieve in the national spotlight but to turn that pain into action. There have been many reasons for Americans to be shocked and outraged, angry and frustrated with the injustice they have seen in their country, but the entire Floyd family has given the Nation reason to hope.

Now, Democrats in the House and Senate have proposed legislation that

would directly respond to the issues of racial bias and excessive force in our police departments. The Justice in Policing Act would ban the use of chokeholds, limit the transfer of military equipment to local departments, make it easier to hold police misconduct accountable, and institute a whole lot of reforms to help prevent that misconduct in the first place. It is a comprehensive proposal, and many of the experts on racism, discrimination, and inequality in police departments have had large input into the bill.

We need action on the Justice in Policing Act as soon as possible, and we Democrats in the Senate will work like hell to make it happen. The moment calls for bold and broad-scale change. We need wholesale reform, not piecemeal reform. We cannot approach this debate by cherry-picking one or two reforms and calling the job complete. It is my worry that is what our Republican colleagues intend to do. We need a strong bill. The Justice in Policing Act is where we should begin.

The Senate is a collaborative institution, at least by design, but there is one person alone who decides what legislation reaches the floor, and that is Leader MCCONNELL. For 2 weeks I have asked him to commit to a debate and a vote on a police reform bill by July 4—an open debate and certainly an ability to vote on the Justice in Policing Act. I still have not received an answer.

Is it too much to ask that, as hundreds of thousands, if not millions, are in the streets, when the vast majority of Americans think we need reform, that the leader spend some floor time here so we can debate this issue and maybe move forward for the first time in a long time? I don't think so. But our leader is silent, missing in action, as he is on so many different major issues that face America.

After House and Senate Democrats released the draft legislation on Monday, yesterday, Senate Republicans announced they would put together “a working group” to prepare their own set of proposals. Working groups are all fine and well, but it is critical that we pursue comprehensive reform, not seek the lowest common denominator, and it is critical that we get a real commitment to consider strong legislation on the floor.

Unfortunately, in the aftermath of other recent moments of national strife, particularly the mass shootings, President Trump, Leader MCCONNELL, and Senate Republicans make the right noises—let's study it; let's consider it—but never follow through.

Leader MCCONNELL once promised that a debate on expanding background checks would be “front and center” on the Senate floor after shootings in Dayton and El Paso. “What we can't do is fail to pass something,” he said. Yet there was no debate on expanding background checks, and the Republican majority in the Senate did exactly what Leader MCCONNELL said that it could not—it failed to pass anything on gun safety.

So while I welcome ideas from our Republican colleagues, we need a hard and fast commitment from the Republican leader to put real, broad-scale police reform on the Senate floor before July 4.

Americans, please, be watching the Senate. Watch the leader. Watch the Republicans.

Is this going to be another situation just like with gun control, just like with background checks, where they talked a good game, tried to let the issue fade away, and did nothing? The Nation—the Nation—will not let this issue fade away, I assure my Republican friends.

CORONAVIRUS

There is another major crisis in the country at the moment as well. COVID-19 continues to kill and infect Americans. Case numbers are rising in Western States—Arizona, New Mexico, California, and Oregon. The massive disruption to economic activity initially left more than 40 million—40 million—Americans without work.

This week it became official: The United States has been in recession—the first one in many years—since February.

In truth, the issues of racial justice and COVID-19 are not unrelated. The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately kills Black Americans. Communities of color have less access to quality healthcare, greater food insecurity, greater percentages of poverty, and a disproportionate number of our front-line essential workers—41.2 percent—are African American and Latino. Yet you are starting to hear my friends on the other side strum sunny chords because one jobs report wasn't quite as awful as it might have been, awful as it was.

The President made a revolting comment that the recent jobs report was a great day for George Floyd and equality, even though it showed African-American unemployment continuing to rise. What a horrible comment.

Everyone is rooting for our country to return to normal as quickly and as safely as possible and for our economy to rebound with similar speed, but unemployment sits at 13 percent—higher than any point since the great recession—and the President and my Republican colleagues are ready to declare victory.

After saying that another COVID relief bill was likely in June, Leader MCCONNELL has told the Republican caucus not to expect another relief bill until late July at the earliest—late July at the earliest, as millions are out of work, millions risk being removed from their homes, millions can't feed their families.

Racial justice, civil rights, a global pandemic, an economic disaster—this is truly a time of historic challenge, and Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans are missing in action. No