

are reeling from the loss of revenue due to the economic shutdown caused by the pandemic. There is no Governor in this country—Republican or Democrat—there is no county administrator or city leader who I think would stand up and say: “We are fine. We don’t need any help. We are in great shape.”

No. They all have one message, and it has been coming through from the National Association of Republican Governors and the National Association of Democratic Governors: You must give us resources and flexibility to use these resources to fulfill our obligation to the people of our States.

That is the message. We are seeing school districts across the Nation starting to lay people off in anticipation of budget cuts. Even if they are able to maintain current levels of staffing and financial resources, it would not be enough to meet the upcoming challenges. Even if they could keep their staff in place, where do they get the extra money for the infrastructure repairs, for the traditional Wi-Fi, for the additional teaching changes that have to take place, for the different approaches to education one must take in order to be effective in social distancing?

The School Superintendents Association of the United States estimates that the average traditional COVID-related cost per student will be \$490. We need at least that.

We must go forward with a package that includes provisions of the Childcare Educational Relief Act, the Library Stabilization Fund Act, and the State and Local Stabilization Fund Act to ensure that this generation of Americans can overcome the pandemic and reach its full potential.

This is a generational crisis. Just as Americans of previous generations have been called upon to sacrifice and to commit themselves to the young of this country so that they could have a better future, we are being called upon to do that, and we are waiting for an answer.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

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. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to speak about a topic that is very close to my heart.

As the son of Cuban refugees and as a first-generation American, the struggles of immigrant families are not something I read about in books or watched on television. I lived them. I

saw with my own eyes what it meant to grow up in an immigrant family in a low-income tenement in Union City, NJ. My mother worked tirelessly as a seamstress and sacrificed everything to make sure that my siblings and I could have a better life and a better future, because that is the very essence of what we call the American dream. It is about ensuring that the next generation has it better than we do and that our children and grandchildren and their children and grandchildren have greater opportunities than we do to realize their full potential.

It doesn’t matter who you are, where you are from, or when your ancestors came to this country. We are a nation built by immigrants. Every single member of this great and storied body is a descendant of those who came to America, seeking better lives for themselves and their loved ones.

The President is a second-generation American. His grandfather, Friedrich Trump, came here from Germany. Our First Lady is herself an immigrant. Yet this administration and President Trump have gone to painstaking lengths to deny, erase, and ignore the contributions of immigrants to American life and culture, innovation and ingenuity, economy and prosperity. They have worked overtime to deny the very fact that the immigrant story is America’s story.

As an old saying in Spanish goes, (English translation of the statement made in Spanish is as follows): “There is nothing worse than not wanting to see what is right in front of you.”

Donald Trump’s endless lies and attacks on immigrants started long before he descended down that escalator in Trump Tower to announce his run for the Presidency. They haven’t stopped since.

The President recently took another aggressive step in his war to erase immigrants from the portrait of America when he issued an unconstitutional edict to exclude our undocumented brothers and sisters from being counted in the 2020 census for the purpose of determining representation in Congress.

His message was loud and clear to immigrant communities across the country: You are not welcome here. You don’t belong here. You don’t count.

His goal is to instill fear in immigrant communities, and that is shameful and un-American.

Let’s be clear. The U.S. Constitution is explicit on this particular point. Article I, section 2 clearly reads: “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons.”

The census requires an accurate count of all persons living in the country. It does not distinguish between status or citizenship. It could have

read that it requires an account of all citizens of the then-United States, of the Union. It could have read that it is an account of all citizens and all legal permanent residents. It didn’t read that either.

It specifically recognized this because, as the Union was developing, there were people from different walks of life in the United States, and it purposely understood that not all of them would necessarily be citizens at the time of accounting, but who was in America at any given time from the creation of the Constitution was important—all persons.

My friends, we have been sent here to serve all of our constituents in our home States, no matter the color of their skin, their gender, or their legal status.

The history of America is intertwined with immigrant stories. In every State of our Union, immigrants work in every industry and contribute in all facets of American life—the most important parts of our lives.

They work in our fields, picking our fruits and vegetables. They are checkers at grocery stores and construction workers, building our bridges and homes. They educate our children in our schools. They treat the sick in our hospitals as nurses, doctors, and mental health professionals. They wear the uniform and carry our flag in the U.S. armed services.

In fact, during this pandemic, hundreds of thousands of immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, have put their lives on the line to serve as essential frontline workers and to keep businesses open, despite the administration actively seeking to deport them.

Like many American citizens, they are risking their lives every day, while being disproportionately affected by COVID-19, to provide others with the services they need and to protect the health and safety of our fellow Americans. All the while, they are facing disproportionate infection and death rates from this horrible disease. They are the invisible heroes of this pandemic. They are the ones who make it possible for us to receive the essential goods and services so that we can stay home, which is what we are told by the Nation’s public health officials.

But the message from the President to these essential workers, who perform backbreaking work in our fields, care for our children, or treat you at the hospital is: You are not worthy.

I ask every single one of my colleagues if, God forbid, you were infected with COVID-19, would you really care about the citizenship status of the doctor or nurse treating you? Would you ask for his or her legal papers before getting help? Would any of you refuse to eat fruit or vegetables in your homes picked by the calloused hands of an undocumented immigrant sweating in our fields? Would you rather not have a highway built in your State because the workers have a native language other than English?

Now, many of you would tell me that is nonsense. But yet, the Trump Presidency has been marked by deafening silence in the face of this inflammatory, xenophobic, immoral campaign against immigrants.

Just take the example of TPS and DACA beneficiaries. As my home State of New Jersey struggled in the early days of the pandemic—until recently, we had the second-most cases of COVID-19—temporary protective status holders like Madelia Cartagena in Newark and Dreamers like Daysi from Monmouth County rose to the challenge presented by the pandemic.

As more than 131,000 temporary protective status holders across the Nation, and 7,500 in New Jersey alone, Madelia was considered an essential worker as the company she has worked for in the last 17 years had to respond to the increasing demand for sanitizer dispensers.

For Daysi, the fact that she was brought to the United States from Central America at just 9 years old meant nothing to the patients whose lives she was helping to save. What mattered is that she showed up when she was needed, and that she did so despite the lingering threat that DACA, or deferred action for children arrivals, would be abruptly terminated, and with it her ability to remain in this country. She showed up every day, helping to save lives.

Put simply, TPS holders like Madelia and DACA beneficiaries like Daysi help us heal and will also help our economy recover. They represent among the best of America.

To give you some context, when I say they will help our economy recover, Dreamers bring in a net \$3.4 billion annually to the U.S. Treasury and generate \$42 billion in gross domestic product each year—Dreamers.

Yet the administration has fought tooth and nail to send Dreamers packing, despite the American flag being the only one they have ever pledged allegiance to and the national anthem being the only national anthem they have ever sung.

Even after the Supreme Court's recent ruling—the Supreme Court, the highest Court in the land—that the termination of DACA was unlawful, the administration has openly defied the Supreme Court's order by not reopening the full DACA program.

These Dreamers are battling the coronavirus and the Trump administration.

Polls show that even a majority of Trump voters want to protect Dreamers from deportation, and wide swaths of registered voters support Dreamers, regardless of the voter's gender, education, income, ethnicity, religion, or ideology. That includes 68 percent of Republicans, 71 percent of conservatives, and 64 percent of those who approve of the job the President is doing.

But instead of accepting the Supreme Court's decision and acknowledging the enormous contributions of Dreamers,

this administration is planning new efforts to end DACA. It is no secret. They indicate as much in the latest Department of Homeland Security memo.

And let's be honest. If it is not outright termination they seek, the administration will treat the protection of Dreamers as a bargaining chip in order to undo our legal immigration system. They want to cut legal family immigration in exchange for what they call a merit-based immigration system. That would be pretty shameful and offensive because there are many who are here who would never be here under a merit-based system.

This administration and my Republican colleagues need to open their eyes and realize how we are treating immigrants in this country. We need them to do it now, in this moment, as we are pleading with our colleagues to do what is right, to give families a fighting chance to beat the virus and put the economy back on track.

We can't turn a blind eye to the fact that immigrant families will likely be excluded from help desperately needed during this pandemic in the next COVID-19 package.

So far, undocumented immigrants who pay their taxes and selflessly risk their lives as essential workers to save others have been deliberately excluded from the Federal pandemic assistance Congress has provided.

Virtually all immigrants who use an individual taxpayer identification number—or as we call it, an ITIN—to file their Federal taxes under U.S. law, which is totally permissible, and their U.S. citizen spouses—U.S. citizen spouses—and children were left out from any economic impact payments in the CARES Act.

In other words, we denied American citizens and their American citizen children badly needed assistance as a punishment—as a punishment—for being married to an undocumented immigrant or belonging to a mixed-status family during this economic emergency.

I grew up believing that an American citizen is an American citizen—is an American citizen, regardless of whom I marry, regardless of whether my children are the offspring of one parent who is an American citizen and another one who is not.

Thousands of American citizens were denied \$1,200 individual stimulus checks to which other American citizens were entitled to just because of who they love. American citizen children were denied \$500 in assistance to which other American citizen children were entitled. It is wrong.

Are there two classes of American children in this country now? Are there two classes of American citizens now?

As we consider the next COVID-19 relief package, Congress has to fix this injustice.

If you work hard, follow the rules, and pay your taxes, you deserve tax relief, regardless of how you filed. At the very least, if you are an American cit-

izen living in a mixed-status family or an American child who is the offspring of a mixed-status family, you should not be denied the cash benefit you are rightfully entitled to. It is just that simple. It is justice. It is what is right.

In the face of this tremendous public health crisis, we should not let the insidious, cruel, and relentless scapegoating of immigrants prevent us from providing much needed relief to the very same families and workers who are helping us survive. All families deserve to be treated with dignity. It is the humane thing to do.

But that is not all. As we expanded access to free COVID-19 testing, undocumented immigrants were left behind. Now, that makes no sense. The coronavirus doesn't check your status before it infects you.

An undocumented immigrant living in America with COVID-19 is no less a threat to become a seriously ill individual or spread the virus than an American citizen who has been infected. The virus does not discriminate on race, gender, ethnicity, borders, or legal status. As a public health proposition, you want everybody to be tested.

Given the pandemic's disproportionate impact on low-income and communities of color and the fact that those communities of color are serving in essential industries, I would argue that they are more likely to be infected.

What good is it to any one of us if someone, regardless of who or where they are, is walking around with an undiagnosed case of COVID-19 because they weren't eligible for a test? That person can unwittingly infect their relatives, their neighbors, and their co-workers.

If we ever want to see our economy and lives return to some semblance of normal, there must be access to free COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines for everyone living in the United States—everyone living in the United States, and that includes regardless of immigration status.

America has to do better to acknowledge the hard work, sacrifice, and contribution of immigrants. Sadly, these past 4 years have seen a rise in hate crimes and hateful rhetoric targeting immigrants. Led by the President, immigrants are continuously scapegoated for every problem.

One of my Senate colleagues even suggested recently that Hispanics were to blame for the rise in COVID cases across our own country, instead of the epic failure of the administration to develop and implement a national pandemic response plan or one that includes culturally competent outreach to minority-majority communities.

As elected officials and leaders in our communities, we have a moral responsibility to rise above the immigrant fearmongering and the President's hateful rhetoric to reunite our country. Not only must we include immigrant families in the upcoming relief

package, but to truly address these injustices, we must reform our immigration laws once and for all.

We have to come together as we did before here in the Senate—I was part of that Gang of 8—to restart these long overdue discussions and find a path forward to achieving real immigration reform.

I have always believed and still believe that reforming our immigration laws is the civil rights issue of this community and of this time.

It is time to treat immigrants fairly and to recognize their hard work and contributions to this Nation—immigrants like my mother, Evangelina, who came here with nothing but the conviction that everything in America was possible. She refused to let not speaking English or her modest wages as a seamstress stop her from giving us the best life she could.

And here I am, one of 100 U.S. Senators, in a country of over 320 million people. I am the embodiment of that American dream, and my story is no less meaningful than that of any other immigrant coming to this country or in this country to build a better future for their family and this Nation.

That is our past; that is our history; that is our present; and it will be our future. It is past time that due acknowledgment and respect be given. It is now time for action.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as everybody knows, this country faces at this moment an extraordinary set of crises—in fact, crises that are unprecedented in the history of our country. We are in the midst of the worst public health crisis since the Spanish flu of 100 years ago, and, sad to say, this Senate has done nothing to address that crisis over the last 2½ months.

Over the past 4 months, the coronavirus has infected nearly 5 million Americans and caused 160,000 deaths, and the Senate is doing nothing.

Incredibly—and this is incredible—more Americans have been killed by the coronavirus than by the Korean war, the Vietnam war, the Persian Gulf war, 9/11, the Afghanistan war, and the Iraq war combined, and the Senate is still not acting.

We are in the midst of the worst economic meltdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s, and the Senate is doing nothing.

Since March, more than 30 million Americans have lost their jobs. Last

week, the Senate allowed a \$600-a-week increase in their unemployment benefits to expire. Over half of the American people have seen a loss in their income. Yet the Senate continues to do nothing.

Forty million Americans—an unbelievable number—40 million Americans are in danger of being evicted from their homes while the Senate has allowed a moratorium on evictions to expire.

This is no great shock. Everybody knew this would happen. Yet the Republican leadership here has allowed that moratorium to expire.

Twenty-six million Americans cannot afford food to feed their families, and those Americans are lining up at emergency food banks in record numbers, the vast majority of whom have never been to an emergency food bank in their lives, and the Senate is doing nothing.

A recordbreaking 5.4 million Americans recently lost their health insurance. Under our dysfunctional healthcare system, when you lose your job, you often lose your health insurance, and that now leaves us with over 90 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured; that is, 90 million Americans who today worry about whether they can afford to go to a doctor when they or their kids are sick. The Senate is doing nothing.

In total, American households have lost a staggering \$6.5 trillion in wealth since this pandemic began. It is an unimaginable number. What does that mean? That \$6.5 trillion is a number much too large for many of us to fathom, and the Senate does nothing.

Although I know there is some obfuscation about this, what everybody in America should understand is that over 2.5 months ago, the House did its job. Over 2.5 months ago, the U.S. House of Representatives did its job, and they passed legislation responding to the enormous pain and suffering that the American people are now experiencing. They did their job, but the Senate has not.

The Heroes Act passed by the House in May would extend the \$600-a-week increase in unemployment benefits until January. I want everybody to understand that. I think sometimes there is confusion. The House did its job. Under the House bill, if that bill were passed here today here in the Senate, people would continue to get that \$600 supplement in their unemployment benefits.

The House bill would provide over \$900 billion to State and local governments to prevent the massive layoff of teachers, firefighters, nurses, construction workers, and millions of other workers who are serving the public during this horrific pandemic. Over 1 million workers who work for State and local governments have already lost their jobs, and if we do not provide substantial aid to State and local governments, there will be a mass epidemic of job loss there.

The House bill would provide hazard pay to essential workers, which is something that is long, long overdue. People are putting their lives on the line and sometimes dying in order to provide us with groceries or to get us to work on a bus or on a train. Those workers need hazard pay, and that is what the House did.

The House also passed a provision in their legislation to require businesses to adopt strong health and safety standards to protect their employees and their customers.

The House bill would provide \$175 billion in rental and foreclosure assistance to make sure that millions of Americans do not lose their homes or get evicted from their apartments and end up out on the streets.

The House bill also provides vital funding for nutritional assistance, for election security—an enormous issue here, whether or not we are going to have free and fair elections—and also substantial funding for the U.S. Postal Service, which is now being sabotaged by the Trump administration. That is what the House passed 2.5 months ago.

Do I agree with everything that was in the House bill? No, I don't. I think much of it, however, is excellent. But we can and should make improvements in that bill here in the Senate. That is what we should be doing—accepting the bill and improving it.

Two and a half months after the House passed its bill, Senate Republicans finally woke up, and they said: We have to do something. We have to respond. The public wants us to respond. We have to do something. And they finally released their bill to respond to the coronavirus crisis. Unfortunately, although not surprisingly, the Republican plan is woefully inadequate for the working families of our country, for the elderly, for their children, and for the poor, while at the same time it provides even more corporate welfare to the rich and the powerful. One might think that in the midst of this terrible pandemic, my Republican colleagues could control themselves just a bit and not pile on more benefits to the people who don't need them and maybe—just maybe—pay attention to the people who do need help.

The Senate Republican bill provides nothing for hazard pay. If you are a grocery store worker, if you are a truckdriver, if you are a busdriver, if you are working in mass transit, nothing in that bill is provided for hazard pay. There is nothing for nutrition assistance and nothing for the 92 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured. Ninety-two million people are uninsured or underinsured in the midst of a terrible public health crisis, and the Republican legislation ignores that reality completely. There is nothing for the U.S. Postal Service and nothing for State and local governments, many of which are on the verge of bankruptcy.

Here is what that Republican bill does contain. It does include another