

[Rollcall Vote No. 157 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoehen	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Jones	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sinema
Cramer	Loeffler	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Tester
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Daines	McSally	Tillis
Enzi	Moran	Toomey
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Gardner	Perdue	Portman
Graham	Pertman	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Harris	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Blackburn	Duckworth
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Alaska.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 494

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wanted to come down and speak today about a very important sector of the economy for Alaska and for America—that is, our fishermen—and some important, very bipartisan legislation that I am trying to move right now that I am hopeful everybody can agree to. The Senate has agreed to it previously, and I am really hopeful that we can do it again right now.

I talk about the great State of Alaska being the superpower of seafood. Over 60 percent of all seafood—commercial, recreational—harvested in America comes from my great State. Sixty percent. So this is a vital industry in my State but also a vital industry in the country.

As my colleagues know, our fishermen are some of the hardest working Americans. They are also some of the Americans who have been hit the hardest by this pandemic. The Saltonstall-Kennedy Act helps these hard-working men and women across the country by providing consistent funding for fisheries research and development and related programs, grant programs—very popular.

Decades ago, Congress authorized a group of experts from all around the country—Alaska, the east coast—and vessel owners, fishermen, and distributors to advise the Secretary of Commerce on how to distribute these funds. It makes sense. They are the closest to the action. Over time, unfortunately, this group was disbanded. Nobody thought that was a good idea—abolishing this advisory committee.

Then you had the National Marine Fisheries essentially determine how all of these Saltonstall-Kennedy funds would be distributed to fishermen. So, with all due respect to the DC bureaucrats, they are the ones making the decisions.

So we have a bill—my bill—which, by the way, passed the Senate previously, unanimously, that members in the fishing community from all over the country be chosen to determine how to get these funds out to our fishermen, whether in New York or North Carolina or Alaska, and everybody thinks that makes sense.

Our fishermen need support right now; there is no doubt. They are being hammered by this pandemic. So the legislation that I am hopefully going to be able to pass in the Senate here in a couple of minutes has cosponsors across a broad political spectrum in the Senate: Senators CANTWELL, MARKEY, WARREN, MURKOWSKI, and myself.

I am aware of no policy objections to this important piece of legislation. To the contrary, it has already passed the Senate unanimously. I am, however, aware of an unrelated dispute between the Democratic leader and some of my Senate colleagues from the east coast regarding an entirely different bill. I respect disagreements over regional issues, and I certainly hope my colleagues can work them out, but this issue is thousands of miles away from Alaska and my constituents, the people I represent, who are hurting.

Moreover, the bill I am getting ready to introduce, S. 494, helps all fishermen nationwide—New York, North Carolina, Alaska.

The American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act, S. 494, should not be collateral damage or hostage taken in an unrelated fight. If my colleagues want to try and work together, I will certainly help them work out their differences, but I don't think it is constructive to hold hostage this important legislation for a fight that is thousands of miles away from Alaska.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No.

179, S. 494; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask unanimous consent that the request be modified so that in addition to the request of the Senator from Alaska, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 317, S. 908, the Fluke Fairness Act.

I request that the bill be read a third time and passed and that motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

Mr. TILLIS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have been in the Senate now for 5½ years, and I don't consider somebody a better friend, an advocate for his State than Senator SULLIVAN. I have actually spent a lot of time—even though Senator GILLIBRAND and I have differences in certain situations, we find ways to work together.

What I have before me, though, is something that is very important for people to understand. I agree with everything Senator SULLIVAN said. His measure, I suspect, has broad support, probably support on its own. But what we have here is the addition by the motion of Senator GILLIBRAND that affects my State, North Carolina. It has to do with reallocation of quotas. It would particularly affect the flounder industry in North Carolina.

I hope that we are able to work out our differences. I hope that we can get Senator SULLIVAN's bill passed. But because it has been amended to include something that hurts my fisheries in North Carolina and my commercial fishermen at the worst possible time, when they are suffering like everybody else from the COVID-19 crisis and all the challenges that that produces, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, while I am disappointed, these are two good friends of mine on the Senate floor right now, whom I have worked with on numerous pieces of legislation. They both represent their States very well, but this is a missed opportunity for the fishermen of America—America, not

just Alaska but for the whole country, New York, North Carolina. And I am certainly hopeful that my good friend from New York and North Carolina can work this out.

I will certainly lend my efforts, my staff's efforts, because we shouldn't have a regional fight blocking what will benefit everybody, particularly when fishermen right now are really hurting. They are one of the sectors of the U.S. economy that have been hammered by this pandemic. This kind of legislation, although it is not going to solve all their problems, shows that we are working for them.

We will live to fight another day here soon. I hope that we are able to pass my legislation, commonsense legislation—the American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act—which will help every fisherman in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the people doing the truly essential work in our country, and it isn't the Fortune 500 CEO, hedge fund manager, or investment banker. It is the home healthcare worker providing essential care to homebound seniors or the disabled. It is the delivery truckdriver working a 12-hour shift, bringing food and medicine and other critical supplies to people who need it. It is a grocery store clerk, working a checkout line or stocking shelves to keep up with the skyrocketing demand. It is the migrant agricultural worker picking berries or standing on an assembly line at a meatpacking plant. It is the housekeeper or custodian working longer hours to clean our hotels, offices, and other public places. It is the childcare worker coming in every day to care for other children, while being unable to afford care for their own. And it is the busdriver who, despite operating on a tightly enclosed space, transports hundreds of people to work every day.

These people, and others like them doing essential work, are literally risking their lives every day for the rest of us, and they are earning much deserved recognition during this pandemic. But let me be clear. These workers have always been essential, even if our economic system has not valued the jobs they do or treated them with the respect they deserve.

Valuing and respecting essential workers is about more than calling them heroes when that is the popular thing to do. It is about recognizing and calling out how these workers have been treated in our economy. And it is about doing something to fix it.

For too long, people doing the work now deemed essential during the pandemic have been forced to work for low wages that are either at or just above minimum wage, have jobs that offer no

paid family or medical leave, have little access to affordable childcare, have jobs that offer no employer-sponsored healthcare coverage, and have been forced to work in dangerous conditions.

Coping with these inequities in normal times was challenging enough for our essential workers, but the pandemic, exacerbated by Donald Trump's failure in leadership, is creating new problems, and it is making existing problems worse. The administration's failure to implement emergency safety standards is creating unsafe workplaces for essential workers.

Meanwhile, it is pushing to provide businesses immunity from coronavirus-related lawsuits. If they are successful, employers would have even less incentive to provide safe workplaces for employees or to protect customers and consumers.

Its failure to fully and effectively use the Defense Production Act means the most vulnerable workers continue to face shortages of personal protective equipment—putting them at greater risk for contacting the coronavirus. And its failure to implement a national testing and contact tracing program means that essential workers face testing delays and may never be notified if a coworker has tested positive for COVID-19.

As Donald Trump refuses to act responsibly to keep our essential workers safe, this has fallen to States, local governments, and the private sector.

In Hawaii, we are fortunate to have responsive State and county governments, strong unions, and one of the lowest uninsured rates in the country, thanks to Hawaii's Prepaid Healthcare Act. These advantages, however, have not shielded Hawaii's essential workers from the dangers of the pandemic.

Let me share a few of their stories. A few weeks ago, I spoke to a group of transit workers who operate The Bus in Honolulu. A simple shower curtain separates the drivers from passengers boarding their buses. Many riders do not wear masks, putting the driver and other passengers at risk for contracting the virus.

Drivers are also facing threats and physical violence when they ask riders to put on a mask. One passenger even spat upon a busdriver who asked the person to observe social distancing.

Many of the busdrivers live in multigenerational families. They spoke about the fear that they will contract the virus on the job and bring it home. Three bus operators have already tested positive, including one just this week.

Transit workers in other industries have also experienced challenges related to coronavirus safety. A group of Hawaii flight attendants I recently spoke with are unable to be tested regularly due to supply shortages, despite showing up to work every day. They also spoke about their daily challenges convincing passengers to wear masks.

Essential workers are also providing childcare during this pandemic so that

other essential workers can continue to do their job. Katie, a nanny on Oahu, whom I heard from recently, has provided childcare for essential workers and military families on Oahu during the pandemic. Katie lives with her mom, who has been battling stage IV cancer for nearly 3 years. She is rightly concerned about the possibility she might bring this virus home with her from work.

In April, Katie received a scare when one of the families she worked with told her they might have been exposed. Katie is like so many essential workers in Hawaii and across the country who live with uncertainty about their jobs and families every day.

More firefighters, grocery store workers, bank tellers, postal workers, community health center employees, and paramedics tested positive for COVID-19 this week. They certainly will not be the last.

Something as simple as showing up to work every day shouldn't be an act of bravery, but that is exactly what we are expecting from our essential workers every day. If they can show up and do their job, Congress can certainly step up and do its job.

It is why Senate Democrats have been fighting so hard to pass the Heroes Act—to bring this to the floor, to debate the Heroes Act. The Heroes Act includes a number of strong provisions that will support essential workers during this pandemic. It establishes a \$200 billion fund to provide up to \$10,000 of hazard pay to each essential worker. It requires the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue an emergency temporary standard within 7 days of enactment. It prevents employers from retaliating against workers who report workplace safety issues. It adds another \$75 billion for COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and isolation measures. It also provides every American access to free treatment for COVID-19. It provides access to free and affordable childcare options for essential workers who are expected to show up to their jobs regardless of whether they have someone to look after their children, and it provides permanent paid sick and family leave so that people don't have to choose between their jobs and the health of their families.

The Heroes Act is a bold, worker- and family-centric bill. We should have passed it months ago. Instead, the bill has been sitting on the majority leader's desk for almost 3 months now. He called it "taking a pause."

The people suffering in our country didn't have the luxury of taking a pause 3 months ago, and they certainly don't have the luxury to take a pause now. As Senators, we are able to telework. We can attend hearings remotely. We can stay socially distant. Maybe this is one reason some Republican Senators don't have sufficient empathy or the sense of urgency to pass the next COVID relief bill that would actually help the busdriver who