

even guarantee a moratorium on evictions. It merely instructs Federal agencies to “review” or “consider” one and does nothing to help renters actually afford the rent.

Here in Congress, the Senate Republican majority delayed for 4 long months, failed to come up with a proposal that had the support of their own caucus, and then gave up and left it for someone else to figure it out. That is why MCCONNELL is not in the room. Facing the greatest domestic crisis in the 21st century, where Americans are hurting healthwise and economically, the Senate Republican majority ran down the clock, tossed up an air ball, and then subbed themselves out of the game.

Even now, as Leader MCCONNELL claims that Democrats are blocking relief, there are 20 Members of the Republican caucus, according to their own leader, who will not vote for anything—no more relief. A group of Republican Senators came to the floor last week to warn America about the national debt, not the health crisis, not the economic crisis, not the looming housing crisis but the national debt. It is something that concerned those same Members very little when adding nearly \$2 trillion to the debt in order to give big corporations a giant tax cut in 2017.

Listen to this one: The Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON, said yesterday:

From my standpoint, the breakdown in talks is very good news. I hope the talks remain broke down.

Let me repeat that. Senator JOHNSON said:

From my standpoint—

Reflecting the views of many Republican Senators—

the breakdown in talks is very good news. I hope the talks remain broke down.

Why did he say that? Because he doesn't want to spend one more nickel. Despite the huge health crisis, the huge economic crisis, people losing their jobs, small businesses closing, we shouldn't spend a nickel. This is not both sides. This is one side only.

When President Trump called COVID-19 a hoax and told the country to go take bleach and other quack medicines, some of my friends here made disappointed noises. But when the President said the virus would just disappear, it seems the Republican Senate bought it.

After we came together to pass the CARES Act, Republican Senators pushed all their chips to the middle to bet with President Trump that the virus was going to miraculously disappear. The Republican leader said: I am going to put the Senate on “pause” and see what happens. Last week, he actually defended that position, saying that his delay “allowed us to learn the coronavirus didn't mysteriously disappear.” Millions more people out of work, hundreds of thousands of small businesses closing, many more people

getting COVID and some more people dying, and, now, after all that, the Republican leader says his delay “allowed us to learn the coronavirus didn't mysteriously disappear.”

So while President Trump and his aides have certainly been an impediment—an awful impediment to an agreement, the Republican Senate is equally culpable, and the American people know it. They know that Democrats have their back, healthwise and economically. Republicans, so many of them, are saying: Don't do a thing. Don't do a thing. They are glad the negotiations have broken down. We are not.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, one final matter, millions of Americans rely on the U.S. Postal Service to deliver their mail reliably and on time. For decades, the hard-working people of the Postal Service have been doing just that. During this pandemic, USPS has been providing these critical services day in and day out, up until the new Postmaster General, Mr. DeJoy, a top Republican donor and Trump ally with no experience in the Postal Service, was installed at the helm.

Administering a national election is difficult in normal times. In the time of COVID, it will undoubtedly be an even greater challenge. We need to institute policies and devote resources to make sure every American can both safely and confidently vote in person and by mail. By the way, even just as important, we need to make sure Americans get their medicines on time, that the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions who are staying in their homes and not going out are able to get their necessities by mail. Your pills are a week late—I know what that is like. It has happened to me. Fortunately, I don't have medicines that my life depends on. It causes you huge anxiety about your health. This Postmaster is cutting overtime, cutting employees, when, at a time of COVID, we need more help, not less. But elections should certainly concern Americans as well.

The current issues of the post office should alarm every American. The new Postmaster General has instituted policies that have contributed to inexcusable delays in mail delivery. But now, topping the cake, the Postal Service has informed some States that they may need to pay a first-class rate to deliver ballots rather than the normal rate, nearly tripling the cost. At a time when people will have to vote by mail in record numbers because they can't or will not go vote in person, the Postmaster General is saying we should triple the rate of costs to vote by mail? What a despicable derogation of democracy.

What is his rationale? It is a small amount of money. Ballots are a small percentage of the mail that is delivered. It is to discourage people from

voting. He ought to be ashamed of himself to even consider this, tripling—tripling what it costs to vote by mail at a time when more people will vote by mail than ever before. If anyone had any thought that this Postmaster General was on the level, it is now dispensed.

To triple the cost of voting by mail would be an outrageous and insidious policy that would make it even harder and more expensive for States, already struggling with depleted budgets from COVID-19, to conduct our elections safely. Democrats will fight this policy with every tool at our disposal. If our Republican colleagues care about a free and fair election this November, they should as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I so appreciate the comments of the minority leader.

HOUSING

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, oftentimes, when I am home and I am talking to constituents in Nevada, they look at Washington as a bubble. They don't really think that things happen here unless they see it on the news or they have no trust in us really coming together to work on behalf of our constituents.

I think it is time we focus on what needs to be done in the best interest of our country than focusing on political gain or gamesmanship.

The reason why I say that is, I don't know about the President pro tempore, but I know every single Senator comes from a State, and they care about their constituents. They get emails from their constituents and letters from their constituents. When we go home, we claim to be in a recess, but it is not really a recess. We are home working. We are talking to our constituents and businesses and the individuals who are there. And if we are really listening to our constituents, particularly at a time like now, when this pandemic has created the worst health crisis we have seen not just in this country but around the world and has contributed to an economic crisis, then we are hearing from our constituents that they are struggling right now.

The reason they are struggling is because we have asked them to stay at home and shelter in place to stem the spread of this virus. We have said: Listen, we don't have a vaccine. We are working on it, but we don't have it right away. We need to ramp up our tests so we can make sure you can get it, and quickly, to determine whether you have this virus or the antibodies so we can then quarantine you and shelter you. But until we even get to that point, we have asked everybody to stay home. And they have done it.

I know in my State of Nevada, we have the highest unemployment rate in this country right now—25 percent.