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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we trust You for protection and peace, for You have promised to guide us by Your grace. May we place our hope in You and never forget how You have sustained us in the past.

Lord, give our Senators the wisdom to do what is best for America. Continue to rule from Heaven so that Your purposes will prevail on Earth.

Hear the cries of the helpless and do for them through our lawmakers what they can't do for themselves. Bring justice and righteousness to our Nation and world as You transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.

We pray in Your sacred Name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, there has been a lot of focus lately on the drama here in Washington. For weeks now, as leading Democrats blocked more pandemic relief over unrelated liberal demands, the press has covered their stonewalling like any ordinary political standoff. Who talked

to whom? Who said what in which meeting? What new metaphor did Speaker PELOSI use today to explain that she was blocking progress? But it does the Nation a disservice to act like the last several weeks were just another routine political standoff. It does struggling families and laid-off workers and stressed-out school principals and healthcare professionals a disservice to act like this has just been more Washington gridlock.

The New York Times proclaimed a few days ago that “[Speaker] PELOSI is playing hardball on coronavirus relief.” Well, that is one way to put it. You could say it is “playing hardball” to refuse any outcome for the country. You could say it is “playing hardball” to insist on non-COVID-related liberal policy changes that the Speaker and the Democratic leader know would never pass the Senate or be signed into law by the President.

But if Democrats are “playing hardball,” their opponents aren't us Republicans—not really.

They are playing hardball against kids, workers, and vulnerable Americans who need help.

They are playing hardball against our medical system when the Speaker and the Democratic leader say they won't allow another dime for testing, treatments, or vaccines unless they can bring home a massive tax cut for millionaires in San Francisco and New York City.

They are playing hardball against our Nation's ability to detect and fight the virus.

They are playing hardball against science when the Speaker and the Democratic leader say they will not allow another cent for schools to reopen or for the job-saving PPP unless they get \$1 trillion for a State and local slush fund that is completely out of proportion to actual needs.

They are playing hardball against children and parents when the Speaker and the Democratic leader say they

will not allow any resolution on any issue unless Democrats can pay people more not to work.

They are playing hardball against millions of households that ought to get another stimulus check and against the ability of jobless people to get any Federal benefit whatsoever.

There are life-and-death matters at stake, but Democrats have treated this historic national crisis as a political game. Just look at the redlines the Democratic leaders have drawn around these negotiations. Imagine sitting down with a working family at their kitchen table and explaining that these are the kinds of issues over which the Speaker and the Democratic leader are refusing—refusing—to let them have relief.

First, as I mentioned, the Democratic leader has made clear he doesn't want any pandemic relief to become law unless—unless—it carries a special State and local tax carve-out for high earners in places like New York.

Just imagine these Democratic leaders from New York and San Francisco going anywhere in the middle of the country and telling a working family of four, earning \$40,000 a year, that they aren't getting a relief check that could increase their income by 10 percent until millionaires in Manhattan get a tax cut.

Economists on all sides have panned this. A huge, costly tax cut for wealthy people in blue States is not the life raft that struggling people need. Even liberal economists have jumped ship. Here is what one self-identified progressive told reporters: “This is not a good idea. . . . It would not help the economy heal and it would not benefit the people who need help.” These are the economists on their side? But forget about the experts. Forget about laid-off people. Forget about Middle America. The Speaker and the Democratic leader want to cut off funding for our war with the coronavirus unless they get this special carve-out.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Here is another one of those dead-on-arrival demands: Democrats insist that working families, small businesses, and healthcare providers will not get any more help unless a new trillion-dollar slush fund for poorly managed States tags along. Bear in mind that States and localities have only spent about a fourth—a fourth—of the money we already sent them last spring.

Even Senate Democrats seem to acknowledge this, for example, by sponsoring legislation that would extend the deadline for the States to spend down their CARES Act aid. The States need extra time to spend what we have already sent them, and the serious estimates of the COVID shortfall that State and local governments may face are a fraction—a fraction—of the Democrats' trillion-dollar demand. Their demands aren't based on math. They aren't based on the pandemic. They want a massive slush fund to make up for decades of mismanagement.

It is just how the Speaker explained her view of the crisis. This is what she said:

This is an opportunity. Every crisis is.

That same opportunism leads them to another absurd demand. Democrats say nobody should get any more help unless—unless—the Federal Government sends out jobless benefits that pay more than what people made working. Republicans support extending a Federal supplement for unemployment—make no mistake about that—but we share the view of Democrats like the House Democratic majority, the senior Senator from Maryland, the Democratic Governor of Connecticut, all of whom indicated it should be doable to land somewhere smarter than a flat \$600.

This is not complicated. Both sides want to help unemployed people. Republicans never wanted the Federal benefit to lapse to zero and tried to extend the money. But as our economy tries to reopen, there is no reason Uncle Sam should take taxes out of essential workers' paychecks to pay other people more to stay home.

This is just a flavor of the Democratic demands. The two parties should have been able to agree on a huge sweep of subjects—from testing to school money, legal protection to direct payments and more. Republicans wanted to reach an agreement everywhere we could and then continue to fight over the contested questions later. Democrats said no because they know their unrelated wish-list items would have no prayer—no prayer—of standing on their own merit.

Only these hostage tactics could possibly get their bad ideas across the finish line. So struggling people have waited and waited and gotten nothing. That has been the Democrats' decision. Reporters can call it "hardball," like this was some ordinary standstill, but families are suffering. Americans are dying. This is not a Washington game; it is a national crisis. It would serve

the Nation better if the Democratic leaders would act like it is a crisis.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, America is living through a crisis that exceeds anything we have seen in generations. Other countries were able to test their populations, isolate cases, and contain the spread of the disease, but here the failure of the Trump administration to develop or implement a national strategy to defeat COVID on the health front and economically has meant that the disease has raged through our country for 7 months, is still spreading, and the economy is in very bad shape.

We have over 5 million confirmed cases of COVID-19. It just took 17 days to go from 4 million Americans with COVID to 5 million. Unemployment is higher than it ever was during the great recession. More than 150,000 Americans have died. Small businesses every day are closing, and those that are still open are struggling. Families can't afford to feed their children. Americans can't pay the rent and will be thrown out of their homes. Millions are out of work, and many more worry that they will be out of work in the month or two to come. This is a huge crisis.

In this time of national emergency, Democrats believe we must focus on the health and economic security of the American people. If we don't address the health crisis, nothing else will matter, but we have to focus on economic security as well.

We have to keep Americans in their homes, put food on the table, prevent them from slipping into further hardship and poverty. That is what ani-

mated Democrats to develop a \$3.4 trillion plan to finally crush the virus and rescue American families. It was based on the needs of our country, both health and economic, the needs of our schools and businesses and workers and our healthcare system. We Democrats tell America, We have your back. Unfortunately, our Republican friends do not.

In our negotiations with the White House, Chief of Staff Meadows and Secretary Mnuchin were unable to go above \$1 trillion, and their \$1 trillion was far short of the country's needs. Democrats offered to come down by \$1 trillion. We asked our counterparts—Secretary Mnuchin, Mr. Meadows—to come up by \$1 trillion, meet us in the middle. They said no.

So last Friday, after our negotiating session with the White House, I made it clear that the reasons our talks had stalled was that the White House had basically declared "my way or the highway." They were unwilling to meet us in the middle. They said that in the room. I guess imitation is the sincerest form of flattery because now Leader MCCONNELL is blaming Democrats for the breakdown in negotiations, using the exact same language. He said Democrats are the ones saying "my way or the highway." Seriously, that is what the Republican leader, who wasn't even in the room and will not dare go in the room, claims.

Let's go over the facts—the facts. We said to the White House: We are willing to come down by \$1 trillion. Will you come up by \$1 trillion and meet us in the middle? The White House said: No, we are not budging. So to whom does this logic apply? Who is intransigent? Who is really saying "my way or the highway?" The answer is obvious. This is not a "both sides to blame" situation.

Democrats are willing to compromise. Republicans are being intransigent and will not move from their position, which is totally inadequate for the needs of America during the greatest economic crisis we have had in 75 years and the greatest health crisis in 100. That is where we are: Democrats willing to move and meet in the middle, Republicans intransigent. Republicans declared "my way or the highway," and rather than defend their position, they falsely accuse Democrats of doing the same.

Now, rather than trying to break the logjam, as a true Presidential leader should, President Trump sits on the sidelines and just issued a bunch of weak and unworkable Executive orders. He slashed the enhanced unemployment benefits, asked the Americans who are out of work, through no fault of their own, to take a pay cut. He deferred the payroll tax, which even Republicans admit will do nothing to help our workers and the economy and would undermine Social Security and Medicare to boot. And the President's Executive order on evictions is more like an Executive suggestion. It doesn't

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.

Businesses have shuttered. People have stayed home to help us stem the spread of this virus. What we told them months ago is that, if you do this, we will be there. Our Federal Government will be there to work with you. We will help you. We will make sure you have money in your pocket so you can afford healthcare, so you can pay your bills, so you can pay your rent, you can pay for your food, so you do not have to have any economic insecurity. We made that commitment to them. We promised them.

I have to say that we still have to follow that obligation. They are doing their part, so why aren't we doing ours?

At the end of the day, the President pro tempore and I both know, and all of our colleagues know, that there is more economic insecurity in this country right now than we have ever seen before because of this pandemic: food insecurity, housing insecurity, job insecurity, education insecurity. There is a homework gap. We know it. It is happening. So now it is time for us to stop the posturing, stop the political gamesmanship and really do what we committed when we swore an oath to this office when we were sworn in, that we were going to do right by people across this country, looking out for their interests—not our interests but the best interests of this country.

So I come to the floor today to really ask my colleagues: Let's try and do what is right for the best interests of this country, now more than ever.

I know you get them. I get letters. I have letters from constituents right now—I can't tell you—and I have been inundated with them.

A constituent from Nevada wrote:

I urge you to extend the federal eviction moratorium and include at least \$100 billion in funding for emergency rental assistance in the next . . . relief [package]. [This] assistance will enable households, including those who have lost jobs or who already were struggling to pay rent before the pandemic, to remain stably housed and avoid the devastating and long-lasting harms of eviction.

That is from a constituent. I didn't write that. They sent it to my office. In this letter, this constituent from Nevada goes on to say:

It is important to be kind and compassionate. Especially during this time. We have the opportunity to learn and to do better always. No one should be forced out of their home during a global pandemic.

Those are similar to other letters I receive. I know you receive them. I know our colleagues receive them. That is why, today, it is important for us to focus on so much that is happening, including that economic security. Right now I want to focus on one piece of it that we need to address that should be part of a global piece, which is this idea that, right now, millions of Americans are concerned about being evicted from their homes.

In the middle of a pandemic, when people need a safe place to call home, they are concerned that they don't have the money to pay their rent be-

cause we have asked them to stay home.

I have said this before on the floor of the Senate. I will say it again. In the middle of a pandemic, housing is healthcare. Security in your own home is healthcare. Yet we have millions of people across the country on the brink of eviction.

In mid-July, a quarter of adults reported that they were housing insecure. That is one in four. In more than half of the States in America, eviction bans have expired. That means, across the Nation, more and more families will have to pack up everything that they can carry in the space of hours.

There could be 40 million evictions nationwide by the end of the year, and what we have seen amongst the data that comes in to all of our offices is that families of color are likely to be the hardest hit. In my home State of Nevada, experts believe that nearly half a million people are at risk of eviction—perhaps as many as 300,000 of them in Nevada by September. Among renters, up to 47 percent face that risk.

Staving off Nevada evictions could cost Nevada \$850 billion in rental assistance over the next year. That is just one State. But do you know what? The States, the local governments, everyone has been impacted by this pandemic, and they are rightly looking to Congress to address it. They are desperate for us to pass meaningful legislation to get them money to pay their bills, to enact protections that let them stay in their homes and apartments.

We need to help them now. We can't turn our backs. We cannot turn our backs on Americans now, more than ever. They need our help. And we need the administration, we need leadership—Republican leadership—coming to the negotiating table to get real relief passed, not hollow political gestures.

We need a package that will include housing and rental assistance, prevent an epidemic of homelessness, and stabilize the housing markets because, if we don't, the consequences are going to haunt families and our economy for years.

Now, I know this. Take it from me. In Nevada, we saw 200,000 families lose their homes because of the 2008 housing crisis. That foreclosure crisis hit Nevada so hard, and it has been a long, long road back for so many Nevadans.

I am determined not to ever see that happen again and to bring relief. If I am in a position—as we all are here in Congress—to bring that relief, why aren't we in a room negotiating it? Why are we not talking regularly? We did it with the CARES Act immediately. We saw the need, and we did something about it.

Nevadans are already struggling to find work, to afford food, and to stay healthy during this pandemic; plus, they are helping their children learn as schools start to reopen. They cannot effectively do that—none of it—with-

out a safe place to stay, a roof over their head.

Housing is the key to any sense of stability in our chaotic world right now. It is time to end the political games. Americans expect it. They need a roof over their head. That is why it is so vital we pass legislation, not just to help Nevadans but people all over the country pay their rent and utility bills when they cannot safely go to work because of this health pandemic.

We already have legislation that is out there. We know it. The House, months ago, passed the Heroes Act, which addresses this issue. Our colleagues have introduced legislation—Senator BROWN's Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act is out there—that can do the job. We can talk about how we bring this bill forward that helps so many families.

It is not just rental stabilization but to help families keep a roof over their head. Remember, there are a lot of small businesses that are landlords. There are many businesses that are landlords who are shouldering the missed opportunities, and they are struggling. Landlords have bills to pay as well. They have mortgages; they have taxes; they have insurance, staff—let alone their families whom they have to take care of. Without assistance, many of them will go bankrupt or can be forced to sell their properties.

So let's focus on the essentials, the basic need for things like shelter. Let's keep people safe and off the streets. Let's pass Senator BROWN's rental assistance bill. Senator REED has a housing assistance fund bill to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Senator MENENDEZ has a housing counseling bill. There are so many others. They are in front of us.

We have an opportunity to do the right thing here. The Senate just needs to do its part by making sure those homes are safe and stable, by passing legislation that is going to have a positive impact on so many Americans across this country.

I thank the Presiding Officer for listening. I thank my colleagues for at least having the ability and the will to try to do something through the legislation that was introduced, but now more needs to be done. We can't just introduce legislation. Now is the time to do our jobs as Senators: to come to the floor of the Senate, bring legislation to the floor, and debate it. Let the American public actually see us work and do our jobs that we promised them we would be doing.

It is OK to debate legislation. It is OK to compromise and come forth with good government and good policy that is going to lift all of us up. That is what the Senate should be doing, and that is what I look forward to from my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Iowa.

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday many parts of my home State of Iowa were hit by extreme winds and severe storms—90-mile-an-hour winds, probably along the path along Interstate 80 from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River. Trees are uprooted, roadways are obstructed, crops are severely damaged, grain bins are busted, outbuildings lost, some homes hurt, and over 400,000 households lost power.

Just like any other natural disaster Iowa has experienced, I know that Iowans are going to band together and support each other as we recover from this storm. Senator ERNST and I stand ready to help with any Federal assistance Iowa may need, and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact our respective offices—both in Washington, DC, and in Iowa—if you need us.

For sure, if Governor Reynolds declares this as a disaster area, Senator ERNST and I will be quick to advise the President to follow the recommendations and requests of Governor Reynolds.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2500. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5269. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplement to Commission Guidance Regarding Proxy Voting Responsibilities of Investment Advisors" (Rel. No. IA-5547) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5270. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Covered Broker-Dealer Provisions under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act" (RIN3064-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5271. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporate Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemptions from the Proxy Rules for Proxy Voting Advice" (Rel. No. 34-89372) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5272. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5273. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5274. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5275. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5276. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule; National Flood Insurance Program: Conforming Changes to Reflect the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) and the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA), and Additional Clarifications for Plain Language" (RIN1660-AA95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5277. A communication from the Deputy Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018" ((WC Docket No. 18-335) (FCC 20-100)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-232. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to provide flexible funding for state, local, and tribal governments to account for anticipated public budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, The rapid spread of the novel coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, and a national emergency by President Donald J. Trump on March 13, 2020; and

Whereas, State, local and tribal governments have been on the front lines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, taking decisive and dramatic actions, including ordering the closure of nonessential businesses and issuing stay-at-home orders, in an effort to comply with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and protect the health and welfare of their citizens; and

Whereas, As the result of these momentous actions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, state, local and tribal governments, many of which were flourishing economically before the outbreak of COVID-19, now face economic and fiscal crises of unprecedented proportions; and

Whereas, The Honorable Steve Sisolak, Governor of the State of Nevada, rapidly took action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in the State of Nevada, issuing a series of Emergency Directives which, among other things, directed Nevadans to stay at home and provided for the closure of schools, casinos and gaming establishments and nonessential businesses; and

Whereas, The unemployment rate in the State of Nevada, which stood at a historically low 3.6 percent in February 2020, increased in just two months to 30.1 percent in April 2020, which is the highest level ever reported by a state in modern history; and

Whereas, The State of Nevada's General Fund now faces an estimated shortfall of approximately \$1.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

Whereas, The State of Nevada and local and tribal governments in this State will be forced, just as other state, local and tribal governments in similar positions will be forced, to implement deep cuts in services and programs, many of which affect persons most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, unless federal relief is granted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the 31st Special Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President Donald J. Trump and the Congress of the United States of America to provide further flexible funding for state, local and tribal governments to assist with anticipated public budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this

resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 4521. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce health care costs and expand health care coverage to more Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 4522. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize appropriations for the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 861

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 861, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 3067

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3067, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from South Carolina

(Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3546, a bill to waive high deductible health plan requirements for health savings accounts.

S. 3693

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3693, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to foster efficient markets and increase competition and transparency among packers that purchase livestock from producers.

S. 4150

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

S. 4152

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4152, a bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 4284

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4284, a bill to provide for emergency education freedom grants, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 4317

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4317, a bill to lessen the burdens on interstate commerce by discouraging insubstantial lawsuits relating to COVID-19 while preserving the ability of individuals and businesses that have suffered real injury to obtain complete relief.

S. 4442

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4442, a bill to amend subtitle A of title

II of division A of the CARES Act to provide Pandemic Unemployment Assistance to individuals with mixed income sources, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 673

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 673, a resolution affirming that the New START Treaty extension will cover new deployed Russian nuclear delivery systems, and supporting additional initiatives to engage China that advance the goal of concluding an arms control treaty or agreement.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Wednesday, August 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:26 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, August 12, 2020, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUSTIN E. HERDMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JESSIE K. LIU, RESIGNED.