

now mostly expired, and the stimulus provided by the CARES Act has been exhausted. The pandemic and economic hardship for millions of American workers and families, however, is ongoing and painful.

Speaker PELOSI and I have been trying to negotiate with the White House in another round of relief. It has been arduous. Democrats offered to meet our Republican colleagues in the middle, but the White House has refused to make any significant compromise.

Here in the Senate, the Republican majority leader has kept the Senate on “pause” while the Nation suffered. When they tried to draft a relief package in July, Senate Republicans flailed for 2 weeks before announcing a series of separate, incoherent proposals that lacked the support of—surprise—Senate Republicans. It was so unpopular within the Republican conference that Leader MCCONNELL never even brought it up for a vote.

Now, after more than 4 months of long inaction—after sitting on the sidelines while we tried to negotiate with a recalcitrant White House—Senate Republicans are finally realizing the damage their pause—the McConnell pause—has done to the American economy and our Nation’s health. As they scramble to make up for this historic mistake, Senate Republicans appear dead set on another bill that doesn’t come close to addressing the problems in our country.

The Republicans are going to cut their original, inadequate \$1 trillion “skinny” bill in half—maybe more—and put it up for a vote this week. Of course, it had no input—zero input—from the Democrats—completely partisan. In this Chamber, you need bipartisanship to get anything done. The Republicans call this a “skinny”—or “targeted”—proposal, but it would be more appropriate to call it “emaciated.” Shockingly, as the pain from this pandemic gets bigger and bigger, the Republicans think smaller and smaller. They are moving backward. Their proposal is completely inadequate and, by every measure, fails to meet the needs of the American people—with no money for rental assistance, nutrition assistance, the census, safe elections, and so many other things.

The bill, amazingly, will do almost nothing to help State and local governments that have already been forced to cut a million jobs since the pandemic began. This bill actually goes backward from the last Republican proposal. It does not even allow States to use existing relief funds to cover lost revenues.

Even worse, this latest and sorriest Republican proposal is laden with poison pills that our colleagues know the Democrats would never support. The bill doesn’t provide enough funding to help our schools reopen safely—not close to what school superintendents say they need—but it includes funding for a partisan school choice program that has been long pushed by hard-

right conservatives and Secretary DeVos. It provides immunity to corporations that put their workers in harm’s way, which, sadly, seems to be the only thing that the Republicans can consistently agree on. It even includes a provision that could fast-track coal mining operations because, God forbid, our Republican friends miss an opportunity to reward corporate polluters in their coronavirus relief bill.

The Republicans call their bill “targeted.” Maybe they mean it is targeted to corporate donors. The presence of these poison pills should remove every shred of doubt that the true intent of this bill is anything but political. If Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican majority were trying to achieve a result, they wouldn’t draft such a lame, partisan bill, loaded with poison pills, and rush it to the floor.

May we have order, please?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Yes, sir.

Mr. Leader, be careful not to impugn the motives of another. The leader suggested corporate donors. I issue that warning.

Mr. SCHUMER. The truth is, if you wanted to draft a bill that was certain to fail, this is it. This is one of the most cynical moves I have ever seen. We all know what is going on here. Leader MCCONNELL had to create the most paltry, partisan, cynical bill because he has 20 Members of his caucus who don’t want to support anything. By his own admission, they want zero dollars, so Leader MCCONNELL keeps whittling down the Republican proposal until he can find something—anything—that he can claim his party supports. He had to throw in the right wing’s favorite goodies to sweeten the pot to even approach the number of votes in his caucus to make it look like a Republican bill that had broad support.

Leader MCCONNELL knows this bill won’t pass, and he knows that most of his Members don’t want it to pass. Amazingly, he seems happy with that situation. This is one of the most cynical moves I have ever seen in the middle of a pandemic—when Americans are crying out for relief.

This political exercise on the Republican side bears no relationship to the needs of our country. It has nothing to do with our States, our workers, our families, with opening up schools safely, or with what healthcare workers really need. It has everything to do with finding the bare minimum that Senate Republicans can support. While facing the greatest economic crisis in 75 years and the greatest health crisis in a century, Leader MCCONNELL isn’t searching for bipartisan progress; he is looking for political cover.

As we begin the final work period before the November elections, the Democrats will keep pushing for a bipartisan, bicameral agreement that actually meets the urgent needs of the American people. For the good of the country, I hope—I pray—my Repub-

lican colleagues will join us in that effort.

POSTMASTER GENERAL

Mr. President, on another matter, tens of millions of Americans rely on the post office every day for their medication, veterans’ benefits, food, and paychecks. This year, tens of millions of Americans will also rely on the post office to vote in our national election. As President Trump deliberately attempts to erode Americans’ confidence in voting by mail, his hand-picked Postmaster General, Mr. DeJoy—a longtime Republican fundraiser and Trump donor—faces serious questions about politicizing the post office during an election year.

During his short tenure, Mr. DeJoy instituted drastic service changes to the Postal Service that caused enormous backlogs and delays in mail delivery. Only a massive public outcry from both sides of the aisle caused him to reverse his course, and now reports came out over the weekend that alleged that Mr. DeJoy, while he was the CEO of New Breed Logistics, may have been involved in an illegal straw donor scheme in which he pressured employees into financially supporting Republican candidates, using company bonuses as reimbursement.

If these reports are true, they constitute a serious violation of campaign finance law. The House has already announced it will investigate these claims. So it is time to state the obvious: The postal Board of Governors should suspend Mr. DeJoy as Postmaster General while these serious allegations are under investigation.

In the middle of a pandemic, America must have faith and confidence in the post office and those who lead it.

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

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

NOMINATION OF BRETT H. LUDWIG

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recommend the Honorable Brett H. Ludwig to be the U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Judge Ludwig passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with bipartisan support. I look forward to the full Senate voting to confirm him today.

Since 2017, Judge Ludwig has served the people of Wisconsin on the U.S. Bankruptcy Courts for both the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin.

Judge Ludwig was born in rural north central Wisconsin and spent his childhood in the city of Colby, the birthplace of the cheese that bears its name. His grandparents and great-grandparents were dairy farmers, instilling in their children and grandchildren the values of hard work and

dedication that Wisconsin's farm families are known for.

Brett's father, Duane Ludwig, worked nearly 40 years at a factory making corrugated container boxes. His mother, Connie, worked as a receptionist, secretary, and medical records clerk. They raised him to have a strong work ethic and to appreciate the importance of education.

Judge Ludwig graduated from Colby High School in 1987. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, graduating with the highest honors. He then attended the University of Minnesota Law School on a merit-based scholarship. He excelled in his class work, "grading on" to the Minnesota Law Review. He ultimately graduated magna cum laude, was named to the Order of the Coif, and then clerked for the Honorable George G. Fagg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

Following his clerkship, Brett returned to Wisconsin to practice at Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee, the largest law firm in Wisconsin and one of the oldest law firms in the United States. In 2003, Foley & Lardner made him a partner, and he spent the next 14 years building a successful commercial litigation practice. In addition to trying more than a dozen complex, multi-million-dollar cases through judgment, he played a crucial role in firm management, chairing the Milwaukee office's recruiting and pro bono committees.

Brett's leadership and contribution to his field extended far beyond his firm. He was hired by the Marquette University Law School to serve as an adjunct professor teaching insurance law. He served a term on the State Bar Board of Governors and was active in the Eastern District of Milwaukee Bar Association. He was also active in marshaling the efforts of Milwaukee's largest law firms to commit time and lawyers to pro bono representations in the district court.

In 2017, Brett left private practice when he was selected to serve as a bankruptcy judge, where he presided over more than 12,500 bankruptcy cases, issued more than 20,000 orders, and adjudicated dozens of evidentiary hearings and trials—all while earning the respect of debtors, creditors, and their lawyers through his strong judicial temperament, empathy, and compassion.

Judge Ludwig has also shown a strong and clear commitment to the rule of law. His written decisions reflect that he is a judge who is committed to faithfully applying the Bankruptcy Code and rules as they are written. He has demonstrated that he is not and will not be an activist judge.

Judge Ludwig lives just outside Milwaukee with his wife, Melissa Bleidorn; their children, Madeleine and Ryan; and a black lab, Chloe.

I would like to thank Senator BALDWIN for her support of our bipartisan

nomination commission that has once again selected an excellent jurist.

I would like to thank the hard-working members of this commission for their time and dedication in finding and recommending Judge Brett Ludwig, who will serve our Nation and the people of Wisconsin in the Eastern District with distinction and honor.

Judge Ludwig has my full support, and I urge all my colleagues to vote yes on his confirmation.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Michigan (Mrs. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 83, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 158 Ex.]

YEAS—83

Alexander	Enzi	Paul
Baldwin	Ernst	Peters
Barrasso	Feinstein	Portman
Bennet	Fischer	Reed
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Booker	Hassan	Rosen
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Heinrich	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	King	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Smith
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Toomey
Crapo	McSally	Udall
Cruz	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Moran	Wicker
Durbin	Murphy	Young

NAYS—6

Hirono	Schatz	Warren
Markey	Van Hollen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—11

Cardin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Graham	Murkowski	Stabenow
Harris	Murray	Tillis
Hoeben	Perdue	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 83, the nays are 6.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding provisions of rule XXII, the confirmation vote with respect to the Ludwig nomination occur at 11:15 a.m. tomorrow; further, if cloture is invoked on the Wiegand nomination, the Senate then vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Jarbou nomination; further, if cloture is invoked on the Jarbou nomination, the postcloture time with respect to the Jarbou nomination expire at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader on Thursday, September 10; further, that at 2:15 p.m. tomorrow, the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Wiegand nomination, and following disposition of the Wiegand nomination, the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the Cullen and Gujarati nominations in the order listed; finally, if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate