

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