

but if you are an essential worker during this pandemic, you get nothing. The Republican bill does not provide a nickel more for hazard pay or the personal protective equipment that you need and deserve.

Needless to say, I am strongly opposed to the Senate Republican bill and am glad it was defeated earlier today.

Instead of listening to the needs of fossil fuel CEOs, we need to listen to the needs of working-class Americans, the people who are hurting. Instead of providing more corporate welfare to billionaires and large corporations, we need to provide more economic relief to the tens of millions of Americans who are hurting economically.

Nearly 4 months ago, the House of Representatives did its job by passing the Heroes Act, a \$3.5 trillion bill. In my view, the Senate has to stand up and do its job and pass the Heroes Act or a bill that is even better than that legislation.

I received many, many thousands of letters, emails, and social media from constituents in the State of Vermont and, in fact, all over this country about how the economic crisis has negatively impacted their lives and what that \$600 a week in unemployment benefits that expired in July meant to them.

Let me read you just a few of the many thousands of stories my office has received. A constituent from North Chittenden, VT, wrote:

I was laid off in March. Since the end of the extra \$600 I've been able to eat because of the food bank. I wasn't able to get one of my prescriptions because even with insurance it was \$88. I saved as much as I could during the extra \$600 period, but I'm almost out of money now. Literally enough to make it about 10 days. Then what? I'm 65 [years of age].

An unemployed worker wrote:

We can't pay our rent including car payment and car insurance, bills, feed our four kids, or buy necessities. We desperately need the extra \$600 to stay afloat. If we don't get our money soon, we could lose EVERYTHING!

Another unemployed worker recently wrote:

My State benefit was \$127 a week (I exhausted my available State funds last week). My rent is \$1,200 a month. Without further congressional action, I will be unhoused within a month or two.

A constituent from Danville, VT, wrote:

That moment the government stopped the \$600 a week they closed my benefits. I never saw anything other than that \$600 and it went to bills and rent. Now I am behind on everything again.

And on and on it goes. For millions of people, that \$600-a-week check was life and death.

Clearly, in the midst of this unprecedented crisis, the Senate must act and act now, not with a skinny relief bill that does virtually nothing to help working families in their time of need, but with legislation that responds to the unprecedented economic pain and suffering that the American working class is experiencing.

We need to extend the extra \$600 a week in unemployment benefits for the 30 million Americans who have lost their jobs—like the House passed over 3 months ago. This is absolutely essential. During this crisis, it would give families the income they need to live with it. We need to make sure that every working-class person in America receives \$2,000 a month until this crisis is over so they can pay the rent and put food on the table.

We need to expand Medicare to all the 92 million Americans who are uninsured or underinsured. Nobody should be unable to go to a doctor during this crisis because they don't have health insurance. In other words, we need a coronavirus relief bill that benefits the working families of this country and low-income people, not just the wealthy and well-connected.

I know what my Republican colleagues will say—that it is too expensive, and we can't afford it. Maybe, just maybe, our Republican colleagues are so concerned about the deficit they might want to ask their billionaire campaign contributors to pay their fair share of taxes instead of giving them massive tax breaks.

In the midst of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and the worst public health crisis in more than 100 years, I think most Americans would be shocked to learn that 467 billionaires in our country have seen their wealth go up by \$800 billion during the pandemic. Let me repeat that: 467 billionaires have seen their wealth go up by \$800 billion during the pandemic. In my view, at a time of massive wealth and income inequality and when so many of our people are hurting, it is morally obscene for billionaires to use a global pandemic as an opportunity to make outrageous profits.

Instead of more austerity for the working class of this country, we need to impose austerity on the billionaire class and on Wall Street. That is why I have introduced legislation to tax the obscene wealth gains billionaires have made during the public health crisis. According to the Americans for Tax Fairness, if we taxed 60 percent of the windfall gains billionaires made during the pandemic, we could raise over \$420 billion. That is enough revenue to allow Medicare to pay all of the out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for everyone in America in the next 12 months. Yes, by taxing 60 percent of the wealth gains made by just 467 people during this horrific pandemic, we could guarantee healthcare as a right for an entire year for every man, woman, and child in this country. Billionaires would still be able to pocket over \$300 billion in wealth gains during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

At a time of enormous economic pain and suffering, we have a choice to make. We can continue to allow the very rich to get much richer while everyone else gets poorer and poorer or we can tax the winnings a handful of

billionaires made during the pandemic to improve the health and well-being of tens of millions of Americans.

It is time for the Senate to act on behalf of the working families of this country who are hurting like they have never hurt before and not just the billionaire class who are doing phenomenally well and have never had it so good.

I yield the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, September 14, 2020.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 14, 2020, at 3 p.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT J. SKINNER

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### *To be brigadier general*

COL. WILLIAM F. MCCLINTOCK

### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL S. GROEN

### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E):

#### *To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. MICHAEL H. DAY  
CAPT. MARY M. DEAN  
CAPT. CHARLES E. FOSSE  
CAPT. CHAD L. JACOBY  
CAPT. CAROLA J. G. LIST  
CAPT. MICHAEL W. RAYMOND  
CAPT. EDWARD M. ST. PIERRE

### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

#### *To be colonel*

PAUL JEFFREY AFFLECK  
JENNIFER M. AUPKE  
BRADLEY C. BALL  
GAVIN M. BATCHELDER  
MICHAEL J. BLAIR  
MATTHEW FORMBY BLUE  
CHAD C. BOARD  
BRIAN LAURENCE BOHLMAN  
MICAELA RAE BRANCATO  
DONALD R. BRASKETT JR.  
RONALD ALVIN BRASWELL  
MATTHEW C. BRENNER  
FREDERICK MICHAEL BROOKS  
RICARDO L. A. CAMEL  
STEVEN LEE CAMPBELL  
JOED IVAN CARBONELL  
KYLE E. CARPENTER  
WILLIAM LAWRENCE CARRAHER  
ROBERT N. CARVER  
JENNIFER WEST CASILLO  
JAMES CHAIKOWSKY  
LARISSA CRAWFORD CLARK  
BRIAN JAMES CLAUS