

generation of kids don't fall any further behind, and Democrats say they agree with that.

Republicans want to reopen the Paycheck Protection Program so that Main Streets across America don't turn into COVID-19 ghost towns, so that millions of workers can keep their jobs and keep getting paid. Democrats say they agree with that.

For workers who have been laid off, Republicans want to renew the Federal supplement to unemployment insurance. Democrats say they agree with that.

Republicans want to cement health protections for Americans with pre-existing conditions, including COVID-19 itself. Democrats claim they are all over this issue.

And Republicans want to take our Nation's college presidents, nonprofit leaders, and employers at their word when they say they need commonsense protections so that legal uncertainty does not block their reopening.

The bill on the floor would do every one of those things and much more. The overwhelming bulk of it are programs that Democrats claim they support. It turns out there is a special perk to being a Senator. When you actually support something, you get to vote for it. When you actually support something, you get to vote for it. When you actually want an outcome, you vote for it.

Strangely enough, that is not what seems to be happening. Our Democratic colleagues have been happy to talk about further relief as long as it remained a hypothetical concept. But every time the Senate has had a chance to actually do something, they said no.

In July, Republicans tried to continue the Federal plus-up to unemployment insurance before it expired. Senator SCHUMER blocked it. In August, Senator MCSALLY fought again to restart those benefits for laid-off Americans. Once again, Democrats stopped it cold.

In September, Republicans wrote a sweeping proposal to deliver hundreds of billions of dollars for safe schools, unemployment benefits, paycheck protection, and the healthcare fight. Every single Senate Democrat voted to kill it all, except the junior Senator from California, who didn't vote.

This has been the dynamic for months now: Republicans trying to pass commonsense policies that the Democrats say they support and Democrats replying that working people can't get a dime unless Speaker PELOSI gets everything she wants.

We are talking about silly stuff: massive tax cuts for rich people in blue States, stimulus checks for people in our country illegally, wheelbarrows of cash—out of any proportion to COVID-19 needs—for State and city governments that Democrats have mismanaged for decades, and removing longstanding bipartisan Hyde protections that protect taxpayers from funding abortions.

Now I hear they don't want to renew the PPP unless it sends money to Planned Parenthood and criminals who are, literally, currently in prison. Let me say that again. They don't want to renew PPP unless it sends money to Planned Parenthood and criminals who are, literally, currently in prison.

These are the kinds of far-left fringe demands over which Democrats have blocked kitchen-table assistance for American families and healthcare support to crush the virus.

During this historic crisis, the Democratic leaders have elected to deny struggling people the help they need unless President Trump signs the entire Democratic Party platform into law.

Today, we are providing another chance to right the ship. In a few minutes, Senators will vote to either advance or filibuster a broad package that would deliver on all kinds of urgent needs: testing, treatments, vaccines, safe schools for our kids, a second round of the job-saving PPP, more Federal unemployment benefits, the legal protections that university presidents and charities say they need, protections for preexisting conditions. There is almost nothing in this proposal that Democrats even claim to oppose.

Just last week, the entire country watched our colleagues on the Justice Committee complain over and over about having to fulfill those responsibilities when they supposedly wanted to be working on a coronavirus relief package. We will see who walks the walk.

I am confident the Democratic leader will repeat the same tired attacks he has been recycling since the summertime. He will say we shouldn't do anything unless we do everything. He will argue this multi-hundred-billion-dollar bill is paltry—\$500 billion is paltry or meager or emaciated, a half trillion dollars? I am not kidding. This is seriously their claim—that a half trillion dollars for working people is chump change. It is not worth their time. Hundreds of billions of dollars targeted directly to struggling people doesn't even get Democrats out of bed in the morning.

Well, perhaps, to the blue-State billionaires, who seem to be the Democrats' top priority, these historic sums of money do look like chump change. Maybe coastal elites who can practically find a million dollars in their couch cushions are indifferent about whether we get an outcome here.

Well, believe me, working families like the Kentuckians I represent don't see it that way. Millions of workers have been able to keep their jobs and support their families because of the Paycheck Protection Program. Republicans want to fund a whole second round of that. Today, Democrats will either vote to advance it or vote to kill it.

Students, teachers, and parents need to know their K-12 schools are as safe

as possible. Republicans want to send a historic sum of money to those schools. Today, Democrats will either vote to advance it or vote to kill it.

For the historic numbers of Americans who have been laid off, additional Federal unemployment benefits have been a lifeline. Republicans want to restore them. Today, Democrats will either vote to advance it or vote to kill it.

Colleges, universities, charities, and small business need commonsense legal protections, and with cases spiking, our whole country needs further investment in testing, tracing, and vaccines. Today, the Democrats will either vote to advance all that or vote to kill it.

Struggling people don't need more endless arguments. They don't need to keep waking up and listening to reporters speculate on whether the Speaker of the House is in a good mood that day, because their very livelihood may depend on it. The country needs an outcome. The country needs an outcome.

Let's put aside our differences, agree where we can, and move forward. Why not get the country in a better place while Washington continues to argue over all the rest? If the sun sets today with no progress, if the Senate turns to Judge Barrett's nomination without having advanced another historic rescue package, it will only be because Senate Democrats used the filibuster to kill this aid.

If this relief does not pass, it will be because Senate Democrats chose to do Speaker PELOSI's political dirty work rather than stand up for struggling people. Let's not go there. Let's find our common sense, agree where we can, and advance this legislation while we debate the rest. The American people deserve action.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 178

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion on the motion to concur with amendment No. 2652 be waived.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the closer we get to an election, the sillier it gets here in Leader MCCONNELL's Senate. All week, the Republican majority has scheduled stunt votes on supposed COVID relief bills that are all, in reality, designed to fail.

Yesterday, the leader moved to table his own bill so the Republicans could vote against tabling it. Let me repeat that because that is what is happening here. It is hard to believe that this is supposedly the greatest debate Chamber in the country or in the world. Leader MCCONNELL moved to table his own bill so the Republicans could then vote against tabling it. That is what

the Republican majority thinks passes for a serious attempt at a COVID relief bill in this Republican Senate when people are suffering so badly—games, games when people are suffering.

The truth is the Republican leader needed that vote to fail because, if the Senate actually proceeded to a real bill, it might mess up the timing of the Republican plan to confirm Judge Barrett to the Supreme Court. Now, think of that for a moment. The Republican majority sets up a fake vote on COVID relief because if, God forbid, the Senate actually considered a real bill to do something real about this overwhelming COVID crisis, it might delay their Supreme Court nominee they are rushing through in a process that can only be declared as abusive to the Senate.

That is all the American people need to know about priorities on the other side of the aisle—rush through a nominee whose views are way to the right of the American people's and ignore, avoid, and play games with getting COVID relief, which is the No. 1 thing the American people want, not a Supreme Court nominee who is so far away from their views.

While the country is hurting, while millions of Americans are sick and dying, while workers lose their jobs, and while businesses close their doors, Republican Senators are playing political stunts with vitally needed economic relief, and the games continue today. Once again, the Republican majority will bring up a bill that is designed to fail—its partisan, emaciated so-called COVID relief bill. The bill we are voting on today has already failed in the Senate. It didn't get a Democratic vote.

We already know it lacks the votes, and why? Because it leaves so many Americans behind. Renters and homeowners are left behind. There is no relief for them. Americans who have lost jobs through no fault of their own are left behind. Americans who rely on critical public services by their State and local governments are left behind. Small businesses, communities of color, and some of the hardest hit industries—our restaurants, our concert venues, theaters, nonprofits, and local news—receive no dedicated assistance. The Republican proposal on COVID doesn't even devote enough resources to testing and tracing despite a spike in cases and the harrowing prospect of a second wave of the virus sweeping across America. It is laden with poison pills that our Republican colleagues know Democrats would never support. That is not an attempt to legislate and get something done.

What is in there? There is a giant corporate immunity provision to shield corporations from liability if they put their workers in dangerous COVID-related situations, and there is a tax provision to benefit wealthy families who send their kids to private schools while shortchanging middle-class families and public schools.

There is no reason for our Republican colleagues to insist on a corporate liability shield and a provision to injure public schools in a COVID relief bill—no reason. They know it is objectionable. They know it is partisan. They know it is an anchor around the minimal bill they have—enough to sink it. There is no reason to include these poison pills in legislation that they know needs bipartisan support to pass. Twenty Republicans have said they don't want to vote for any money, so they know they need the Democrats, but they have put things in the bill that they know the Democrats will oppose and will lead to the bill's demise, this minimal bill.

So what is the logic here?

Well, there is a perverse logic if the Republican leader wants to make sure that the bill fails, and that is sure what it looks like. It is clear why Leader MCCONNELL is forced to do these stunts—a good portion of his caucus opposes more relief for the American people.

Yesterday, the Republican whip, the member in charge of counting Republican votes, said: "I think we're going to have a hard time finding 13 [Republican] votes for anything"—13 out of 52, 53.

One Republican Member proudly vowed not to vote for "another dime." People are being kicked out of their homes. Children are starving. There is no testing and tracing that meets the needs. Schools can't open—and not another dime. Let America suffer so our rightwing ideology—saying that we shouldn't make well-to-do people pay taxes, which is what their last tax cut bill did—can prevail over the needs of America and the American people.

So it is not the Democrats who are blocking a real relief bill. We know that. Everyone knows that. Speaker PELOSI is still trying her best with the White House to get a deal. We have already offered to meet the Republicans halfway. The biggest obstacles to another relief bill from the very beginning have been Senate Republicans and Leader MCCONNELL.

Then, as if we needed any more proof—it was pretty obvious before—it was reported in multiple news outlets and confirmed by four Senators who were at the meeting that Leader MCCONNELL warned the White House against making another deal on another stimulus bill before the election. Let me repeat that. Leader MCCONNELL, while he was coming to the floor and railing against Democratic obstruction, was behind the scenes, warning the White House against striking a bipartisan deal on COVID relief.

Who does he think he can fool? Not the American people. Ask them. They know who is to blame. They know Democrats, up and down the line, are for relief and Republicans oppose it. I will tell you one thing: The American people are sick and tired of these political stunts. They are sick and tired of politicians who would rather have it

appear they are working than doing actual work.

This shouldn't be so hard. We all know how to pass bills in the Senate—with bipartisan buy-in and bipartisan support. We did it in the CARES bill back in March. Yet, ever since that bill passed this Senate, the Republican majority has gone totally partisan every step of the way, even on an issue as important to the country as relief from this evil pandemic.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. President, on the Supreme Court, the Republican leader has announced the Senate will vote next Monday on Judge Amy Coney Barrett to be a Supreme Court Justice, capping what will be the most rushed, most partisan, and least legitimate process in the entire history of Supreme Court nominations.

Leader MCCONNELL continues to defile the Senate more than any other Senator has done in a very long time. Let us hope that Leader MCCONNELL hasn't ruined the Senate for good with this nasty 180-degree turn, holding up Merrick Garland, and rushing this judge through while people are in line at the polling places.

The idea "let's wait for the next election" was total hypocrisy—total hypocrisy.

The U.S. Senate has never—never—considered a Supreme Court Justice this close to a national Presidential election. I doubt it ever will again. I don't think we will ever have the combination of Donald Trump and Leader MCCONNELL, who so don't care about what they said in the past—MCCONNELL anyway—who so don't care about trying to pick a Justice who will look at the law as opposed to ideological views. I hope it doesn't happen again. I pray it doesn't happen again.

Just 4 years ago, we all know the Republican leader, the former chairman of the Judiciary Committee, the current chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and nearly every single Republican Member argued that President Obama's nominee didn't deserve a hearing or a vote on the floor of the Senate because there was a national election 8 months away.

Mere hours after the passing of Justice Scalia, Leader MCCONNELL said the American people deserve a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice, not if one party or another party controlled the Presidency or the Senate. Absolute: The American people deserve a voice. That was 8 months from an election.

Leader MCCONNELL confirmed yesterday that the vote to confirm President Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court will take place 8 days before an election. Senate Republicans could wait 8 months to give the American people a voice in selecting a Supreme Court Justice; now they can't wait 8 days?

I am sure that if they had to, the Republican majority would confirm a Supreme Court Justice 8 minutes before election day. Is it no wonder that