

We are in the middle of the most devastating health crisis in modern history, and the American people are paying a terrible price. Nearly 220,000 Americans have died in just 10 months. To put that in perspective, that is significantly more than the number of Americans who died in the Korean, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars combined—all of them.

Remember President Trump calling himself a “war President”? President Trump said he was a “war President.” Well, has he acted like one? No. He called the virus a hoax. He has been AWOL ever since.

Millions have lost their jobs. They are struggling to make ends meet. People are being evicted from their homes. They are living in their cars and in shelters or on the street. They are relying on the generosity of others, and the virus is still not remotely under control. The need for another comprehensive emergency funding bill to address the COVID crisis is obvious. It is urgent and has been for 5 months. And what is the Senate doing? Staging show votes on COVID relief bills that the majority leader knows will go nowhere. And then they go back on their word—both the majority leader and the chairman of the Judiciary Committee—on what they said a year ago, and they try to rush through the nomination of a Supreme Court Justice less than 2 weeks before the election, after millions of Americans have already voted.

So where are their priorities?

I know where mine are. They are with the families of the 220,000 Americans who have lost their lives to this virus. They are with the thousands of Vermonters and millions more across the Nation who lost their jobs during this pandemic. They are with the small business owners trying to stay afloat during this crisis. They are with the fathers and mothers wondering if they will be able to pay next month’s rent or put food on the table, and they are with the children struggling to learn through Zoom calls and online classes. It is a national disaster, and it requires real solutions.

We need a comprehensive bill to address this problem. We can’t do it with fig leaves or do it piecemeal, like Senator McCONNELL wants to do. We can’t pass an inadequate bill today on the chance that maybe we will come back later and do what we should have done to begin with. That is not how it works. Everyone knows that.

We have one chance for the remainder of this year to get it right, and we owe it to the American people, everybody—I don’t care if they are Republicans, Democrats, Independents—everybody—to try.

The majority leader staged a show yesterday. He didn’t bring up a comprehensive proposal for COVID relief and open it for debate. He called for a process vote and only one part of it, the Paycheck Protection Program. Well, I support that program. We all

do. It is critical in keeping literally thousands of small businesses afloat. But take a look at this proposal. It falls flat. It ignores critical improvements to the programs that would be made by considering the Heroes Act—expanding access to all nonprofits, making critical-access hospitals eligible for PPP, and addressing arbitrary caps on various loan programs to help small businesses.

More importantly, it is providing more funding for these programs, and nothing else would even remotely solve the problems facing our country. The economy will not come back until the American people have confidence that the virus has been vanquished. We need more funding for the PPP program. We all agree with that. We need to fix that program and do so much more.

We have to invest more in testing. It needs to be based on a national testing and contact tracing strategy so we can quickly identify cases and isolate those who have been exposed. How many times do we have to say it? We need to develop a vaccine distribution program now so it can be up and running as soon as the vaccine is available. We have to provide personal protective equipment to those on the frontlines. We have to ensure our hospitals have the resources they need to take care of the ill. We need to keep our nursing homes safe and virus-free.

Doing targeted bills aimed at one sector is the way to avoid doing what is really needed. It picks winners and losers at a time when everyone is struggling. No matter how much aid we give to small business or airlines or to our struggling restaurant industry, our economy won’t come back until the virus is under control.

We need a comprehensive bill, not the so-called McConnell “skinny” bill we are voting on today, which provides only \$500 billion of COVID relief, less than half of even what the Trump administration proposed just a month ago.

Look at the lines at food banks. They are skyrocketing during this crisis, but there is nothing in this bill for nutrition assistance. Look at the millions of Americans who are struggling to pay next month’s rent or to keep up with their mortgage payments. Notwithstanding the wishful thinking of the President, this is a massive problem, and either the President doesn’t know it or he doesn’t care. Maybe it is both.

Today there are over 25 million Americans unemployed, compared to just 2 million at the end of January, and the unemployment assistance in this bill is totally inadequate.

There is nothing in the bill for State and local governments that are on the frontline fighting this virus. There is inadequate money for testing, education, and childcare; no funding for community health centers; no funding to fight this on a global level. We are not going to defeat this pandemic if we ignore what is happening outside of the United States. Americans can’t safely

resume international travel and commerce.

I can go on. There is so much that is missing.

So what do they put in? They turn something over to the well-paid lobbyists of corporations by providing sweeping liability shields for corporate wrongdoers who have failed to do their part to keep employees, consumers, and patients safe. That tells you everything you need to know about what is in it. A special earmark for big corporations comes ahead of struggling American families.

We know it is not going to pass. It shouldn’t pass. Let’s start working and getting something that can be passed instead of this. The House passed the Heroes bill over 5 months ago, and they passed it again 3 weeks ago. Why don’t we take it up and vote it up or vote it down? Let’s have some votes. Let’s make people stand up and see what they are really for. If we don’t, then, democracy has failed the American people.

I remain hopeful that Speaker PELOSI and Secretary Mnuchin’s talks will result in a comprehensive deal on COVID relief that will solve real problems in America. Speaker PELOSI has already shown a willingness to compromise, and the other side must do the same. If it does, Senator McCONNELL must commit to bring it to the floor for a vote immediately, even if he personally opposes it, or the majority of his caucus opposes it. That is the way democracies are supposed to work. The American people have waited long enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROMNEY). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to finish my comments before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECT AND SERVE ACT

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the brave and hard-working men and women of law enforcement across this Nation.

Last month, I talked about the dangerous consequences of inaction by the Senate if we didn’t come to protect them. Unfortunately, since my last speech, four more law enforcement officers, men and women, have died—been murdered—in the line of duty. That is a 20-percent increase over the number last year.

That doesn’t count the hundreds of police officers who have been injured in the line of duty, many of them still recovering from their wounds. The groundswell of violence against law enforcement is shocking, and it is our responsibility as Senators to act.

Enough is enough. Rather than support radical ideas like defunding and abolishing the police, the Senate should take the lead and pass meaningful legislation to protect law enforcement officers, increasing funding, improving training, and raising standards. That is why I again call on my

colleagues to support and pass the Protect and Serve Act, a bill that I sponsored and a bill that I hope we can get passed.

The Protect and Serve Act would punish dangerous criminals who murder a law enforcement officer in the line of duty. If they murder a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, they will be sentenced to life. If they injure a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, they will be sentenced to 10 years in prison. The premise of the legislation is simple: There is no escape from justice for dangerous criminals who intentionally assault or kill a law enforcement officer.

The Senate passes legislation almost every day in this Chamber by unanimous consent, but I am sad to report that if I try to get unanimous consent for this bill, we would have objection on the floor.

The heated rhetoric and the violent attacks on officers are having real-world impacts, and the safety of law enforcement has never been at the low that it is today. Across the country, recruitments are down. Fewer people are applying to go into service or into law enforcement academies, and retirements are up. We are seeing our law enforcement ranks dwindle. It is sad, but it is not surprising.

Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every single day. Every morning, they wake up, they kiss their spouse goodbye, and they don't know if they are going to come back safely. But when they spend all day being disrespected while doing this very difficult and very dangerous job and politicians harass them or allow them to be harassed, I should say, by violent mobs and protesters, there is no wonder morale is at an alltime low. Fewer police means more criminal activity. It means hard-working American citizens who go to work every day just to make their lives better are living in communities that are less safe. We cannot sit idly by and allow the streets to be filled with dangerous, violent criminals who face no consequences. Instead, we must speak up and show our men and women in blue that we respect them and we back them.

They put their lives on the line to protect us, and we should do the work in Congress to protect them. In fact, in the last Congress, Speaker PELOSI allowed this bill to be voted on. She supported making it a law. But now her conference is run by radical leftists who want to abolish the police or defund the police, and she is not even allowing this bill to be brought to the floor. She won't speak in support of law enforcement officers despite the rising tide of violence against them. That is why the responsibility lies here in the Senate for us to show our support and let law enforcement communities across the country know that we have their back.

Let's protect police and deputies, and let's pass the Protect and Serve Act. I

urge the American people to call your Senators and tell them that you want this bill passed. You want law enforcement to be safer, and you want our communities to be safer. Don't be silent. Help me fight for the men and women in blue. They are counting on all of us.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

UIGHUR INTERVENTION AND GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN UNIFIED RESPONSE ACT OF 2019

The Senate proceeded to consider the House message to accompany S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 2652, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell Amendment No. 2680 (to Amendment No. 2652), to improve the small business programs.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative bill 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 motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, with a further amendment No. 2652.

Mitch McConnell, John Barrasso, Susan M. Collins, Lamar Alexander, Thom Tillis, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Chuck Grassley, Deb Fischer, Rob Portman, Richard C. Shelby, Michael B. Enzi, James E. Risch, Kevin Cramer, Lindsey Graham, Roy Blunt, John Boozman.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 178, an act to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, with a further amendment No. 2652, 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 Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Risch
Blunt	Graham	Roberts
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Loeffler	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	McSally	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Young

NAYS—44

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

NOT VOTING—5

Harris	Murkowski	Sinema
Manchin	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Democratic leader.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Leader MCCONNELL has argued that what the Republican majority is doing by ramming a Supreme Court Justice through the Senate mere days before a national Presidential election is completely normal, that it is perfectly consistent with precedent. This is not true. There is no precedent in the history of the Senate for confirming a Supreme Court Justice this close to an election. There has never been—never been—a Supreme Court Justice confirmed after July of an election year.

President Lincoln, a great Republican President—one of our foremost national heroes—rejected the opportunity to nominate someone for the Supreme Court close to an election. I dare say every single Republican Senator already knows this because they all argued that exact position 4 years ago.

Republicans all argued that the Senate shouldn't confirm Justices in Presidential election years because of the supposed principle that "the American people deserve a voice." Senate Republicans made that argument 8 months