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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Senate

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

(Legislative day of Monday, October 19, 2020)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I rise today to join my colleagues in opposing the confirmation of Judge Amy Coney Barrett as Justice of the Supreme Court. This is the wrong time to be choosing a Supreme Court Justice, and Justice Barrett is the wrong candidate for a seat on that Court.

The timing of tonight's confirmation vote is shocking. The majority of Americans want to be able to weigh in on who should sit in Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's seat on the highest Court in the land. They want to vote to choose a President to fill that vacancy.

We are 8 days away from Americans casting their final votes in the 2020 election. Over 58 million Americans have already voted, including more than 649,000 Nevadans. The American people are making their voices heard in response to this administration's disastrous handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which has led to the loss of 225,000 American lives, including 1,748 Nevadans, and sickened over 95,000 Nevadans.

In the middle of this crisis, Congress should be doing everything it can to address the needs of the American people. Instead, the Senate majority leader is ramming through a nominee at breakneck pace. He and the President are rushing this nominee's confirmation for a reason, which is because they believe, based on Judge Barrett's own public statements, that she will be the decisive vote to overturn the Afford-

able Care Act in a case that will be heard just a week after the election.

On November 10, the Supreme Court will listen to arguments from lawyers in a court case about whether the Affordable Care Act is constitutional. Majority Leader MCCONNELL and the President want a Justice who shares their views on the Affordable Care Act seated on the Court by that date.

Amy Coney Barrett's record on the ACA, not to mention her stance on the rights for women and the LGBTQ Americans that you have heard from my colleagues today and you will hear throughout the night, but her record on the ACA poses tremendous risk to Nevadans at a time when they need every help we can extend to them during this health pandemic.

That is why I opposed her nomination to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals back in 2017, and that is why I oppose her confirmation to the Supreme Court today. Instead of rushing her through in a partisan fashion to a lifetime seat on the Supreme Court, we should be working together to get the additional coronavirus relief that Nevadans and Americans so badly need right now.

Most of us here in the Senate understand that the American people need help to cope with the pandemic. To save lives and to stop the spread of the virus, people have to wear masks, they wash their hands, and they socially distance. That has meant that businesses haven't been able to operate as usual.

Some companies have been able to rethink their business models and

thrive, but others just can't substitute online interactions for in-person contact. That includes Nevada's world-class travel, tourism, and hospitality industry.

During April, Nevada had the highest unemployment rate ever recorded anywhere in the country at 30 percent. We are recovering from that peak more slowly than other States, and we still have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. In August, second only to Hawaii's, it was 12.6 percent. Nevadans are hurting. Nevadans are hurting, Americans are hurting, and my constituents tell me about it all the time, and the data is clear what I see in Nevada. One in seven Nevadans say they aren't getting enough to eat, and one in five Nevadans say the children in their household are underfed.

There has been a 14-percent increase in those receiving SNAP benefits in the Silver State since February. There are 14 percent of Nevadans who say they are behind on rent or mortgage, and 38 percent are having difficulty with household expenses. There are 110,000 households in my home State that could be at risk of eviction by January.

That is why I have spent weeks calling on Leader MCCONNELL to extend and expand upon the support that we put in place in the relief legislation that we passed in the first half of this year. Unfortunately, instead of negotiating another COVID relief package, Leader MCCONNELL would rather play politics.

Nevadans need to understand the partisan political games that are being

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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