

maybe making \$15, \$16 an hour, compared to maybe somebody who works in a factory making \$25 or \$30 an hour—those restaurant workers have been more affected. That has been played out through so many different industries around the economy where lower income individuals, often who cannot work mobile—they can't virtually work, unlike someone, say, who is in the financial services industry. They have been some of the hardest hit.

Another economic slowdown caused by our failure to act here in Congress would only exacerbate those real hardships being felt by those who can least afford it. Do we have a magic wand here? No. We can't solve all the problems, but we can help.

With so many challenges to contend with, it is concerning to me that the Senate will be in session for only 11 more days before we adjourn for the holidays. We have to act, and we have a very short window to do so.

By the way, we should not leave Washington without acting. We should not leave Washington for the holidays without passing a COVID-19 response bill. If we do, we will be risking even more devastation from the virus and even more economic impacts, where millions of Americans could lose their jobs, their homes, their cars, and more.

We can help avoid this if we provide the necessary resources to continue to combat the ongoing pandemic as well as addressing a lot of the important provisions created under the CARES Act way back 9 months ago that were set to expire at the end of this year.

Of these provisions, one of the most concerning to me is the cliff that we face with regard to unemployment benefits for those who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Both the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation Program will expire at the end of this month. These are supplementary Federal programs designed to help the self-employed, gig economy workers, and those who need extra support while on unemployment during the pandemic. I know some of these people. I have talked to them. They are nervous. They are looking at this year-end and thinking: My gosh, I am on unemployment now. Even though I am self-employed and I wouldn't have been on it under the State system, now the Feds are going to pull out, and I am left with nothing.

Even with the economic rebound we have had since the spring, we are still down 10 million jobs in this country since February. Think about it. Again, the economy was going great, the policies we put in place were working, and we are still down 10 million jobs. A further slowdown of the economy is going to be tough for those long-term unemployed, and my concern is that some of them may never reenter the workforce. So we need to act and act quickly to get them back in the mix.

With the latest round of stricter social distancing measures and closures

in some States in order to counter the coronavirus, more jobs will vanish. We are seeing that already. Look at the States that are doing shutdowns—higher unemployment, more people without a job. Losing that unemployment insurance lifeline will be devastating for lots of those Americans. Let's not let that happen.

The end of 2020 also means the end of other important COVID-19 response programs. Many individuals who had their incomes affected by this pandemic are also renters. The current national moratorium on evictions has allowed these individuals to keep a roof over their head while they look for work and try to hold their lives together, but this moratorium expires at the end of the year. So you will see a lot more people losing their apartment, losing their home, and ending up without anyplace to go. We need to act here in Congress to make sure that doesn't happen.

Same goes for the millions of individuals who are currently relying on student loan deferrals to free up money to cover expenses during the pandemic. Come the start of next year, these student loan payments will be due if we don't act. A lot of people relied on this. It is not that they won't have to pay, but it has been deferred. That ends at year-end.

My hope is that laying out everything we stand to lose in just a few weeks at year-end will encourage Congress to act on targeted coronavirus legislation to serve as that bridge—just as a temporary bridge between now and when we have widespread vaccine availability next spring. Failure to act could mean further economic suffering that puts millions more Americans in a tough spot.

In the face of a virus that seems to be getting more and more out of hand every day, it just seems like common sense to me that we should act. We should come together to expand and extend these important programs.

Again, I agree with Leader MCCONNELL, who spoke on the floor yesterday, talking about the importance of providing support for, as an example, our hardest hit small businesses by having a second round of Paycheck Protection Program targeted at those companies that are actually losing money, year-to-year showing this month as compared to a year ago or this quarter as compared to a year ago that they are seeing a significant drop in the revenue. These are the ones that need the help the most.

In addition, we should consider other important provisions, again, to provide funding to keep our kids safe in school—we want them in school; it is a good thing for them, but we have to be sure they can be safe—facilitate vaccine distribution, support our healthcare providers, and funding and flexibility for State and local governments that truly need it. They have to show the need.

American lives are at stake, and we are in danger of losing whatever

ground we gained on the coronavirus as this third wave threatens my home State of Ohio and the States of so many of my colleagues in this Chamber.

Let's not wait any longer. Let's come together and get something done that is good for the American people before the end of the year. And let's stay here. I am committed to staying here. Let's stay here until we do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 20-52 concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Brazil for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$70 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,
Director.

Enclosures.