

ventilation, as BOBBY SCOTT tells us over and over; and we need more teachers.

This is a big mistake. The Republicans said you can get a small amount, not even approaching in any way, the PPP—again, no resentment there; we support that. But the recognition that that is important should also recognize that the sector of our economy that supports the private sector be recognized.

So, on that score, you come to a situation where, how could it be that we only have \$160 billion for State and local, where we have approaching \$1 trillion dollars for PPP, not recognizing that the private sector is connected to the public sector?

Now, one more point on that.

They said: You can have some money for State and local—we will decide how it will be distributed—if you do surrender the rights of workers.

In other words, just in case anybody doesn't know, there are essential workers who are required to go to work. If they don't because they are concerned about danger to their health and the health of their families because the workplace is not safe, they cannot go on unemployment insurance. And if they go to work and contract the virus, they have no recourse, because that is the way the Republicans want it.

That is the way the Republicans want it: antiworker.

Madam Speaker, just for good measure, they have thrown in certain aspects of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, OSHA—the list goes on—in section 42 of their heinous liability bill of all of the actions that cannot be taken.

And I asked one of the Republican Senators: What does preventing the ADA, American with Disabilities Act, to honor its responsibility?

They said: Why not have the Chamber of Commerce call you and tell you.

I said: Why don't you not waste my time or the Chambers' time about why the ADA should not be enforced because of the virus?

This is coronavirus-centric. We said that we can find a compromise on liability for the time of the virus and in a way that is fair to those employers who want to protect their workers and to the workers. They decided they would turn it into some massive, long-term, ever-encompassing liability—just so wrong to work with. That is not what our system is about.

But, nonetheless, I still thought we could try to find a compromise. We couldn't. They were absolute: Just call the Chamber of Commerce. They will tell you why they can't meet the needs of their workers.

Madam Speaker, heading back to the money, nearly \$1 trillion PPP.

\$160 billion—and not even giving the States and localities the flexibility to use the funds for both addressing the COVID needs, the health needs, but also the revenue lost. Even the Repub-

lican Governors wanted that flexibility, but they wouldn't give it to us then, and they wouldn't give it to us now for fear that some blue State Governor or city or mayor or county executive might take advantage of that.

We have never done enough for localities. That is a pitch we have made. That is what we have in the Heroes Act. But there was no market for that on the Republican side of the aisle.

So when we say it is a first step, that is basic. Let us thank God CHUCK SCHUMER was able to dismantle, in part, the Toomey resolution that would tie the hands of a President to meet the needs of the American people and our economy by exercising section 13(3) of the Federal Reserve Board.

Madam Speaker, we got past that, which took a long time. I felt Wednesday night we were finished. This monstrosity reared his head the next morning. Leader SCHUMER effectively was able to fix it—it still should not even have been initiated, but, nonetheless, fix it—in a way that enabled us to go forward. And that is why it has taken this long to get here in these last few days.

Madam Speaker, again, I look forward to NITA LOWEY bringing the legislation to the floor. As the chair of the Committee on Appropriations, this will be her last bill on the floor. In fact, it is the last bill for many of us here, but hers as chair of the Committee on Appropriations. She and her staff—Shalanda and Chris and so many others—and all of our chairs did such a remarkable job, and their staffs deserve so much credit for all of this.

Again, we will do some good with this legislation, but we must recognize that more needs to be done to crush the virus, to put more money in the pockets of the American people—from the American people to the American people—and, again, to fill in the gap that has been purposefully left to honor our heroes with all that.

As we review policy and legislation and negotiation and all that, just always have in our hearts every single one of the people who have died from the coronavirus. It can be stopped. It can be crushed. But that is a decision, it is a decision, and a decision to recognize where it is hurting people the most.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to a strong bipartisan vote today on this legislation, respecting it for what it does, not judging it for what it does not, but recognizing that more needs to be done.

Again, with high praise for all of our chairs, and, again, special recognition of Madam Chair NITA LOWEY for her last bill on the floor, again, I say congratulations to all the staff who worked so hard.

But it all comes back to families who lost their loved ones, those millions and millions of people who were infected, some more seriously than others. We don't know the after-effects it may have, but we do know that we have hope.

We have a vaccine, and we have a President coming into office who believes in science and cares about people and values the work that our first responders and our healthcare workers, et cetera, do for us.

Madam Chair, prayerfully, as you and our chaplain began, prayerfully, I close my remarks, assuring, for whatever it is worth, that many of us who serve in this body and represent the American people have had a death in the family, because so many people have lost their loved ones, whom we have all lost.

#### CORONAVIRUS RELIEF AID

(Mr. SUOZZI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of our bipartisan legislation to both fund the government and for the COVID relief package. As Speaker PELOSI just noted, this bill is far from perfect, but we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Madam Speaker, today, is the darkest day of the year. It is a fitting symbol of the misery and suffering that so many people are facing in our country right now. The effects of this pandemic have been cruelly uneven.

Some people have remained relatively unscathed. Some people can work remotely, still have their jobs, no one around them has gotten sick or died within their immediate circle, while others are awash in misery: unable to return to work, unable to pay their rent, to pay their utilities; people around them have gotten sick.

People have lost their lifesavings in their small business, and many hundreds of thousands have died, including my 92-year-old father-in-law, who, in April, was diagnosed with the coronavirus and died within 48 hours.

Today's relief package—and that is what it is is relief—will provide much-needed help for millions of Americans.

So while today is the darkest day of the year, every day will get a little brighter, and spring will surely follow our dark winter. But we must remember that, while spring is on its way, there is so much more that needs to be done.

Our State and local governments must have relief from their massive loss of revenues. Without our help, police officers, teachers, and other heroes on the front line will face layoffs.

Madam Speaker, we need to continue today's spirit of bipartisanship.

□ 0930

#### IN SUPPORT OF COVID RELIEF MEASURE

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this desperately needed omnibus measure.