

example, we have only considered 29 amendments in the entire year in the Senate, absent the impeachment proceeding. Twenty-nine amendments. The year before, 2019, there were 22 amendments. That is a waste of talent.

The men and women of the Senate should come together, hopefully on a bipartisan basis, but regardless, should come together to debate the issues and offer their best ideas and, having offered them, be given the chance to vote up or down. I think that appetite is strong on both sides of the aisle.

On the Democratic side, Senator MERKLEY of Oregon has been a leader in discussing changes in the Senate rules, and we reached out to Republicans as well to engage in that conversation. I think we are a better Senate for it if we do it and a better Nation for it if the debate becomes relevant to the issues of the day from people across America who are watching closely to see if we understand what they are struggling with economically and politically.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I heard the remarks of the Senator from Illinois. It is a hope that we can change the way the Senate operates and do more amendments and do more debating on the floor. We haven't seen much give from some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but hopefully that could and will happen.

Now, about remarks here, every day, it seems, for the past week or so, I have come to the floor ready to talk about the merits of bipartisan legislation we have been drafting, not wanting to be critical at all. Then I listen to the Republican leader. The leader's remarks just about every day this week as he has opened the Senate have been so nastily partisan and in so many ways false that I have no choice but to correct the record as the Democratic leader.

The Republican leader's accusation that the blame for this bill's delay lies totally on one side is just ridiculous. It is "Alice in Wonderland" thinking. It defies all the facts as to what we have seen. Then his comparison—that the agreement we are voting on today and the most recent Republican offer are so similar—is absurd. The two bills are nothing alike, and I had to point that out several times.

I have a chart here.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have this chart printed in the RECORD.

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

BIPARTISAN EMERGENCY COVID RELIEF LEGISLATION SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVES ON MCCONNELL'S INADEQUATE PROPOSAL

| Item | New Bipartisan Relief Agreement | December 1 GOP Proposal |
|--|--|--|
| Unemployment Insurance .. | \$300 per week enhanced UI and other program extensions through March 14, 2021 | \$0 enhanced UI and program extensions end on January 31, 2021 |
| Direct Payments | Additional round of payments—\$600 individual, \$1,200/married couple, and \$600/child dependent | \$0 |
| Corporate Immunity | Excluded | McConnell/Cornyn Corporate Immunity "Red Line" |
| SNAP | \$13 billion | \$0 |
| Rental Assistance | \$25 billion | \$0 |
| Transportation | \$45 billion | \$0 |
| Support for Small Businesses (PPP) | \$284.5 billion | \$257.7 billion |
| Support for Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions .. | \$12 billion | \$0 |
| SBA Grants | \$20 billion | \$0 |
| Debt Relief Payments and Enhancements for SBA Lending Programs | \$5.5 billion | \$0 |
| SAMHSA Funding for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder | \$4.25 billion | \$0 |
| NIH COVID Research | \$1.25 billion | \$0 |
| Broadband | \$7 billion | \$0 |

Mr. SCHUMER. I am just going to read from it, comparing the new, bipartisan relief agreement to the December 1 GOP proposal of Leader MCCONNELL.

How about direct payments? This bill has \$600 per individual, \$1,200 per married couple, \$600 child dependent. Many of us didn't think that was enough, but it is in the bill. Do you know how much was in the Republican leader's proposal? Zero.

Unemployment insurance. This bill that we are voting on has \$300 per week of enhanced UI and other program extensions through March 14. What does the Republican leader's bill have? Zero enhanced UI. Program extensions end January 31.

This bill has \$13 billion in SNAP; the Republican leader's bill, zero.

This bill has \$25 billion in rental assistance; the Republican leader's bill, zero.

This bill has \$45 billion in transportation for airlines and mass transit and buses and airports and highways. What does the Republican leader's bill have? Zero.

This bill has, very importantly, money for community development financial institutions and minority institutions, \$12 billion. What does the Republican leader's bill have? Zero.

SBA grants, \$20 billion this year; Republican leader's bill, zero.

Debt payments and enhancements for SBA. This bill, \$5.5 billion; Republican bill, zero.

SAMHSA funding for mental health and substance use disorder. This bill, \$4.25 billion; Republican leader's bill, zero.

NIH COVID research, \$1.25 billion; Republican bill, zero.

Broadband so homes can get broadband. This bill, \$7 billion; Republican leader's bill, zero.

The list could go on. There is a complete difference between the two bills.

We all know as well that the Republican leader, who blames Democrats for

delay, said for several months that the Senate should be on pause. As Democrats were demanding more action, the Republican leader was unmoved. The Republican leader's answer was that 20 Republican Senators wanted to do nothing more at all. When he finally proposed legislation, it was completely partisan, insufficient, and littered with poison pills.

I forgot to add one thing that was in the leader's bill but not in this bill—the broad corporate liability immunity provision, which the Senator from Illinois tried to straighten out. Another huge difference—a poison pill.

So when the leader finally proposed legislation because of public pressure to do something, it was partisan—no Democratic input, zero—insufficient, much too little in so many areas, as I mentioned, and littered with poison pills designed to ensure the bill would fail. Most notably was a provision to give corporations, no matter how egregious their behavior, sweeping immunity from legal accountability. Leader MCCONNELL said on the floor that for Republicans, corporate immunity was a red line.

And he blames the Democrats, as he did again today, for why this bill is being debated now? It is just turning truth on its head. It is like "Alice in Wonderland."

Even in the recent negotiations, the Republican majority made an eleventh hour demand that had nothing to do with helping people during this pandemic but, rather, sabotaged the incoming Biden administration's recovery effort and restricted the Federal Reserve's ability to save jobs and right the economy in a time of crisis.

Thankfully, the agreement we reached contains neither the leader's corporate immunity provision nor Senator TOOMEY's last-minute provision to handicap the Fed's authority to stabilize the economy in a crisis. And it will do a whole lot of good, besides, some of the programs I mentioned.

Look, after months of tense and difficult negotiations, we have this agreement. It is not as large as Democrats want. It is certainly larger than what many Republicans want. That is the nature of compromise. It does us no good to end the year with the kind of bitter, partisan fighting that has defined too much of the year. In a new session and under a new administration, we can and should do better because our job is far from over.

The bill today is a good bill. Today is a good day, but it is certainly not the end of the story. It cannot be the end of the story. Anyone who thinks this bill is enough doesn't know what is going on in America. Anyone who thinks this bill is enough hasn't heard the desperation in the voices of their constituents, has not looked into the eyes of a small business owner on the brink of ruin.

By all rights, there should be direct assistance in this bill for State and local governments. The checks should