

to help during the pandemic and for Americans who worked from home to help slow the virus's spread.

It is unfortunate that opposition from a handful of States with aggressive taxation policies—like the Senate Democratic leader's home State of New York—has so far prevented legislation like mine from getting through Congress. But I will continue to fight for tax relief for remote and mobile workers.

It has been a difficult year for our country. There are way too many virus infections, way too many hospitalizations, way too many people who have lost loved ones from this dreaded virus. It has affected people in so many ways—their health, their confidence, their economic standing and status, their mental health. There are just so many—so many—effects of this, and this winter is likely to be very challenging.

But the encouraging news is that there is light at the end of the tunnel. There is a vaccine out there that will get more widely out there, and thanks to the resources that we put into the first coronavirus bill—the CARES Act that passed last March—those vaccines have been moving forward at record speed—five times faster than any vaccine in history.

Light is at the end of the tunnel. The vaccines are coming. They are going to be proven to be very effective, and there is additional funding in this particular legislation that we will vote on today to make sure that it gets distributed as quickly as possible.

We are going to make it through this, and I look forward to sending the additional relief that is included in this legislation that we will move through the Senate today and put on the President's desk, where he can sign it into law. I look forward to seeing that additional relief get out to the American people.

I yield the floor.

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

#### HONORING JASON SHUPING

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of Concord, NC, Police Officer Jason Shuping, who was tragically killed in the line of duty this week.

Officer Shuping was only 25 years old and had served the Concord Police Department for 1½ years with honor and distinction.

Officer Shuping and Officer Kaleb Robinson were responding to a 9-1-1 call for a car crash and an attempted carjacking. Officers Shuping and Robinson located the suspect and were prepared to bring him to justice. However, when Officer Shuping, Officer Robinson, and a third ALE officer approached, the suspect immediately began opening fire.

Officers Shuping and Robinson were both shot. Additional officers arrived on the scene and took out the suspect.

While Officer Robinson is, fortunately, expected to make a recovery, Officer Shuping, tragically, passed away from his injuries.

Jason Shuping was an outstanding police officer who courageously ran to danger to protect residents of Concord.

He was also a loving son and a husband to his wife Haylee. He was active in his community since his childhood. He attended East Rowan High School in Salisbury, and he was an honor student and track and field athlete at UNC-Pembroke.

He was a young man with a bright future ahead of him, described by those who knew him as a "gentle soul who made an impact."

His hometown paper, the Salisbury Post, noted: "Whether it was staying after practice to provide coaching to a youngster or coming back home from college to play the handbell in his church's ensemble, you could always count on Jason Shuping."

It is no surprise to see the outpouring of love coming from the community of Concord to honor his life and service. There have been a candlelight vigil and a touching law enforcement escort that brought many residents and a long line of American flags proudly displayed.

As we gather with our families this Christmas, my thoughts and prayers will be with the family of Officer Shuping, as well as the families of Mount Holly Police Officer Tyler Herndon and Nash County Deputy Sheriff Jared Allison, who also lost their lives this month in the line of duty.

Those families are going through an unimaginable period of grief, but they should know that the people of North Carolina are forever grateful for the selfless service of their loved ones, and I will never forget the ultimate sacrifice that they made in answering the call to protect others.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to thank all of my colleagues who worked so hard on the bill that is coming to the floor today, the pandemic relief package.

We know all the top priorities in there—the vaccine distribution—and I want to thank Senator SCHUMER and leaders and those on both sides of the aisle who put more funding into that.

I want to thank the group who has worked so hard on this agreement and this negotiation in the Senate for their work, including Senator MANCHIN and Senator ROMNEY and Senator WARNER and Senator SHAHEEN and Senator HASSAN and Senator DURBIN, as well as all of their Republican colleagues, Senator COLLINS and Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator CASSIDY, who worked so hard on this original agreement, with many others who joined in as well.

This bill contains such important priorities, including unemployment

and help for our hospitals and help for our rural areas—housing, rent, small businesses, unemployment, the direct checks.

I think we all know that there is more work to be done, including next year, including for our cities and our States, but it is so important that we get this done by the end of the year.

I wanted to focus on something that I have worked on for quite a while with Senator CORNYN from Texas. We have done this on a bipartisan basis from the beginning, and it is the Save Our Stages Act.

When we first introduced it in July, we knew that it was going to be a long road, and we also knew that the only way we would get this done is by sticking together as a team and by working with other Members of Congress from red and blue States. And by the end—this bill is included in full in this package—we had 57 Senators who sponsored this bill out of 100, with many more supporting it. We had over 200 House Members.

We worked so hard to make this about America and American music and American theater and American culture.

We all know that you can't go stand in a mosh pit in the middle of a pandemic. These live entertainment venues were among the first businesses to close, and they will almost certainly be among the last to reopen.

This was about, yes, Nashville and New York, but it was just as much about the Fargo Theater or a small, small country music venue in Texas. And while we see the light at the end of tunnel with the vaccines, we know that it will be quite a while before these businesses, which operate on such thin margins as it is, can keep going.

I think we also know the importance of the arts and music, not only as a cultural icon in America but also as an economic driver. It is one of our No. 1 exports, when you combine all of it. And the fact that we were able to stick together with not only the nitty-gritty of this bill and this coalition and actually add partners as we went along is a tribute to all the musicians out there, all the venues, all the lighting operators, all the truckers—everyone who came together and said: We are going to get this done.

I know when Senator CORNYN and I first introduced this, people kind of patted us on the head and said: Oh, this sounds nice. But I think when people started to hear the facts and how much this matters to economies and even small towns, it made a difference. In the end, to quote Minnesota's own Bob Dylan from "The Times They Are a-Changin'," he says:

Come senators, congressmen  
Please heed the call  
Don't stand in the doorway  
Don't block the hall

No one blocked the hall.

I want to thank my colleagues, and I want to especially thank Senator CORNYN. We have led many bills together, and we had to go back and forth a lot.