

floated legislative proposals that would accomplish the same goal as the Johnson lawsuit.

Sensenbrenner went on to say:

“Senator Johnson should spend his time legislating rather than litigating as our country is facing big problems that must be addressed by Congress—not the courts. All Republicans want to repeal ObamaCare, but this politically motivated lawsuit only takes public attention away from how bad all of ObamaCare really is and focuses it on a trivial issue. Fortunately, Senator Johnson’s suit is likely frivolous and will not achieve the result he’s seeking.”

As I stated in my remarks today, we have been able to get a few things done, but we have been unable to get so many important things done because the goal for the last 5 years by the Republicans in the Congress—not Republicans in the country but Republicans in the Congress—has been to do everything they could to make President Obama look bad. Remember, my counterpart said his No. 1 goal in the last Congress was to do everything he could to defeat Obama from being reelected. Well, he was elected overwhelmingly, so that was a futile effort.

We need to get back to working together, as we have always done—until this effort which has been made to disparage and damage in any way they can the President of the United States and, in the process, our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, if I may take one moment while the distinguished leader is here.

I wish to commend Senator REID for his cooperation. He has worked very hard to bring this together. We had a very complex and very extensive immigration bill, with 300 amendments filed in the Judiciary Committee. After it went through the committee, Senator REID worked hard to get time on the floor and then we passed it with an overwhelming bipartisan majority.

Mr. REID. Would my friend yield for a question?

Mr. LEAHY. Of course.

Mr. REID. Through the Chair to my friend, the President pro tempore of the Senate, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we hear the Republicans talking that they want to do everything they can to reduce the debt. I ask my friend, twofold: No. 1, the bible for how to reduce the debt was Bowles-Simpson. They set a goal of \$4 trillion. Right now we are almost at \$3 trillion. We have cut spending to reduce the debt by almost \$3 trillion.

Does my friend acknowledge that, by passing the bill reported out of the Judiciary Committee, it would reduce the debt by another \$1 trillion; we would basically reach the goal of Bowles-Simpson if they would just pass immigration reform?

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, addressing the majority leader through the Chair, I would note that even Grover Norquist, who is sort of the guru of many of the Republicans, testified before the Judiciary Committee that

passing this bill and putting it into law would add nearly \$1 trillion or more to the economy. All sorts of business leaders came in and said this would add to our economy. It is one of those rare cases where the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce came together because it would dramatically improve the economy, dramatically improve the wages of people, and it would lower the deficit. It is a no-brainer. That is why we came together in the Senate. With the leadership of the distinguished Senator from Nevada and others, Republicans and Democrats, we came together and we passed it.

They should take it up. If they want to make some changes, do so. I am ready to go to conference on it at a moment’s notice so we can get this bill passed and on the President’s desk.

We have shown we could do it before. We did it with the Violence Against Women Act, which they at first refused to take up in the House. Even the White House was backing off some of the parts we added to it here because they were afraid it might not go through. But Senator CRAPO and I stuck together. A bipartisan group in the House stuck together, and they passed it in the House. We passed it, and it went into law. We added sexual trafficking. It is a good bill.

We can do it, if people want to. But if we take the position that we cannot do anything, that we just want to be naysayers and nihilistic about government, then, of course, we don’t do anything. But here is a way to get the economy going. Here is a way to improve our Nation.

Frankly, I just wanted to stand and compliment the distinguished majority leader for speaking of what we can do, and I hope we do.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1845, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 265, S. 1846, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Reed-Heller bill, which would extend unemployment insurance for 1.3 million Americans—very critical—for 3 months, because it is the

right thing to do for these workers, and it is the smart thing to do for our economy.

Unemployment insurance has been around since the 1930s, and it has historically received bipartisan support. Indeed, I am pleased that Senator HELLER has joined me. So this is a bipartisan bill, also. This is something we have to deal with today. It is a huge crisis. As I said, 1.3 million Americans have lost their benefits as of December 28. But we can expect through this next year approximately 3 million more to exhaust their State benefits—typically 26 weeks—and not have this Federal long-term benefit available to them.

This has always received support on a bipartisan basis because it is not a red State and blue State issue. It is something which impacts this entire country. It impacts people who work. You cannot get this program unless you have a job and, through no fault of your own, you have lost that job. In this economy, people who lose jobs are competing with many others for very few jobs.

These 1.3 million Americans were pushed off an economic cliff just 9 days ago. This vital lifeline would help them cope. They were not let go from their jobs because of something they did. It was through no fault of their own, and they are searching for work in an economy which has nearly three job seekers for every one job opening.

Illustrative of this is a front-page story in the Washington Post today. In Maryland, they are opening up a new dairy operation, and what this story speaks to is something that is happening across this country in so many places:

When the Good Humor ice cream plant closed here two summers ago, more than 400 jobs and a stable, punch-the-clock way of life melted away, another in a string of plant closings that have battered this once-proud manufacturing town.

I would add parenthetically that in Connecticut, Rhode Island, west coast, east coast, north and south, we have seen this happen. Manufacturing plants close, move overseas, and shut down entirely.

The hulking plant sat vacant until a co-op of Virginia dairy farmers purchased it in summer 2013 to process milk and ice cream, though on a far smaller scale than the 60,000 cases of ice cream that global food giant Unilever churned out every day.

Randy Inman, the board president for Shenandoah Family Farms, said he expected the plant’s revival to trigger plenty of interest in its three dozen or so initial jobs. What he did not expect: 1,600 applicants and counting—a deluge.

That is what this economy is about. Skilled people lose jobs through plant closures, and suddenly they see a possibility. But it is not one job for one applicant. It is 1,600 applicants for about 36 jobs. They are trying—they are trying awfully hard. But unless we pass this legislation this evening and begin the process, we are not trying.

On the economic side of the ledger, moving away from the human dynamic, the nonpartisan Congressional