



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

No. 59

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, we lift up our hearts in prayer because we trust in You. Lord, we know well the weakness and the insecurity of our hold upon this life.

Comfort those who have lost loved ones during this global health crisis. When we wrestle with sad memories of mortal loss, give us the glorious hope of life eternal.

Lord, provide our lawmakers with the confidence that Your all-sufficient grace and power will enable them to become more than conquerors during this time of trouble. Remind them that no one who trusts in You will ultimately be disgraced.

Mighty God, our forebears trusted in You, and You delivered them. Be not far from us, for You are the source of our hope.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as the chairman of the Finance Com-

mittee and the head of the Tax Task Force, I want to highlight a few areas of the bipartisan economic relief bill we will be voting on today.

Recovery checks to give Americans needed cash to provide for their families and get through our current health crisis look like this: \$1,200 for individuals, \$2,400 for married couples, and \$500 for each child. There is no minimum, no phase-in. It starts out at the lowest level.

Anyone with a Social Security number who is not a dependent of anyone else should be eligible for a check under the income caps.

We also have very strong unemployment compensation additions to the present program in this bill. We also have incentives to help charities because they play a very important role in this recovery.

My colleagues across the aisle said last week that the business tax issues were corporate bailouts. That couldn't be further from the truth, and I think my Democratic colleagues now agree. This is about helping our workers keep their jobs.

Our economic relief package to recover this economy has provisions to help businesses so that they have the cash to keep the doors open and keep making payroll. We all worked hard, along with the administration, to get this job done.

Now it is time to vote on this bill and deliver relief for the American people and to recover this economy—get the strong economy back that we had.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has only been 65 days since the first

American tested positive with the new coronavirus on our soil. In barely 2 months, this pandemic has upended our Nation. As of this morning, more than 175 million Americans have been advised to remain in their homes. More than half of our people are effectively sheltering in place.

Hospitals in major cities are pushing capacity. Doctors and nurses are exhausting crucial supplies.

And, if it were not enough for Americans to fight to stay healthy, they are also fighting to keep their paychecks, to keep supporting their families. Combating this disease has forced our country to put huge parts of our national life on pause and triggered layoffs at a breathtaking pace.

This strange new reality has forced our Nation onto something like a war-time footing. A fight has arrived at our shores. We did not seek it. We did not want it. But, now, we are going to win it.

Ten days ago, I laid out four urgent priorities for new Senate legislation to help our Nation through this crisis. We had to get direct—direct—financial assistance to the American people. We had to get historic aid to small businesses to keep paychecks flowing, stabilize key industries to prevent mass layoffs, and, of course, flood more resources into the frontline healthcare battle itself.

One week ago, Senate Republicans laid down an initial proposal that tackled each—each—of these emergency missions. Our Members put forward a bold plan to send cash to households, stand up historic emergency loans for Main Street, stabilize key sectors, and put the full might of Congress behind our doctors, nurses, hospitals, healthcare providers, and the race for treatments and vaccines.

I couldn't be more proud of our colleagues. Our Nation needed us to go big and go fast, and they did. The creative policies our chairmen crafted in just a couple of days' time remain the central

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2021