

amount, basically \$7.5 billion for FEMA and another \$7.5 billion for CDBG's, or community development block grants, both of which would be for natural disasters. Because of that, it gives the flexibility to FEMA that some of the money will be used in case Irma hits Florida. But there is also the fact that Irma has already devastated our fellow U.S. citizens in the Virgin Islands, as well as Puerto Rico. So as to this package, it is essential that we pass this legislation and pass it quickly, and especially pass it before tomorrow.

There are some needs that need to be called to the attention of FEMA. I have emailed yesterday to the Administrator of FEMA Brock Long. People are trying to get out, but they are stuck on the roads, and now they are running out of gasoline.

Looking at the pictures on anything going north out of Florida, the roads are jammed. The interstates and the turnpike are jammed. The phenomenon that is occurring is that people need gasoline and they are running out on the road, which adds all the more to the chaos. They are going to the gasoline stations and the gas stations are running out of gasoline. So I made an urgent plea yesterday, and I would make that to FEMA again, that we get gasoline into the State of Florida and down into the peninsula, so as the evacuation orders come along the coast, as the hurricane gets closer and closer, people will be able to flee.

This is an unusual one. Usually, we will see the tracks from the National Hurricane Center move around. Basically, the track of what is expected from the National Hurricane Center has stayed fairly steady for last 36 hours.

We will get our next update at 11 this morning, but it will hit South Florida somewhere in the Miami area, and it will go right up the coast. It will go on up the coast of Georgia, South Carolina, and into North Carolina. That is a massive population along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Finally, I would state that, as we consider this package, which I think we will pass, I want the Senate to be forewarned that this \$15 billion package is only temporary. It will probably only take us through mid-October, at the most. With the massive number of requirements in Texas, and add to that at least that much, if not more, for the eastern seaboard, particularly with not only water damage but wind damage that is being done and the destruction of the residences and people being homeless, what we have seen in Texas, unfortunately, with the terrible things that have happened there, that could almost be so overwhelmed by what could happen in Florida.

I urge the Senate—I implore the Senate, and I beg the Senate—to pass this package while recognizing that there is going to have to be a lot more to come.

Finally, congratulations to the minority leader, the Democratic leader. I

think of him as the majority leader. My congratulations to him. He is a consummate dealmaker, and I say that in the best sense of the word because, absolutely, that is what the American people want us to do. They want us to get together in a bipartisan way to get things done—to build bipartisan consensus to get results. Senator SCHUMER, the Democratic leader, has done that, and he has done it with flying colors.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATOR FROM FLORIDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my friend from Florida for his kind words.

During these troubled times in the State of Florida—and we hope and pray that Irma will not do too much damage, although signs point in the other direction—the people of Florida could not have a stronger, more effective, more compassionate advocate than the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON. He knows how to get things done, and he knows how to inform people about what is going on. He is able to reach across the aisle, in a bipartisan way, to help in all times but, particularly, in times of need.

The people of Florida are lucky to have him as their Senator, particularly at this moment, I would say to my dear friend BILL NELSON.

HURRICANE HARVEY DISASTER RELIEF, THE DEBT CEILING, AND FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, the congressional leadership and the President reached a bipartisan deal on three crucial issues: short-term aid for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, the debt ceiling, and government funding.

Alongside the aid package for Texas and Louisiana, the Senate will take up and pass an extension of government funding and the debt ceiling, both to December 15, although that may be modified to December 8, as I understand it. We all agreed to work together to avoid a default in December as well.

This is a good agreement for the American people, and everyone should breathe a huge sigh of relief. This agreement takes the threat of a shutdown and default off the table this month and will help us quickly get resources to FEMA and other agencies that are helping with rescue and recovery in the wake of Harvey and that will, in all likelihood, be needed in the wake of Irma as well.

The Nation has been clamoring for bipartisanship—for the two parties to

work together to do the country's business—rather than to engage in needless brinksmanship. Yesterday's agreement was a ray of hope for both parties coming together on the big issues. Also, let it be a ray of hope that both parties can come together to help the Dreamers.

We Democrats have said from the very beginning of this Congress that we are willing to work with our Republican colleagues and the President for the good of the country so long as we do not sacrifice our principles. We have never been for obstruction for obstruction's sake, and we will never be for that. This agreement is a reminder that we do not always have to wait until the eleventh hour—risking shutdown, risking default—in order to compromise and do the right thing. Importantly, this agreement gives Congress a way forward on what are some of the thorniest issues this month, allowing us to move to other vital work.

The 3-month agreement is a compromise. In the past, so many of our colleagues have said: "If the other party is President, we are not going to do anything to help." We did not want to say that. We did not want to say: "It is all on you." We wanted to compromise. A compromise is just that—not dictating what should happen but working together. I give the President credit for understanding that in the Oval Office when Leader PELOSI and I made the compromise suggestion. I thank him for it.

DREAM ACT AND OTHER WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, since President Trump's decision to end DACA on Tuesday, it is absolutely necessary that Congress move forward to pass a clean Dream Act while 800,000 Dreamers anxiously await action by this Congress. There is no reason to wait. Let's put a clean Dream Act on the floor, which I believe would pass by a significant margin, and tell these hard-working Dreamers that they belong in this country, too—the country they want to be part of desperately. If the majority leader and Speaker do not offer a clean Dream Act, we Democrats will find other legislative vehicles to attach it to until it passes.

Let me say this. I spoke once again to the President this morning. He called and said that he wanted to help with the Dream Act. There are many ways to help, and here are two. One is to persuade other Republican Senators to cosponsor the bill that has been introduced by Senators DURBIN and GRAHAM. We now have four Republican cosponsors, and we need more. There are many in the Senate who seem to be sympathetic to the Dream Act. Maybe the President can help them get to cosponsor. The second is to urge my friend, the Republican leader from Kentucky, and the Speaker of the House, Mr. RYAN, to put the Dream Act on the floor ASAP. We can get this

done and get it done quickly. We can end the anguish of so many Americans and make sure that our economy continues to move forward so that it is not needlessly ripped apart.

There is other work that we have to do in healthcare to shore up the marketplaces, particularly by guaranteeing the cost reduction programs. Discussions in the HELP Committee between my good friend, Chairman ALEXANDER, and our great ranking member, PATTY MURRAY, are proceeding in a bipartisan way in, perhaps, the new spirit of the moment—maybe longer than a moment, we hope and pray. I am hopeful that the full Senate, this month, will be able to take up and consider bipartisan legislation that emerges from the committee in order to stabilize and improve our healthcare system.

In a similar vein, we must consider a multiyear reauthorization of CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program. Chairman HATCH and Ranking Member WYDEN—again, in a bipartisan action—are having a hearing on CHIP today in the Finance Committee, and that should be another matter of immediate priority for this Senate.

Of course, as the people of Florida brace for Hurricane Irma, and the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have gone through it now, the Senate must be prepared to quickly respond to that storm just as we are doing with Harvey. We also have to take into account some of the other disasters that are occurring in States like Washington, Oregon, California, and Montana. Wildfires are raging out of control. They, too, will need disaster assistance. Because of the immediate and strong impact of Harvey and, it seems, Irma, we should not forget that our friends in the West will need disaster relief and will need it soon as well.

The deal we reached with Republican leaders and President Trump yesterday will allow Congress to work on all of these important items this month and in the following months without there being a looming specter of a shutdown or default on our debt. It should help to bring both sides together to, ultimately, get another deal on sequester relief, lower healthcare premiums, the Dreamers, and many other items in December. That is good for this Congress, and that is good for the American people—a ray of hope, as I said.

The majority leader has already filed cloture on this package. I hope that we can proceed quickly—hopefully, today—to ensure its passage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

DACA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to share with my colleagues a meeting that I had last Thursday in Montgomery County, MD, with CASA de Maryland. We put together a round-

table discussion to talk about immigration and the need for immigration reform and the concerns we had about the current status of people who are concerned about what is happening with immigration enforcement. That was before the President had made his announcement on terminating the DACA Program, which is the program that provides relief for the Dreamers—those who have been in this country for a long period of time and know only America as their home.

I must tell you that, at that discussion I had last Thursday in Montgomery County, MD, the fear of uncertainty was clear to me. I talked to many families who were concerned about how the Trump administration was enforcing our current laws, what would be the resolution of the temporary protective status, TPS, under which people are here legally, and I had a chance to see firsthand some of the Dreamers who are here under the protection of the DACA Program.

It was very clear to me that what the people in that meeting were looking for was leadership in Washington that recognized that it is in our national interest for us to provide the type of legal protection to these individuals who have made America their home—who took the risk to come here for a better life for their families.

These individuals came to this country—the Dreamers, who are the children, particularly—when they came with their parents. It was the parents' decision to try to find a better life for their children. They know only America as their country. They do not know the countries from which they have come. America is their own home. They have helped to build this great Nation. They have attended our schools. They have joined our military. They have joined our workforce. They are, truly, the future of America.

The DACA Program, which recently celebrated its fifth anniversary, provided protection for these Dreamers against their arbitrary removal. It applied only to those who had come to this country when they were younger than 16 years of age. They had to have been here before January 2007. They had to have gone through a background check to make sure that they had not violated any of our criminal statutes, and they had to have been enrolled in schools or our military. It was really dealing with young people who were innocent with regard to any of the violations of our immigration laws. It really dealt with individuals who had come to this country and had been part of America.

The DACA Program provided not only protection against their removal but gave them protection in the workforce. They were given documentation so that they could legally work here in the United States and get the protection of our labor laws and not be subjected to an underground economy or the abuses in the workforce that we sometimes see among immigrant fami-

lies. So 800,000 children have taken advantage of the DACA Program. In my State of Maryland, 10,000 are registered under the DACA Program.

Then came President Trump's decision this past week to terminate the program in 6 months—terminate it now, as far as new DACA registrations—but to terminate this program. That immediately created uncertainty and fear for 800,000 individuals in this country and their families.

President Trump's decision is tragic in three ways. First, it has the potential of ripping families apart—800,000 people here in the United States. It creates uncertainty for those who are currently in the DACA Program. It creates fear as to what tomorrow will bring, and it will drive many of these individuals into the shadows, into the underground, into protecting themselves against the enforcement of removal.

This decision by President Trump is tragic for a second reason. It will hurt our economy. The numbers in Maryland I think are somewhere around one-half of \$1 billion to our State GDP from the Dreamers alone.

The Dreamers are part of our economy. They are adding to our economy. I got a phone call from one of our major employers in Maryland expressing grave concern about President Trump's decision and the impact it will have on that company and on our economy. These are individuals who have been trained in our schools, who have gone to our colleges, who have served in our military, and who are now adding to the economic strength of America through their employment and their innovation. It makes no sense from the point of view of our economy.

The third reason the President's decision is tragic is one that speaks to the strength of America—what makes America the great Nation it is. Yes, we are proud of those who serve in our military. We know that we have the strongest military in the world, and we are very proud of the way our military protects this country and provides global leadership. Yes, we are very proud of our economy and what it produces and the economic growth it provides for the people in this country and its engagement in the global economy. But what really makes America the unique, strong Nation that it is are our values, including what we stand for, our democratic institutions, the fact that we are the beacon of hope for people all over the world for providing opportunity. People can come to this country with dreams, and those dreams can become reality. That is what America's values are about.

President Trump's decision to end the DACA Program runs afoul of the principles that have made America the great Nation it is—a safe haven for those who are seeking refuge from persecution, a nation that embraces diversity and recognizes diversity as our strength. President Trump's decision to end the DACA Program runs afoul of