

This is the government, State and local government, that is closest to the people. This is the government that funds first responders and healthcare workers in local hospitals. This is the government that funds the workers who pick up your garbage twice a week. This is the government running on fumes.

So are the American people who need another cash payment, an additional \$1,200 per family member, up to \$6,000 per household, and other essentials like unemployment benefits and housing benefits, a 15 percent increase in nutrition programs. People have got to eat during this crisis.

□ 1015

I also have been able to get included in the HEROES Act a trifecta of provisions that the District must have, beginning with the \$755 million in retroactive funding Republicans in the Senate removed from the CARES Act by treating the District for the first time in American history as a territory, when we have always been treated for what we are, a State for funding purposes, and, of course, the D.C. statehood bill has enough cosponsors to pass this very year.

We have always received State-level funding because we pay the highest Federal taxes per capita in the United States. The HEROES Act also includes money for State, county, and city funding, the first time the District has ever had to break down its funding. The District is a unique jurisdiction in the United States because it operates at all three levels.

The HEROES Act also authorizes the District to participate in the municipal liquidity facilities funding of the Federal Reserve, if that should become necessary. The \$3 trillion HEROES Act sent to the Senate last week is a marker. It will probably not be enough, as large as it is, to contain this virus. But, at a minimum, it should get us started on sensible negotiations.

Time, Mr. Speaker, is not on the side of the virus. Let's beat it with the HEROES Act.

LOWERING PRESCRIPTIONS COSTS FOR SENIORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President Trump and the administration for taking decisive action to lower drug costs for America's seniors.

Currently, 34.2 million people in the U.S. have diabetes. One in every three seniors on Medicare has diabetes, and over 3.3 million beneficiaries use at least one type of insulin.

Thanks to President Trump, the out-of-pocket cost for insulin has been cut. Participating plans will cap costs at just \$35 a month per type of insulin. This is tremendous news.

For far too long, seniors have been subjected to escalating insulin prices. Now, Americans will save an average of \$446 on insulin costs in just a year.

I thank President Trump for continuing to put the American people first.

ADMINISTRATION AIDING NORTH CAROLINA

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is no substitute for swift and decisive action. Since the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in China, President Trump and the administration have worked tirelessly to protect the American people.

First, President Trump closed our borders and enacted a travel ban to protect the American people. This was a necessary precaution that undoubtedly saved lives. In response, the mainstream media's political pundits cried foul and claimed this was an ill-advised tactic intended to score political points. That could not be farther from the truth.

Sadly, my colleagues across the aisle and those in the media would rather search for the newest outrage du jour instead of focusing on the efforts of the President and the administration to combat COVID-19.

It is time to correct the record and cast aside the falsehoods that Democrats and the mainstream media are pushing against President Trump and the administration.

For example, let's look at what is being done to help North Carolinians during this pandemic. Under the direction of President Trump, FEMA has obligated almost \$30 million for COVID-19 response efforts in North Carolina.

From the Strategic National Stockpile, North Carolina received to date: Over 250,000 N95 masks; over 580,000 surgical masks; over 100,000 medical gowns; over 115,000 face shields; and over 425,000 pairs of gloves.

In addition, President Trump approved Governor Roy Cooper's Major Disaster Declaration, and then directed FEMA to fund 100 percent of the emergency assistance activities provided by the North Carolina National Guard.

President Trump and the administration are deeply committed to protecting not only North Carolinians, but also Americans across our country.

If my colleagues across the aisle shared the same sentiment of being "in it together," they would work with us to deliver for the American people and set aside their relentless impeachment crusade.

It is time to get our country back on its feet, and I am proud that President Trump and the administration are working day in and day out to do so. We will win this fight, and I am certain we will emerge stronger and more resilient.

THE NAVAJO NATION AND THE CORONAVIRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues in Washington—and all watching at home—the dire situation COVID-19 has created in the Navajo Nation and across our Nation.

But first, standing in this Chamber today, I want to recognize the nearly 100,000 lives lost thus far to the coronavirus, a staggering number that has affected families, communities, economy, frontline first responders, and many others.

Though some Americans may feel they have reached a new normal, hot spots across our Nation are still in the thick of this pandemic, and the fear for what might come in the fall and winter is at the forefront of our thoughts.

One of those hot spots is the Navajo Nation. Per capita, the Navajo Nation has more confirmed coronavirus cases than any U.S. State. Under the CARES Act, signed into law March 27, my colleagues and I fought to include \$8 billion for Tribal governments to use for expenses incurred during the pandemic.

The first round of that funding did not reach the Navajo Nation until May 5. Much of the delay was because officials within the Department of the Interior were considering allocating a portion of this \$8 billion to the Alaska Natives Corporation, a group of for-profit entities that generate billions of dollars in revenue each year, and answer to individual stakeholders.

I immediately joined the voices of Tribes across our Nation in demanding that these funds reach established Tribal governments, not corporations.

On April 27, a U.S. district judge announced that the Treasury Department could begin distributing money to federally-recognized Tribes, and not to this corporate group. Delayed funding is not the only issue here. While Tribes wait for the rest of the CARES Act money they were promised, politics in Washington continue to complicate already acute public health concerns on Navajo.

Recent reports indicate that respirator masks sent to Navajo Nation hospitals through a Federal contract with a former White House staffer may be faulty. I have serious concerns about the lack of oversight and accountability in this contract-awarding process, considering that this \$3 million deal was awarded to a friend of the administration with no prior Federal contracting experience, who had only been in business for 11 days.

It is unacceptable for government to be delivering anything other than what is needed to any community, much less a hard-hit community like Navajo.

I have asked my colleagues here to help me launch an immediate investigation into the potentially faulty PPE, and to make sure that the entire contracting process receives more oversight.

While Tribes deal with the fallout politics has caused, they endure other

factors that have complicated this pandemic as well. Critical water, sanitation, and broadband projects throughout the Navajo Nation remain unfunded and firmly on Congress' back burner.

Since coming to Washington in 2017, I have tried to raise the alarm about these long-overlooked issues. I have worked with Tribal governments, shareholders in my district, and my colleagues here on Capitol Hill to find solutions to the problems faced by Indian Country.

This public health crisis continues to shine a brighter light on the hurdles that many Tribal families face every day, not just during a global pandemic. I hope I can count on the many who have joined me in speaking up for Tribal communities to continue to do so after this crisis because lives are at stake here.

Tribal communities are tired of partisan games and political spin. They need the resources they were promised so each sovereign Nation can care for their people.

The Dine people are resilient and they will win this fight.

In a report yesterday from my friend and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, he noted that the Navajo Nation's own aggressive public health measures have helped flatten the curve of COVID-19 significantly.

The situation could have been much worse without his leadership, and the region remains at a high risk if the Federal Government does not step up and do its part.

ECONOMIC AND INTELLECTUAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the Chinese Communist Party has taken advantage of innocent people in its own country and around the world.

Now, America is engaged in an economic and intellectual competition with China that existed long before the coronavirus crossed our borders. The current pandemic merely has exposed the Chinese Communist Party's sinister lies, and the depths to which it will reach.

There is no question that we must hold this regime accountable for all of its actions. As a member of the China Task Force, I am committed to combating the Chinese Government's threats to our great Nation. We must be focused on strengthening and protecting our supply chains to ensure that we are never beholden to this regime for critical medicines and critical supplies.

Americans must once again lead in innovation. We must, and we will.

SURVEILLANCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, October 2001, under the shadow of 9/11, with the House office buildings evacuated because of the threat of anthrax, a bill authored by Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER and the Bush White House was brought before the House. It was called the USA PATRIOT Act.

Now, who could, in the shadow of 9/11, vote against anything called the USA PATRIOT Act? Well, I did, as did 66 other Members; 3 Republicans, 62 Democrats, and 1 Independent, because of the unbelievably, unconstitutionally broad powers that would be granted for surveillance of all the American people in myriad ways.

Now, there wasn't even a copy of the bill available. I came to the floor, and I said: Can I have a copy of the bill? They said: Sorry, there is only one. It is on the Republican side. I said: Well, it is not the Senate. I can't filibuster, but I will make it a long day with the adjournment votes. Get me a copy. They printed out a copy, it was hot off the Xerox. I got rushed on this side by Members of the Judiciary Committee who ostensibly authored the bill to try and find out what the heck was in it, but people still voted for it. The abuses that have come under this are myriad and well-documented.

Now, I credit ZOE LOFGREN for trying to amend the most egregious section, 215, and my colleague, RON WYDEN from Oregon. Senator WYDEN almost succeeded in the Senate, short one vote. And ZOE tried on the last reauthorization and this one to amend that. Unfortunately, she was pressured by and forced to, since otherwise they would block her amendment, to water down her revisions to section 215.

Now, Senator WYDEN is opposed, as are others. What is section 215? Unbelievably broad, warrantless, intrusive, internet searches of everything you look at, browse online. For what purpose? Who knows? What are they going to do with that information? Well, maybe they are going to apply an algorithm and find something. They gather so much data, they don't know what to do with it.

□ 1030

What is the legal standard? A presumption of relevance to an investigation. Isn't that a laughable standard? You could presume relevance to virtually anything in the world at any time.

So this bill, even if that amendment should pass, even if the bill comes up today—it is questionable whether it will. We now have government by tweet on that side of the aisle.

Trump says jump; they jump. And last night, Trump said he is against this, even though it has a special provision in the bill for President Trump because of the Carter Page abuses.

It says the "Attorney General," in quotes—by the way, that means any senior official in the Justice Department—would have to sign off on targeting Federal officials or candidates for office.

First off, why should those people be exempt if they are engaged in terrorist activities or presumptive relevance of terrorist activities?

But, again, "Attorney General," with this laughable clown in the Attorney General's Office who jumps even higher than they do when the President tweets, I don't think so. Just think of how they could use that politically, not for intelligence purposes.

It does nothing to reform section 702, which is incidental backdoor accumulation of data. There are many, many documented abuses of section 202.

It does finally do away with what was revealed by Mr. Snowden, the massive gathering of all phone records.

Again, what are they going to do with it? Hundreds of millions of records, no effective algorithms, no way to figure out what it was about. It was useless, operationally, as analyzed by numerous commissions and others, but there was still massive compliance and errors.

Even the NSA said: No, we don't want that anymore; we can't do anything with it. But the administration asked that it be continued. This bill doesn't continue it, one of the few merits of this so-called reform bill.

This bill does not deserve passage. It does not undo the damage that was created in the shadow of 9/11, to the ignorance of most Members of Congress who voted for it.

PROTECT FARMERS' WATER AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in that we do have other things going on in this country besides the virus, we do have a crisis up in the Klamath Basin on the border of California and Oregon right now.

The Klamath farmers up there are the owners of the Klamath Project water. It was created approximately 100 years ago to allow the ability to farm crops to returning World War I and World War II veterans at that point. Those growers owned the right to approximately 350,000 acre-feet from the Upper Klamath Lake, water created by the project which would not exist without the creation of the project.

This year, after many years of having their water pirated away from them, their allocation during a lesser water rainfall and snowfall season was 140,000 acre-feet, they were told on April 1, the second-worst allocation they have ever had, rivaled only by 2001 when they got zero acre-feet allocated to them. 140,000 acre-feet, they were told.