

workers, but they don't have the revenue coming in. So we have \$20 billion to help out with the public transit, which is absolutely essential in our big cities, but it is vital all across our country—\$20 billion. They voted against that.

So we focused on individuals and families, first and foremost. We focused on what can we be doing, everything we can—many ideas from our colleagues on the other side—about how we can improve our ability to defeat this virus.

And yet there is another thing in this bill. The other thing in the bill is to make sure there is a job to go back to for the men and women who wake up tomorrow morning and don't have a job to go to. When this finally passes, I think it would be a good idea if the company that has been employing these folks still exists.

Now, how is that going to happen when they are not allowed to have any revenue? They are closed. Well, we have developed a plan in this bill to address this.

So it is really kind of two components. For small businesses, there is a program that has the effect that, at the end of the day, the Federal Government is going to pay for payroll for small business. That is amazing when you think about that. Nobody has ever imagined this before. The Federal Government is going to pay the payroll for small businesses as long as they keep their employees on the payroll.

The mechanism is a loan, which they will use to make the payments, and then they don't have to pay back the loan as long as they did, in fact, keep their workers on the payroll.

So we have offered, in this bill, to pay to keep people on the payroll of small business, and our Democratic friends voted no. No, they didn't want that.

Now, for large businesses, we took a different approach. We said we can't actually pay for the entire payroll of the entire American workforce that is like 150 million people, but here is what we can do: A big company, if it is solvent, if it is a viable business, but it is in a cash crunch because—have I mentioned they are not allowed to have sales; they are not allowed to have revenue; they have no customers, in many cases, if they could. Think about the airlines; there is nobody flying. Think of hotels; there is nobody staying in hotels. But it is all across the entire economy. So what we did is we said: Look, if you have a viable business, we are going to have a program where we are going to lend you some short-term money because this should not last long. You are going to have to pay it all back, but we want to keep you alive—this employer—so that when this is behind us and when we no longer have statewide shutdowns and when we are able to go back to work and go back to producing and living normally, it would be really nice if these employers still exist.

So that is what we created. The minority leader derisively called that a bailout to explain his vote against this.

This is not a bailout. It is ridiculous to characterize it that way. First of all, they have to pay back every dime that they borrow—every dime. It is explicit in the bill, in the law, that there can be no forgiveness. None of this can be written off. The companies that borrow this money have to pay back every dime.

And let me stress, this is not their fault. OK? You are operating a business somewhere in Pennsylvania, and the Governor says: By the way, close your doors at 8 o'clock Monday morning, and you don't reopen them until I say.

Now, look, I am not trying to attack my Governor. I understand why he is doing this, but the point is, it is not possible for a business to survive. And we are seeing this manifested, this sort of easy, visual view on this that some of my colleagues have mentioned—our financial markets because they reflect what the world thinks about the future of our economy, and it is really, really grim.

Some have suggested maybe we shouldn't focus on that. That is not the focus. That just gives us a reading of just how bad things have gotten, and it is really bad. And when my Democratic colleagues came down here and voted against all of these programs and all of these efforts to rescue American workers and families, advance our fight against this disease, and keep employers viable, I was just shocked. I just can't believe that they would do that; that they would come down here—and I can only conclude that they don't understand the urgency of this moment.

I think they have to understand the nature of the disease, the severity of the disease, what that is doing. Maybe there is a lack of appreciation for the fact that at the same time our economy is being destroyed—if they continue this obstruction, and they refuse to let us pass this because they dismissively refer to keeping alive employers as a "bailout," then a lot of these companies will fail, and they will not come back.

You don't just flip a switch and have a company that failed, that went bankrupt, and think you are going to turn it back on. It doesn't work that way. It could take years or decades to rebuild an economy, and that means how many millions of Americans lose out on so much opportunity, on so much of life.

That is what we can't let happen. We have to stop this as quickly as we can, and that means, I am convinced, these three elements: focusing on individuals who are adversely affected, and now that is virtually everybody. We have done that. Done that massively. Unprecedented scale in this bill. Focus on killing this virus, defeating this, developing the therapies, the cures, the ability to treat, the hospital capacity—it is in this bill. Look, there will be more to be done, but for now, this is huge, and we got these ideas from Democrats

and Republicans. We put them in the bill. And then, finally, if it is a fundamentally solvent business, just an extension of credit for a few months, a loan that they have to pay back so that there is a reasonable chance they will still be there.

This is exactly what this moment calls for. This is what we need to do for our country. I am hoping our Democratic colleagues will, frankly, come to their senses and conclude and understand that there is no time for games here. This is getting worse by the day. We have to act now. So I hope before the clock strikes midnight tonight, we will vote in favor of cloture on the motion to proceed, the procedural vote that allows us to pass this bill as soon as possible.

RECESS

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 10 p.m. tonight.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9 p.m., recessed until 10 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. SASSE).

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019—Motion To Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, well, here we are, the eyes of the Nation are on the Senate, but, tonight, Senate Democrats blocked coronavirus relief from moving forward.

Republican and Democratic Senators just spent days collaborating in a bipartisan way with these working groups that we set up. Democratic ideas were incorporated, major changes were made at their request, but, today, the Speaker of the House, is back in town after taking a week off, and poured cold water on the whole bipartisan process.

Incredibly, what we witnessed a few hours ago is Senate Democrats voting to filibuster the bipartisan package that they helped craft over the last two days. It wasn't even a vote on final passage. It was simply a vote to limit further debate, after which there would have been 30 more hours to continue to negotiate if they wanted to drag this out endlessly. After that, of course, the futures market tanked in anticipation of an ugly tomorrow based upon an absence of the bipartisan agreement we have been seeking.

They voted to block, specifically, surge resources for hospitals, a massive expansion in unemployment benefits, historic relief for small businesses to prevent mass layoffs, direct checks for millions of Americans, and expanding healthcare workers' access to the masks that they need. Even if Democrats reverse course tomorrow—tomorrow—the vote they cast today will almost certainly cause more Americans to lose their jobs and more seniors'

hard-earned retirement savings to literally evaporate.

Our Nation cannot afford the game of chicken. We can't afford the cynical partisanship that one senior House Democrat owned up to just the other day. Here is what he said: "This is a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision."

It is an unconscionable statement to view this as a partisan opportunity. This is a national emergency, not a partisan opportunity. Doctors, nurses, small business employees, laid-off Americans, and vulnerable seniors need our help right now.

So here is the way ahead, colleagues. We are going to vote at 9:45 in the morning—the same vote we had at 6 o'clock tonight. We are going to vote at 9:45 in the morning, 15 minutes after the markets open, and see whether there is a change of heart. That vote will occur, unless we can finally reach an agreement sometime between now and then. I just want all of our colleagues to know when our next vote will be in the absence of an agreement—9:45 in the morning, 15 minutes after the markets open.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9 a.m., Monday, March 23; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 748.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, I know the majority leader likes to talk about partisanship, but we are not here for that reason. The bill we are voting on will affect us not just in the days to come but in the months and years to come, and we need the best bill possible.

We Democrats have seen some real flaws in the bill that was put on the floor by the Republicans. What it has is, for instance, a giant, giant corporate bailout fund with no accountability. You wouldn't even know if the loans were made until 6 months later. What we have seen is a cutback in

what we asked for, for hospitals, doctors, and nurses—masks, equipment. We need more money than what the Republican majority has proposed. What we have seen is no money for State and local governments. They are going broke. They have huge, huge, new expenses. We need to make those better.

The bottom line is very simple. We are fighting for a better bill because this bill will have an effect for a very, very long time.

I have been working with Secretary Mnuchin and the President's congressional liaison, Eric. They have been in my office about six times tonight. We are making progress, and I think there is a good chance we will have an agreement, but we don't need artificial deadlines. We will get this done. We will come in at 12 noon, and, hopefully, we will have an agreement by then.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, as I have said repeatedly and as, I think, all 100 of us know, we had a good bipartisan bill that was developed on a bipartisan basis with Members in the Senate, over the last 48 hours, until the Democratic leader and the Speaker of the House decided to blow it all up and play Russian roulette with the markets. The futures market is dramatically down, going into tomorrow. The Asian markets, I suspect—I haven't checked—are probably rattled by all of this.

Nothing would have been lost by allowing us to get on the bill because they could have used 30 more hours—not that they should have but they could have used 30 more hours—to continue to negotiate. But, alas, every single one of them has been on record as preventing us from taking the next step toward getting the agreement the American people are waiting and waiting and waiting for us to get.

The result of what the Democratic leader just did was to prevent us from voting right after the markets open in the morning and will allow the markets to be rattled until 12 noon, further evidence of the reckless behavior we have witnessed on the Democratic side in the Senate over the last hours.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Monday, March 23; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 748.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3560. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3561. A bill to require Federal agencies to permit employees to telework full-time during the public health emergency relating to COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3562. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, and the Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 3563. A bill to modify nutrition programs to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3564. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to provide medical assistance for COVID-19 treatment services for individuals who are diagnosed with COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3565. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide additional protections for consumers and small business owners from debt collection during a major disaster or emergency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 3566. A bill to prohibit depository institutions from assessing overdraft and non-sufficient fund fees during the novel coronavirus crisis and other disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. REED, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3567. A bill to provide State funding to ensure that essential workers can access child care; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 3519

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3519, a bill to authorize the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to subsidize payments on loans guaranteed under the 7(a) and 504 loan programs or made using funds under the microloan program, and for other purposes.