

have to be quarantined. Campuses are exploring using mobile phone apps for tracking and creating isolation dormitories to isolate students who have the virus or have been exposed, as UT-Knoxville is doing.

Widespread testing not only helps contain the disease; it builds confidence that the campus is safe. Fortunately, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir says there will be 40-50 million tests available per month by September. That is 4-5 times today's number—and today's number is twice as many as any other country.

Dr. Francis Collins, who led the Human Genome Project, now leads a competitive "shark tank" enterprise at the National Institutes of Health to discover new ways to conduct tens of millions of additional accurate tests with quick results.

Should everyone on campus be tested? On a webinar for institutes of higher education on Friday, May 29, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said that they are not recommending that at this time and encouraged campuses to work with their state and local health officials.

However, that does not take into account testing for peace of mind. Some schools may want to test everyone before they come back to campus.

Schools may want to think about testing randomly to detect asymptomatic cases and have the ability to test everyone in certain categories: health care, food service, and cleaning workers; older faculty; students with medical conditions or who are arriving from virus hot spots; all students in a class or dormitory where a person tests positive for the virus.

Administrators ask: Where will I find tests? The answer is, consult your local health department and your governor. Each state submits a monthly plan to the federal government outlining testing supplies and needs. Admiral Giroir's team then helps fill the gaps.

My recommendation: you want your school's testing needs to be in your state plan. A school can also contract directly with laboratories who conduct tests, review the Food and Drug Administration list of authorized tests, or ask for help from a nearby large university or hospital that has created its own test.

COVID-19 plans should last for at least the full school year. The government is pursuing vaccines at warp speed, but no one expects one by August. In the second semester there should be more tests, more treatments, better contact tracing and vaccines—amidst the flu season and the return of COVID-19. It will be the Fall of 2021 before school life approaches normal.

But students returning in the Fall and their families will want and need to have peace of mind that they, and their loved ones, are heading back into a safe environment. Testing is the key to providing this peace of mind.

#### *College Environment—the Good and Bad*

There are several reasons colleges have an advantage in providing a safe environment for students and faculty:

The first reason is that younger people have been less hurt by COVID-19.

For example: In Tennessee, nursing homes account for around 5 percent of cases of COVID-19 infections but 36 percent of COVID-19 deaths.

Compare that with Tennesseans under the age of 30, who have accounted for around 30 percent of cases of infection, but less than 1 percent of deaths.

Still, there is much we are still learning about the virus, and Dr. Anthony Fauci has warned against "cavalierly" assuming that young people are not at risk.

Second: Colleges are notorious wasters of space. As I wrote for Newsweek in 2009 to encourage colleges to embrace 3-year degrees: Former George Washington University president Stephen J. Trachtenberg estimates that a typical college uses its facilities for academic purposes a little more than half the calendar year. "While college facilities sit idle, they continue to generate maintenance, energy, and debt-service expenses that contribute to the high cost of running a college," he has written.

Keeping students six feet apart will be a lot easier if colleges embrace a new efficiency and use more of their classrooms and spaces throughout the day and throughout the year.

Maybe that's a lesson that will last beyond this virus crisis.

Third, tracking and tracing the virus will be easier to do at colleges—we know what classes students attend, and what dorms they live in. If colleges take it a step further and, for example, assign seats in class, infections will be even easier to track.

Fourth, a college can require students to wear masks. Campuses can make mask-wearing part of the student culture.

But college environments pose a couple of challenges as well.

First, we know that 19 and 20-year-olds don't always choose to do what's healthiest. For example, the 2018 National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that a third of college students admitted to binge drinking in the past month. So a social-distanced, mask-wearing culture in class may not always extend into the evenings and weekends.

And second, 86 percent of undergraduate students are not living on campus, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. That statistic includes big variations: 40 percent of students at private 4-year colleges live on campus; 26 percent at public 4-year institutions, 2 percent live on campus at community colleges. Nearly half of undergraduates live within 10 miles of campus. That means many students will leave and return, potentially exposing themselves and others to the virus—making social distancing and CDC-recommended health status checks all the more important.

#### *Federalism*

What should the federal government's role be in helping colleges and universities safely reopen?

Providing advice from the CDC about best practices

Funding for innovation, such as the shark tank I mentioned, so there's an ample supply of rapid tests for colleges

Encouraging colleges and universities to work with states and get included in their testing plans, and then help states get supplies they need for testing

Funding, such as the nearly \$14 billion in CARES Act to address lost revenue due to COVID-19 and help students disrupted by the crisis

Federal government can provide liability protections

Beyond that, decisions should be left to the individual campuses. From small technical institutes like Lincoln College of Technology to research institutions like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From community colleges to tuition-free, four-year institutions like Berea College in Kentucky.

When I became a university president in 1988, I asked the president of the University of California System, David Gardner, what made that university so good. His first answer was autonomy—that the government provides students with funds that follow them to the school of their choice and then allows the institutions to run themselves.

The United States is home to 6,000 colleges and universities—arguably the best system of higher education in the world because institutions have maximum autonomy and minimum direction from Washington on everything from their curriculum, tuition, admission policies, health care plans for students, and compensation for faculty. They determine what their policies will be for student behavior and conduct, housing, safety, and a host of other things.

So I would suggest we honor that same tradition now: President Trump and Congress should not be telling the California State University System that it has to open its classes in person, or telling Notre Dame it cannot—or telling UT that it must test everyone on the campus or telling Brown University that it cannot. Colleges themselves, not Washington DC, should make those decisions.

#### *Conclusion*

We know that a single lost year of college can lead to a student not graduating from college and set back career goals.

Already, disruption of university research projects has erased much of the progress that was being made with the record levels of research funding Congress has provided over the past five years. Many American colleges—overall considered the best in the world—will be permanently damaged or even closed if they remain, in witness Christina Paxson's words, "ghost towns."

Two thirds of college students want to return to campus, according to an Axios survey. At Purdue, tuition deposits by incoming freshmen broke last year's record. Colleges and universities are microcities. College presidents and administrators can make them among the safest small communities in which to live and work during this next year. In doing so, they will help our country take its surest step toward normalcy.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Next week in our committee we will take a look at going back to school safely, K-12. That is a lot more families—20 million college students, 75 million children in K-12. And in every one of those families, in every one of those homes, I can tell you those families are worried about whether those children can go back to school and whether they can go safely. I believe they can, and all across the country, Governors, classroom teachers, mayors, principals are working, just as we heard today from the college presidents, to make sure they go back safely.

#### **GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT**

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if I may switch gears to another subject, briefly—on Monday, the Senate will be casting the most important vote on conservation legislation, outdoors legislation, that we have had in 50 years. That is quite a statement to make because we do lots of legislation in the U.S. Senate. I am not exaggerating when I say that. This is a piece of legislation that will do more for our public Federal lands—our national parks, our fish and wildlife lands, our Bureau of Reclamation Lands, the lands that hunters and fishermen use—than any piece of legislation we have passed in at least 60 years. In addition, it will create permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which

has been a goal of Congress since it was passed first in 1964 and reaffirmed by Reagan's Commission on American Outdoors, which I chaired in 1985 and 1986. Finally, we are getting around to doing both of those things.

This piece of legislation that I am describing has the strong support of President Trump. In fact, it couldn't happen without President Trump because the Office of Management and Budget has to approve the method of funding we are using. They have approved it, and it is in the President's budget. It has the support of 59 cosponsors in this body—Democrats and Republicans—who are working together on it in a remarkable way.

People say that we are divided. Well, we are in lots of ways, but in other ways we are not. Ask Senators BURR, CANTWELL, DAINES, GARDNER, HEINRICH, KING, MANCHIN, PORTMAN, and WARNER. They are all in the middle of this. They will all take credit for it, and I will give them credit for it. But everyone recognizes it takes all of us.

Why are we all in the middle of it? We have more than 800 sportsmen and outdoors groups who have endorsed this bill—more than 800. You tell me the last time you saw President Trump, 800 outdoors environmental groups, and 59 U.S. Senators on both sides of the aisle in favor of a piece of legislation that has a policy of what I believe is the most important piece of outdoors legislation in a half century.

Here is what we are talking about. We are talking about leaky roofs. We are talking about access roads with potholes. We are talking about trails that are worn out so you slip and fall down when you go to hike. We are talking about sewage systems that are broken, shutting down whole campgrounds like the Chilhowee Mountain Campground, which was shut for 2 years. Five hundred families usually use it every summer and can't go because the sewage system is shut down. We are talking about dilapidated visitors centers, from Washington, DC, to Pearl Harbor. We are talking about the Mall in Washington, DC. We are talking about our national treasures. We are talking about where we like to go.

One of the organizations supporting this—or a group of them—represents 55 million fishermen and hunters. They would like to have roads in order to get to the fishing holes. They would like not to break the axles on their tires along the way. Families would like to be able to go to Pearl Harbor and see a good visitors' center, and they would like to be able to camp in the Smoky Mountains and find that it is not shut down because the bathrooms don't work. That is what we are talking about here. This isn't exotic stuff, but it is what creates an environment for us to use this great American outdoors that we all love.

Now, briefly, exactly how does it do that? Well, one part simply says that we are going to take the 419 national park properties—the national forests,

the National Wildlife Refuges, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Education—that is the Indian schools—and we are going to take the deferred maintenance, which is all of those things I talked about that are broken, and over the next 5 years, we are going to pay for half of it. We have about \$12 billion in deferred maintenance, and over the next 5 years, we will reduce it to half of that.

In the Great Smoky Mountains, for example, which is next to where I live, we have \$235 million worth of deferred maintenance, and the park has a \$20 million-a-year budget. Now, how long do you think it is going to take, with a \$20 million annual budget, to deal with \$230 million worth of deferred maintenance? It is never going to happen. It is never going to happen without this piece of legislation or something like it. That is the first part.

President Trump, to his credit, said to go ahead and put in the bill the national forests, the National Wildlife Refuges, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Education. We have a lot of Indian schools in this country that are broken down and need to be fixed. He said to put that in there. There are also a lot of Tribal nations and a lot of hunters and fishermen who appreciate that support, which is why we have 800 different outdoor groups that are supporting it.

Then there is a second part of the bill—the smaller part—which is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It is a very simple idea that was recommended by President Johnson's Rockefeller division in 1964. It said this: Let's set aside a certain amount of money every year—\$900 million. Half will go to the States, and half will go to the Federal Government and buy land that ought to be protected. It might be a city park or it might be an inholding in a national park. It could be either of those things. This has been going on all that time. Yet what the agreement was in 1964 was that we would get the money from offshore drilling in order to pay for it. We would create an environmental burden—that is, allow offshore drilling—and we would use it for an environmental benefit, which is the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That made a lot of sense.

So, every year, Congress has appropriated a certain amount of money for that, but the idea was that the amount would be certain. It would be \$900 million every year, and that has never happened. In 1985 and 1986, President Reagan appointed a commission to look at the American outdoors. I was the chairman of it. The principal recommendation was to make the Land and Water Conservation Fund permanent and have permanent funding. So, for 60 years, Presidents and Congresses have been trying to do this, but it hasn't gotten done. Monday is the day to get it done.

My hope is that all Members of the U.S. Senate will be back here for votes

on Monday. Some of us have been a little delinquent in our attendance on the Monday votes, but we need 60 votes on Monday to advance the bill. Then we will need 60 votes a couple of more times to pass the bill. Then it can go to the House of Representatives where an identical bill has been introduced.

To me, it would seem that a bill like this, at a time like this, would be something we would all welcome and want to support. There is nothing any of us wants to do more than to get outside of our homes and get in the fresh air, and these lands are where we go. Some of them are city parks, and some of them are big parks, like Yellowstone and Yosemite and the Great Smokies. Yet they are our treasures, and they are run down. They are run down. The bathrooms leak. The sewage systems have closed camp grounds. In some cases, the visitors' centers are embarrassing. The roads have potholes, and the access roads aren't built for the fishermen. This is a chance for us to take care of that.

I look forward to the vote on cloture on Monday. I hope we get a big vote and send a strong signal to the American people that we in Congress have heard them and that, even in a time of crisis like this, we can work together and do important work.

There is one more aspect to it. This is an infrastructure bill, and infrastructure means lots of jobs. There are various numbers that have been thrown around—40,000, 100,000—but anytime you spend \$14 billion over 5 years on projects that are ready to go in locations all over the country, especially in rural areas, it is going to help a country that has such a high unemployment rate. This is the most important conservation and outdoors legislation in 50 years. In addition to that, it is an infrastructure bill. That sounds like a pretty good vote for Monday.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD after my speech my opening statement from the hearing this morning on Going Back to College Safely as well as the letter from the American Council on Education.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today marks the anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre, when students led demonstrations for greater accountability, constitutional due process, democracy, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech. One million people participated in these historic protests.