

just one example, we must have no stigma—none—about wearing a mask when we leave our homes and come near other people. Wearing simple face coverings is not about protecting ourselves; it is about protecting everyone we encounter.

In fact, the more we hate the pain and suffering that accompanied the strict stay-home guidelines a few months ago, the happier we should be to take responsible, small steps every day to ensure our country can stay on offense against the virus.

Now, the Senate should take pride in the degree to which our historic response has helped the country get where we are. All of the health leaders and professionals I meet continue to be glad for the CARES Act, the historic bipartisan legislation that Senate Republicans wrote and then negotiated across the aisle.

We sent historic resources to hospitals and health providers to help them do their healing work and to fight this new invader. That was in addition to the historic relief we provided to households and small businesses, which economists across the political spectrum say saved millions of jobs and prevented an economic freefall.

In May and June, while the Democrat-led House has been mostly absent, the Senate has kept right on leading. In addition to legislating on other important subjects, we have continued to work all angles of the pandemic.

By the end of this week, I believe our committees will have held more than 40 hearings on key aspects of the crisis so this institution can continue to learn and inform any future work.

As I have been saying for weeks, a number of us are putting together strong legal protections for healthcare professionals, K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and employers so that our recovery is not promptly swamped by a second epidemic of frivolous lawsuits.

While the Democratic House slapped together an absurd multitrillion-dollar wish list that even the mainstream media panned immediately, the Senate has continued with our substantive, serious, facts-first approach. That is the winning formula that built the historically successful CARES Act, and that is the formula we will replicate in any future recovery legislation down the road.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a completely different matter, on Thursday I noted that in recent weeks the Air Force has scrambled jets to intercept intrusions by Russian military aircraft near U.S. airspace in Alaska.

Well, on Saturday it happened again. According to the Defense Department, Russian reconnaissance planes entered the Alaska Air Defense Identification Zone and lingered for 8 hours. Obvi-

ously, this is just the latest in a series of escalations from Putin's regime.

Meanwhile, China has resumed its submarine intrusions into Japanese contiguous zones and picked deadly fights with India at high altitude.

North Korea State media has stepped up its unhinged, anti-American rhetoric, reportedly declaring over the weekend that nuclear war was "the only option left."

And Iran has issued a warrant for the arrest of the President of the United States because we took the mullahs' top terrorist off the battlefield back in January.

Our adversaries are as intent as ever on undermining peace; disrupting commerce; and threatening American citizens, our interests, and our allies wherever and whenever possible.

So this year's National Defense Authorization Act is as urgent and important as it has been for 60 consecutive years. Thanks to Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member REED, the legislation we will consider is already the product of exhaustive bipartisan effort.

It includes 229 bipartisan amendments adopted by our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee. It may include more amendments before we finish with it here on the floor.

But the primary missions of the legislation are already clear. On the homefront, it will increase pay for servicemembers; reform the military housing and healthcare systems; and increase transparency in Pentagon budgeting, hiring, and acquisition.

Around the world, it will make clear our commitments to our allies in Europe and the Pacific, invest in key technologies from biotechnology to hypersonics, and make sure that our men and women in uniform have the tools to remain the greatest fighting force in world history.

I am grateful to our committee colleagues for giving the Senate the opportunity to set strong priorities for our national defense. Our job now is to follow their example, work together in a bipartisan way, and pass the NDAA on behalf of our men and women in uniform and the Nation they protect.

#### EMERGENCY AID FOR RETURNING AMERICANS AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4091.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4091) to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to provide authority for fiscal year 2020 for increased payments for temporary assistance to United States citizens returned from foreign countries, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 4091) was passed, as follows:

S. 4091

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Aid for Returning Americans Affected by Coronavirus Act".

#### SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AGGREGATE PAYMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1113(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1313(d)) is amended by striking "fiscal years 2017 and 2018" and all that follows through the period and inserting "fiscal year 2020, the total amount of such assistance provided during such fiscal year shall not exceed \$10,000,000."

#### (b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided by the amendment made by this section are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(2) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this section and the amendment made by this section are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.

#### SEC. 3. LIMIT ON DIRECT CONTACT WITH REPA- TRIATED INDIVIDUALS DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY PERIOD.

During the emergency period described in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5(g)(1)(B)), in providing temporary assistance under section 1113 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1313), no employee of the Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services shall have direct, in-person contact with an individual specified in section 1113(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1)), except in the case of a uniformed member of the Regular Corps or the Ready Reserve Corps of the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service (as described in section 203 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 204)) in an active duty status who, as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, has—

(1) received appropriate training on infection prevention and control; and

(2) access to appropriate personal protective equipment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, the Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law that would have restricted abortion providers so severely that Louisiana would have been left with only a single clinic. These types of laws have popped up in State after State as a backdoor means of banning abortions—if not in law then in practice—an insidious campaign to undermine the rights of women to make their own medical decisions.

Today's ruling is a thunderbolt of justice for millions of American women who were at risk of having their constitutional rights invalidated by a reactionary State legislature, as there are many throughout the country.

After surprising but very welcome rulings on DACA and LGBTQ rights 2 weeks ago, the Supreme Court has once again made the right decision. The Supreme Court is entering Buffalo Springfield, territory: "There's something happening here."

Truthfully, today's ruling should not have been a surprise. The Louisiana law violated the Court's precedent. In 2016, the Court struck down a Texas law that was virtually identical to the one in Louisiana. The newest addition to the Supreme Court, however, despite promising the Senate that he would respect precedent, dissented from the majority's ruling today. Justice Kavanaugh told Senators he believed *Roe v. Wade* to be settled law, but in the very first ruling on a related issue, he decided that the Court's precedent was wrong, and *Roe v. Wade* could be greatly undermined.

Thankfully, Kavanaugh's view was not in the majority. Today, America can breathe a sigh of relief that the Supreme Court kept the floodgates firmly shut against this particular attempt to nullify the landmark decision of *Roe v. Wade*.

#### RUSSIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Russia, on Friday, the New York Times and other media outlets reported that a Russian intelligence unit was offering Taliban-linked fighters bounties to kill American and coal-

ition troops in Afghanistan. It should go without saying that it is our solemn obligation to support and protect our troops. If Russian intelligence is conducting a shadow campaign to sponsor the murder of American troops, there must be swift, strong, and unmistakable consequences for Putin and his cronies—something we should do in this NDAA bill.

The New York Times reported that the Trump administration was aware of these activities as early as March of this year. Yet, the Trump administration has authorized no—no retaliatory actions. Russia gives bounties to kill Americans; the administration does nothing.

Donald Trump, you are not being a very strong President here, as usual.

At the very least, you would expect the President and his team would want to get to the bottom of this. The President claimed, however, that "nobody briefed or told [him] me about this report."

President Trump, you lose either way. If you weren't briefed on this important report, how can you run an administration where something this important is not brought to your level? And if you were told about the report and did nothing, that is even worse. Shame on you. Shame on you.

A few hours ago, the White House Press Secretary said the President still has not received a briefing from the intelligence community about these reports. The White House Chief of Staff, meanwhile, is reportedly briefing Republican Members of the House before the President of the United States gets a briefing.

Is that amazing? He is the Commander in Chief. He is the one who is supposed to be protecting our soldiers, and they are still twiddling their thumbs instead of giving him a briefing, which, who knows, given his lack of respect for the truth, he may have received it already and just denied it.

It raises many, many questions. First, is it true the President was not told this information? If so, why not? Was there a concern about sharing this information with the President? And the President doesn't seem as outraged as you would think he would be if, in fact, the intelligence community had this vital and important information and had not briefed him.

Something—something doesn't smell right here, especially when we have a President and an administration who has a great deal of trouble telling the truth. We need answers, and we need them fast. I am calling for the Directors of National Intelligence and the CIA to immediately brief all 100 Senators on reports that Russia placed bounties on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Among many other things, we need to know whether President Trump was told this information and, if so, when.

Because there has been an alarming pattern in this administration, dating back to its first days of appeasement toward authoritarian leaders, espe-

cially of Vladimir Putin, President Trump stood next to Putin on the international stage and accepted his word over the word of our own intelligence agencies. President Trump has delayed or ignored congressionally mandated sanctions on Putin. The President has pondered withdrawing from NATO—the organization whose very purpose is to defend the free world from Vladimir Putin. Only a few months ago, the President mused about inviting Russia back into the G7.

If we had learned anything in the past 3 years, it is that President Trump is inclined to ignore or forgive Vladimir Putin's abuses on the international stage—even in the face of an attack on our democracy. If we learned anything in the last 3 years, it is that dictators—whether Xi or Putin or the head of North Korea—played President Trump for a fool and got the advantage of him every time.

This means we all need to speak up right now and make sure that Congress and the executive branch are doing what is necessary to get to the bottom of these reports. The first step is a briefing for all 100 U.S. Senators.

Despite what some administration officials are claiming, no such briefing has been scheduled, and I am not aware of any Senator who has been invited to a White House briefing of any sort.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on COVID-19, unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to surge in several States. Florida, Texas, and Arizona are reporting new highs in case numbers. Last Friday, there were 45,000 new cases nationwide—the most in a single day.

As the public health crisis continues, our country is facing one of the greatest economic challenges since the Great Depression. Over one-fifth of the workforce has requested unemployment assistance. State and local Tribal governments are on life support and have laid off over 1.6 million workers. Our perennially underfunded schools are fighting an uphill battle to prepare for the fall.

As Americans struggle to make rent payments and face potential evictions, as our healthcare and childcare systems face unprecedented burdens, Senate Republicans have been missing in action. Senate Republicans equal MIA.

Over a month ago, Leader McCONNELL said that Senate the Republicans "have yet to feel the urgency of acting immediately." It seems like he really meant it. It has been nearly 3 months since we passed the CARES Act on a bipartisan basis, 96 to 0, and over 45 days since the House passed the Heroes Act—legislation that would deliver sorely needed resources to States, essential workers, American families, and our healthcare system, but Leader McCONNELL continues to say that Republicans "need to assess the conditions in the country" and insists that