

Mr. DURBIN. I announce the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 141 Ex.]

#### YEAS—60

Alexander	Fischer	Murphy
Baldwin	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Carper	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Casey	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Jones	Shaheen
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	King	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Tester
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Loeffler	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Warner
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Young

#### NAYS—32

Bennet	Harris	Rosen
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Paul	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—8

Burr	Leahy	Sanders
Cassidy	McSally	Sinema
Kaine	Romney	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 60, and the nays are 32.

The motion is agreed to.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read nomination of William Scott Hardy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT—S. 4049

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the passage of S. 4049, the clerk be authorized to correct the instruction line on amendment No. 2417.

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

The amendment (S. 2417), as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the requirements for the Department of Energy response to the review by the Nuclear Weapons Council of the budget of the National Nuclear Security Administration)

Beginning on page 1036, strike line 7 and all that follows through page 1037, line 8, and insert the following:

“(3) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESPONSE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Council submits to the Secretary of Energy a written description under paragraph (2)(B)(i) with respect to the budget request of the Administration for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall include as an appendix to the budget request submitted to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget—

“(i) the funding levels and initiatives identified in the description under paragraph (2)(B)(i); and

“(ii) any additional comments the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of Energy shall transmit to Congress, with the budget justification materials submitted in support of the Department of Energy budget for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), a copy of the appendix described in subparagraph (A).”.

Strike Sections 3112, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—S. 3685 AND S. 4097

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate en bloc consideration of the following bills: S. 3685, the Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act, which I am a prime sponsor of, and S. 4097, Senator WARREN's bill, the Protecting Renters from Evictions and Fees Act. I further ask that the bills be considered read a third time and passed en bloc and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have discussed this before on the floor, and I will not go through that entirely in my part of the discussion here.

Four months ago with the CARES Act, we came together and unanimously passed a package that provided historic support, significant support, in the rental markets, as this request focuses on. I believe that in the coming days, we can come to that same kind of consensus and deal with this important issue. Because of that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I am disappointed. I knew it was coming from Senator CRAPO. He is my friend, and I appreciate the cooperation, but this is so much more serious than what we did a few months ago.

We have been asking just down the hall—Senator MCCONNELL was just in. We have asked him week after week after week—April, May, June, half of July—to do something about this impending problem we have.

This is why we have to do this now. Tomorrow, millions of families face a massive cliff, and they face another one in a week. Right now, millions of Americans are in danger of losing their homes. In the CARES Act, we put a temporary moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for renters and homeowners and properties with federally backed loans, as well as for renters receiving Federal assistance. It is a good thing entirely, just not enough. This rental eviction moratorium expires tomorrow.

The last thing we need—imagine this: In the middle of a public health crisis, people who get evicted roam the streets, or they go to an overcrowded shelter, or they go live in their cousin's basement—all potentially spreading the virus.

We know the moratorium didn't go far enough. It only covered 28 percent of renters. We should be extending and expanding the moratorium. We should be passing my emergency rental assistance bill to get people through this pandemic, not kicking them out on the streets.

We already had a housing crisis in this country before the coronavirus hit. Many of the professions we are now recognizing as essential—one essential worker, a grocery store worker, said:

I don't feel essential. They call me essential. I feel expendable because I don't make much money, and they don't protect you at work.

Many of those people recognized as essential aren't paid enough to afford housing.

Think about this: One-quarter of all renters—one out of four renters—before the pandemic were paying half or more of their income in rent. One thing happens in their lives, and they are on the streets. Now we are seeing millions of people all at once have those same emergencies. They are facing impossible choices between rent and grocery or prescriptions or draining their savings or going to a payday lender. More than 40 percent—40 percent—of Black and Latinx renters report they are unlikely to be able to make their next payment—40 percent.

Some people don't have any choice at all. Their only option is eviction. Those evictions are already happening in Columbus, the capital city in Ohio, the largest city in Ohio. In Columbus, they have turned the convention center into an eviction court—an eviction court at the convention center. More eviction filings will be coming if we do nothing.

For all those renters who have been protected from eviction by the CARES Act, back rent will suddenly be due. They will owe for March and April and May and June. The same goes for the millions who aren't protected under

the CARES Act but got relief from a temporary State or local moratorium or court closure.

On top of that, at the end of next week, the additional \$600 a week in UI benefits expires. Senator WYDEN has done yeoman's work. It is incredible what he was able to do for this unemployment that kept millions and millions and millions—tens of thousands of Oregonians and hundreds of thousands of Ohioans were kept in their homes because of this \$600 unemployment check that they got weekly. Now, because Senator MCCONNELL doesn't care, President Trump doesn't care, those people are going to lose that \$600. What do they do then? We know that UI didn't cover everyone, but for many people, that \$600 was the difference between being able to pay their bills and skipping meals or draining their savings or having to turn to a payday lender.

We need to extend the assistance to help families afford their food and prescriptions. We need to provide emergency rental assistance to keep a roof over their heads.

This problem isn't some distant cliff. We are all about to go home for the week. This doesn't happen a month from now or 3 months from now; this happens starting this week. It happens when unemployment expires. It happens when these moratoria around the country expire.

What is President Trump doing? What is Majority Leader MCCONNELL doing? Nothing. Maybe going to Mar-a-Lago, maybe going back to Kentucky. I don't know. What are they doing about this impending cliff? Nothing.

We asked them in March. We asked them in April, in May, and in June. Two-thirds of the way into July, they still refuse to help.

Because of this President's failures, this crisis isn't getting any better, the virus continues to spread, people continue to die, small businesses continue to suffer.

Why would we let up on the relief people need now? The work we do in this body to get help to people simply can't make up for the lack of leadership from the White House, but it can mitigate some of the damages.

The House passed the Heroes Act nearly 2 months ago. That would have eliminated these cliffs. It would have provided \$100 billion in emergency relief. But do you know what? That bill has been on the majority leader's desk collecting dust since May.

For millions of families about to lose their unemployment, about to lose their homes, and not able to feed their kids, the bills keep coming, the clock keeps ticking, the stress keeps mounting. People are tired of this lack of action and lack of accountability.

They are tired of being betrayed—"betrayed" is the right word—betrayed by this President, who is supposed to look out for them. They are tired of feeling like no one is on their side. That is why we need to do this.

We are supposed to be the greatest country on Earth. The American people should not have to fend for themselves in the middle of a once-in-a-generation crisis. It is time to lead where the President has failed. It is time for Leader MCCONNELL to let us do our job. It is time to keep families from losing their homes. That is really clear.

I yield the floor to the sponsor of this other bill that is so very important, Senator WARREN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I thank Senator BROWN for the leadership on this.

I am very sorry that the Republicans will not agree to moving forward on this bill today. The urgency of the moment cannot be overstated.

President Trump's utterly failed response to the coronavirus pandemic has allowed a dangerous virus to spread, uncontrolled, throughout our Nation. More than 4 million Americans have contracted coronavirus, and more than 140,000 people are dead.

While the death toll mounts, the President's failure to control the spread of COVID-19 has caused a second crisis, following closely on the heels of the virus. Our economy is in shambles, and now we are forced to fight on two fronts: to keep families safe from the coronavirus and safe from the economic fallout.

So I am here on the Senate floor today to talk about one piece of the economic emergency unfolding in our country. Right now, we are just days away from a completely preventable housing crisis. The CARES Act eviction moratorium is currently protecting more than 12 million renters from losing their homes while the virus rages across our country. On Friday at midnight, those protections will disappear, allowing a tsunami of evictions that will hit communities of color and low-income families the hardest unless we act now.

Let us be clear. Eviction is not a new problem in this country. Too many families were already on the financial brink before the virus crashed our economy. Close to 40 percent of adults don't have enough cash to cover an unexpected \$400 expense. More than half of households didn't have enough savings to cover 3 months without income. More than one in four renters were paying more than half of their income to housing.

Now families are facing the worst economic crisis of their lifetime. About 30 million Americans are officially unemployed or out of work. One-half of all Americans have lost employment income since the start of this pandemic, and communities of color have been hit the hardest. It is not possible to fix this economy without containing the virus, but we can make sure that millions of Americans don't lose their homes because President Trump closed his eyes and hoped that the pandemic would just go away.

This is really a commonsense solution. My bill, the Protecting Renters from Evictions and Fees Act, would extend the Federal eviction moratorium through March of 2021, and it would expand the moratorium to protect every single renter.

Congress should pass this bill immediately, and we should pair it with Senator BROWN's bill to create a \$100 billion emergency rental assistance fund to help struggling renters make their payments. Families would get the help they need to stay in their homes and stay current on their rent, and landlords would get their payments. This would help families. It would cover landlords, and it would help protect renters and communities from the spread of coronavirus.

So the answer is really simple. The Senate can—and must—pass these two bills today because the consequences of inaction would be devastating.

More than one out of every three renters have already missed a housing payment. More than one-third of renters have little or no confidence that they can make the next payment.

And let's be clear about who is most at risk. Closer to half of Black and Latinx renters aren't sure they will be able to make the next housing payment. Black Americans are already more likely to be renters because of decades of racist Federal policies that denied Black families Federally insured mortgages, and our government failed to protect Black homeowners from predatory mortgages leading up to the great recession. So when the economy crashed, millions of Black Americans lost their homes, wiping out nearly all of the gains in Black homeownership since the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

Failing to institute an eviction moratorium would further deepen existing racial injustices. Letting eviction protections evaporate at midnight on Friday will also result in widespread housing disruption and needlessly cause long-term harm to millions of families' future housing, financial stability, and their health. It will put more families at risk of homelessness at a time when providers are already stretching every dollar to connect unhoused Americans with sheltering resources, and it will take away one of the most critical protections from furthering the spread of coronavirus: safe, stable housing.

President Trump's shameful inaction has allowed this virus to spread throughout every community in our country. He has denied the scope and seriousness of this pandemic. He has dismissed calls to take lifesaving action, and he has refused to use the powers of the Federal Government to implement even the most basic mitigation measures.

But crisis does not stop growing just because those in power refuse to acknowledge it. That is true for the spread of the coronavirus, and it is also true for the looming eviction crisis.

This is about our values. The Senate has the opportunity—right now—to

stop a massive wave of evictions that will displace families right in the middle of a global pandemic. My colleagues understood the stakes in March when Congress passed the existing eviction moratorium into law. I urge them to join me now in continuing this life-saving protection while providing emergency rental assistance to keep renters housed, landlords paid, and most of all, to keep families safe.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4143

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 4143; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the CARES Act provides an additional \$600 per week to those who are receiving, through their States, unemployment insurance. In Wyoming we have a generous unemployment insurance program to help people who are out of work, and the CARES Act adds to that, essentially, a bonus payment of \$600 additional per week. For a 40-hour workweek, that comes down to an average of about a \$15-an-hour bonus for not being able to go back to work, and that is on top of their regular unemployment benefits.

Well, since the CARES Act has passed, what we have seen is that this additional \$600 per week means that most recipients are paid more for not working than they would make if they actually were on the job working. This fact has been confirmed by news reports, by academic researchers, and by the Congressional Budget Office.

Even former Obama administration Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, along with President Obama's Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, agrees that \$600 per week on top of unemployment insurance through the States is too much.

We have "help wanted" signs all around my State. I talked to the people at unemployment insurance, who run the program. They tell me that they are having many people who are getting paid much more than if they would work, if they would take the jobs where you have employers out there hoping, looking for employees to come and work.

You can't continue to pay people more to not work than to work. Yet instead of trying to address this identifiable and correctable problem, today my colleagues are asking that we vote to extend the \$600-per-week bonus payments and continue these untargeted payments for many months into the future.

As a matter of fact, NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House, living on Fantasy Island, wants to extend these for 6 more months, all the way until the end of January. The CBO and other researchers and economists have looked at this and said this would be a heavy wet blanket on the economy. It would prevent 10 million people from going back to work—going all the way until the end of January.

It is likely that such a proposal would cost \$1 trillion—\$1 trillion—and much of that is we are talking about paying people to not work instead of helping people work.

So I hope my colleagues will join me in better targeting help to the unemployed in a way that doesn't pay people more when they are sitting at home not working than they would make at work.

We are working on a plan now to provide additional help for the unemployed if they can't go back to work because their job isn't there, isn't available; if, for health purposes, they can't go back to work; but do it in a way that the Democrats have claimed that they want to do but haven't even proposed. We need to make it much more closely aligned with lost wages.

So we are going to be introducing this plan shortly, and I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will engage with us in that effort.

For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am going to get into the substance of my colleague's arguments in a moment, but I just want to be clear to all the people in America, the 30-plus million who are having problems making rent, having problems buying groceries, who in just 2 days—2 days—come Saturday, are going to be in a position where, based on what they tell me, they are telling their kids: Hey, you probably have to eat a little bit less because the unemployment is ending.

The fact is, the other body passed a bill so that folks would be able to make rent and buy groceries. On this side of the aisle, the Democratic leader and I introduced legislation to tie the benefits to economic conditions on the ground. One of the reasons we did is my colleagues on the other side said that benefits ought to taper off if unemployment goes down. That is what our bill does.

But here is the message that I think folks who are walking on an economic tightrope this weekend need to hear. On this side of the aisle, we have been ready to go for weeks—essentially, months—to have bipartisan negotiations to work this issue out. As of this afternoon, with benefits expiring in 2 days, the other side of the aisle has no piece of legislation on offer. Let me repeat that: no piece of legislation on offer.

Let me repeat that—no piece of legislation on offer. On this side of the

aisle, they write lots of bills to help multinational corporations—lots of bills to help the powerful and the special interests, but as of this afternoon, there is not a bill to help those folks who this weekend are going to be saying: We are not going to be able to make rent in a few days. We are not going to be able to feed our families, not going to be able to pay for the car insurance. People aren't spending this money on luxuries. They are spending it on essentials. To a great extent, they kept the economy afloat for the last few months.

The other point I want to make is that this did not have to happen. Not only do we have legislation ready to discuss with our colleagues that incorporates some of their ideas, we have been reaching out again and again. Yet MITCH MCCONNELL, who took all of July off when he could have been getting this piece of legislation together—those big 2 weeks, and he could have been getting the legislation together—basically, actively—didn't happen by osmosis—actively gave short shrift to the needs of the unemployed and made no effort, none whatever, even though we reached out continually to Republicans, saying that this weekend—and the pain that working families have this weekend didn't have to happen. We wanted to do everything we can, working with our colleagues, to prevent it.

Now, for purposes of this discussion, I want to make sure people understand what this discussion really means to working families in this country. I was at home, at food banks and the like—lines for blocks—people who had never needed to go to a pantry or a food program were waiting in line because they had been hit by this economic wrecking ball.

There are people who are worried about losing their homes and losing their cars, being unable to fill their prescriptions. As I mentioned, think about what it means when you have to tell your kid you ought to eat less because they don't know whether they will have enough cash to stock the pantry next month.

As I said, Republicans' response to this over the last few days—last few weeks—I went to school on a basketball scholarship, and I remember when you could basically play stall ball, go into four corners offense, basically run down the clock. And then at the end, as my distinguished colleague from Wyoming tried to do, say: Well, it is the fault of the poor people. It is the fault of those poor people. I am going to touch on what this really is all about.

When we began the negotiations—and I was the point person for the Democrats—in the Finance room—I offered basic wage replacement as our position for dealing with this issue. Secretary of Labor Scalia said: It can't be done. The States can't administer it. Western civilization is pretty much going to end if we try to do this. And then he folded his arms, and, for days, basically refused to negotiate about alternatives.