

damage. More than 17 million Americans are still jobless. Far too many families are still hurting. This is not over. America's fight continues, so Congress's support for our people must continue as well.

The Senate majority has assembled a framework for CARES 2. The administration has requested additional time to review the fine details, but we will be laying down this proposal early next week. We have an agreement in principle on the shape of the package. It is the framework that will enable Congress to make law and deliver more relief to the American people that is tailored precisely to this phase of the crisis.

Chairmen GRASSLEY, ALEXANDER, COLLINS, RUBIO, SHELBY, and BLUNT, and Senators CORNYN and ROMNEY have each spearheaded a part of CARES 2. On Monday, these committee chairmen and Republican Members will introduce each component. The sum of these efforts will be a strong, targeted piece of legislation aimed directly at the challenges we face right now.

Our country is in a middle ground between the strict lockdowns of a few months ago and the future day when a vaccine will put all of this, finally, behind us. Our project now is to build a middle ground that is smart and safe but more sustainable.

We are still waging a healthcare war against the virus, and we cannot let up on that. We need to continue to strengthen the defenses we have built—encouraging mask-wearing, supporting testing, and racing toward treatments and vaccines.

At the same time, the greatest country in world history also needs to get back on offense. We need to carefully but proactively step back toward normalcy. This disease has already stolen the lives of more than 140,000 Americans. It has stolen a half a year of our national life. We cannot let the robbery continue without a fight. We cannot let this pandemic rob us indefinitely of our children's educations and the livelihoods of 17 million American workers.

We need to get Americans back to work and school while continuing to fight for our Nation's health. That is what CARES 2 is designed to do. Our proposal will not waste the American people's time with go-nowhere socialist fantasies. We aren't choreographing political stunts or teeing up the same old partisan trench warfare. Our proposal will focus on three things: kids, jobs, and healthcare.

No. 1, kids. A functioning society needs to educate its children and young adults. Our kids need us to invest in their futures, and working parents need some certainty. We need as many K-12 schools, colleges, and universities as possible to be safely welcoming students this fall.

Chairman ALEXANDER, Chairman SHELBY, and Chairman BLUNT are finalizing an ambitious package of funding and policy to help our schools reopen. They will lay out a reopening-related

funding package for schools and universities north of \$100 billion. That is more money than the House Democrats proposed for a similar fund.

There will be several important policies to help childcare providers, to grant new flexibility to elementary and secondary schools, and more.

No. 2, jobs and the economy. Two provisions of the CARES Act worked especially well to help households stay afloat and help as many workers as possible stay employed.

As Chairman GRASSLEY will explain, Republicans want to send a second round of direct payments to American households, and Senator COLLINS and Senator RUBIO have crafted a sequel to their historic and incredibly successful Paycheck Protection Program. It would give the hardest hit small businesses an opportunity to receive second loans if they continue to pay their workers.

We also intend to continue some temporary Federal supplement to unemployment insurance while fixing the obvious craziness of paying people more to remain out of the workforce. Small business owners across the country have explained how this dynamic is slowing rehiring and recovery. So we are going to provide help but make sure it is suited to reopening the economy.

But temporary relief cannot be our endgame. Americans do not just want to scrape by; they want to thrive again. They want a road back to the incredible job market we had just a few months ago. So Chairman GRASSLEY will also lay out bold policies to incentivize retention, encourage the rehiring of laid-off Americans, and help businesses obtain PPE, testing, and supplies to protect their employees and entice customers.

Think of it this way: In the spring, our economy needed life support. Today, while continuing to support families, we must also get the economy into physical therapy so it can actually regain its strength.

Finally, in looking to the long term, the COVID-19 crisis has weakened the critical Federal trust funds that Americans rely on. As Senator ROMNEY will explain, our proposal includes a bipartisan bill, cosponsored by Senate Democrats, to help a future Congress evaluate bipartisan proposals for protecting and strengthening the programs that Americans count on.

Now, our third pillar is the most important of all—healthcare. Our entire reopening and recovery depend on knocking this awful virus onto its heels.

So as Chairmen ALEXANDER, BLUNT, GRASSLEY, and SHELBY will explain, CARES 2 will continue to treat the root causes of this medical crisis: more resources for hospitals and healthcare workers; more help to keep sprinting toward diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines; new policies to shield seniors from a spike in Medicare premiums; and new legislation that will leave us

with better surge capacity to produce medical countermeasures right here at home the next time a crisis strikes.

There is one more essential element that ties schools, jobs, and healthcare all together—legal protections to prevent our historic recovery efforts from simply lining the pockets of trial lawyers.

We will preserve accountability in cases of actual gross negligence or intentional misconduct, but we are going to make sure that nurses and doctors who fought an unknown enemy are not swamped by a tidal wave of malpractice suits. And we will make sure that school districts, colleges, churches, nonprofits, and employers that obey official guidance do not have to delay reopening because they are afraid they will spend 10 years in court.

So this is where Senate Republicans are focused—more support for healthcare, more direct help for American families, and strong policies to help our country pivot into a safe reopening. We will propose to continue and renew some of the most successful CARES Act policies, while adding bold new ideas to help get schools and jobs open for the American people. This is the package our country needs. This is what we will introduce.

We are repeating the successful strategy that produced the historic, bipartisan CARES Act back in March. First, I asked a number of Republicans to spearhead a serious first draft. Then we put those elements together and invited our Democratic colleagues to the table. And guided by our roadmap, working with the administration, the Senate reached a bipartisan outcome.

Earlier this week, even Speaker PELOSI and Leader SCHUMER seemed to concede that things go better when Republicans lead. They themselves said the real work on this next bill would only begin after Republicans laid out the framework.

Well, I am glad my Democratic friends see things the same way I do. I just hope they meet our serious, fact-based proposal with the productive and bipartisan spirit that got us the CARES Act, rather than the cynical partisanship that led them to block police reform just last month.

Doctors and nurses will need Democrats to come to the table. Unemployed Americans will need Democrats to come to the table. Working parents and school children will need Democrats to come to the table.

We have known all along the American people would defeat this virus by understanding that we are all in this together—every single one of us.

If we want to deliver more historic relief, the Senate will need to remember the very same thing.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time on the Hardy nomination be considered expired and the confirmation vote on that nomination occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 27.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 647.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of David Cleveland Joseph, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Cleveland Joseph, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Michael B. Enzi, Tim Scott, Marco Rubio, Lamar Alexander, James E. Risch, David Perdue, Bill Cassidy, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Deb Fischer, Mike Crapo, Kevin Cramer.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 641.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Dana T. Wade, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Dana T. Wade, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Cory Gardner, Deb Fischer, Shelley Moore Capito, David Perdue, Mike Crapo, Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Michael B. Enzi, Marsha Blackburn.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 705.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Marvin Kaplan, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2025. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Marvin Kaplan, of Kansas, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2025. (Reappointment)

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John Boozman, Lamar Alexander, David Perdue, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott, Michael B. Enzi.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 707.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2024. (Reappointment)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2024. (Reappointment)

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, Deb Fischer, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, John Boozman, Lamar Alexander, David Perdue, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott, Michael B. Enzi.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, as we finally begin negotiations on the next COVID bill, I note that Democrats were ready to come to the table with a sense of urgency at least 2 months ago, when the House passed the Heroes Act.

Before I begin my remarks on education today, I want to pay tribute to the life and work of an extraordinary public servant, my friend Congressman John Lewis.

John was a remarkable man, whose deep convictions and concerted actions made an indelible mark on American history, and we could certainly spend hours chronicling his contributions to public life, from his speech at the March on Washington and the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday to his leadership on gun safety, civil rights, and voting rights during his time in Congress.

John meant so much to our country, but he also meant a lot to each of us