

emergency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4294. A bill to provide supplemental appropriations to the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4295. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure access to certain drugs and devices under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN:

S. 4296. A bill to provide the Administrator of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program the authority to waive the Federal fund limitation for the Drug-Free Communities Support Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PERDUE, and Mrs. LOEFFLER):

S. 4297. A bill to allow participants in certain retirement plans to delay their 2020 contributions to such plans to 2021 or 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4298. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants for improvements to meat and poultry facilities to allow for interstate shipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4299. A bill to provide grants for tourism and events support and promotion in areas affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GARDNER:

S. 4300. A bill to amend the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 to require the Secretary of Defense to carry out the Pacific Deterrence Initiative; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 4301. A bill to encourage States to permit members of the Armed Forces who are outside of the State under orders to renew a permit to carry a concealed firearm through the mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4302. A bill to utilize national service programs to directly respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED:

S. 4303. A bill to improve State short-term compensation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4304. A bill to prohibit actions to terminate or withdraw the United States from certain international agreements without a joint resolution of approval, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4305. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to provide bankruptcy protec-

tions for medically distressed debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 4306. A bill to invest in workers and jobs, address important legacy costs in coal country, and drive development of advanced manufacturing and technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 4307. A bill to amend section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to extend the eligibility period for supplemental security income benefits for refugees, asylees, and certain other humanitarian immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 4308. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to include special districts in the coronavirus relief fund, to direct the Secretary to include special districts as an eligible issuer under the Municipal Liquidity Facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BARASSO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 4309. A bill to amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to clarify that the maximum allotment provision does not apply to supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 4310. A bill to prohibit in-person instructional requirements during the COVID-19 emergency; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 4311. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to eliminate an administrative fee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 4312. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to provide for project delivery programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 4313. A bill to establish a grant program for purposes of providing training to physicians on the health effects of exposure to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4314. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4315. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to conduct testing and contact tracing for COVID-19, and related activities such as supported isolation, through mobile health units and, as necessary, at individuals' residences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4316. A bill to provide Federal reimbursement of qualified State paid leave programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 657. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Black, indigenous, and people of color ("BIPOC") Mental Health Awareness Month in July 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Con. Res. 41. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should name the next Virginia-class submarine of the United States Navy the "USS Wisconsin"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 651

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 802

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 802, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1720

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1720, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow the interstate sale of State-inspected meat and poultry, and for other purposes.

S. 2499

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2499, a bill to effectively staff the public elementary schools and secondary schools of the United States with school-based mental health services providers.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.

S. 3103

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3103, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore

State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program.

S. 3419

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3419, a bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to provide for the establishment of a trust for the benefit of all unpaid cash sellers of livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3455

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3455, a bill to prohibit certain individuals from downloading or using TikTok on any device issued by the United States or a government corporation.

S. 3612

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3612, a bill to clarify for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that receipt of coronavirus assistance does not affect the tax treatment of ordinary business expenses.

S. 3705

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3705, a bill to establish a private-public partnership to preserve jobs in the aviation manufacturing industry, and for other purposes.

S. 3768

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3768, a bill to protect older adults and people with disabilities living in nursing homes, intermediate care facilities, and psychiatric hospitals from COVID-19.

S. 3812

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3812, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II.

S. 3814

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3814, a bill to establish a loan program for businesses affected by COVID-19

and to extend the loan forgiveness period for paycheck protection program loans made to the hardest hit businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 3815

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3815, a bill to permit the search and retention of certain records with respect to conducting criminal background checks, and for other purposes.

S. 3872

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3872, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 3881

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 3881, a bill to increase support for State Children's Health Insurance programs during the COVID-19 emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 3893

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3893, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to allow for emergency use of certain land during a pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 3998

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3998, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to simplify payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers or rural health clinics under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3999

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3999, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure access to mental health and behavioral health services furnished through telehealth under the Medicare program.

S. 4035

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4035, a bill to establish and provide for the use of amounts in a Trail Stewardship for Economic Recovery Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 4071

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana

(Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4071, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust identification number requirements for taxpayers filing joint returns to receive Economic Impact Payments.

S. 4081

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4081, a bill to provide a grant program for elementary schools, secondary schools, and institutions of higher education to help offset costs associated with complying with guidelines, recommendations, and other public health communications issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or a State, Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or locality related to mitigating the hazards presented by COVID-19.

S. 4106

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4106, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency.

S. 4117

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4117, a bill to provide automatic forgiveness for paycheck protection program loans under \$150,000, and for other purposes.

S. 4143

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4143, a bill to extend the unemployment insurance provisions of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the duration of the economic recovery, and for other purposes.

S. 4150

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4150, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide assistance to certain providers of transportation services affected by the novel coronavirus.

S. 4152

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 4152, a bill to provide for the adjustment or modification by the Secretary of Agriculture of loans for critical rural utility service providers, and for other purposes.

S. 4156

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4156, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide relief

from hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic to agricultural producers, and for other purposes.

S. 4160

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4160, a bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 4162

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4162, a bill to provide certainty for airport funding.

S. 4174

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4174, a bill to provide emergency appropriations to the United States Postal Service to cover losses related to the COVID-19 crisis and to direct the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service to develop a plan for ensuring the long term solvency of the Postal Service.

S. 4181

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4181, a bill to establish a Library Stabilization Fund to respond to and accelerate the recovery from coronavirus.

S. 4214

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4214, a bill to provide a payroll tax credit for certain expenses associated with protecting employees from COVID-19.

S. 4220

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4220, a bill to limit the use of Federal law enforcement officers for crowd control, and for other purposes.

S. 4221

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4221, a bill to provide for grants to support the provision of child care by reopening and maintaining the operation of child care programs.

S. 4227

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4227, a bill to improve access to economic injury disaster loans and emergency advances

under the CARES Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4232

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 4232, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to extend the coverage of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments to Tribal Governments.

S. 4252

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4252, a bill to provide funding for States to improve their unemployment compensation programs, and for other purposes.

S. 4262

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4262, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop an action plan, make targeted grants, and develop public awareness campaigns with respect to COVID-19 and the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations.

S. 4283

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4283, a bill to provide funding for States to improve their unemployment insurance technology systems, and for other purposes.

S. 4287

At the request of Mr. DAINES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4287, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish presumptions of service-connection for members of the Armed Forces who contract Coronavirus Disease 2019 under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 458

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 458, a resolution calling for the global repeal of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws.

S. RES. 509

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 509, a resolution calling upon the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Iran that extends the dates by which Annex B restrictions under Resolution 2231 are currently set to expire.

S. RES. 655

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 655, a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.

AMENDMENT NO. 1943

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from California

(Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1943 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2334

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2334 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2399

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2399 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2417

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2417 proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2437

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2437 intended to be proposed to S. 4049, an original bill to

authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. REED:

S. 4303. A bill to improve State short-term compensation programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, with the U.S. economy reeling, millions of families struggling, and COVID-19 cases soaring in states around the country, this is exactly the wrong time to cut off or massively cut back unemployment insurance as Republicans are proposing.

Unemployment insurance is a financial lifeline to tens of millions of Americans. And it also provides a big boost for small businesses . . . and communities. Because in addition to helping those who've lost their jobs, it effectively injects needed spending into local economies. Cars don't run without fuel, and the economy won't run without consumers.

The President failed to listen to public health experts and that hurt public health and the economy. He downplayed the pandemic, derided the science, and tried to force states to rush their re-openings.

Now he is failing to listen to economic experts across the spectrum who widely agree that four months into this crisis, the jobs picture is worsening. Experts are once again warning the President and Republicans now is NOT the time to cut off unemployment insurance.

Today, more than 31 million Americans—roughly one out of five workers—are collecting unemployment and thousands of businesses are shutting their doors. More than 1.4 million workers filed for unemployment for the first time just last week. Those who predicted a quick V shaped recovery . . . who misled Americans that the virus would just disappear on its own were wrong. There will be no economic recovery until we get the virus under control.

Congress needs to end the short-sighted approach and start taking the long view. We need a smarter, coordinated, evidence-based approach that recognizes reality: things are bad. Cutting off UI would make them exponentially worse.

But look: Hope is not lost. We have the tools, the assets, the advantages to turn things around. There are proven, effective measures that we can take, both on the public health front and the economic front. Let's focus on the economic front:

Economist Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics notes that unemployment benefits are the most effective dollar-

for-dollar stimulus to the economy, with each dollar of UI translating into \$1.61 of economic activity. Cutting off \$600 would slash the weekly income of 20 million households in half or more overnight. In a recent study, Ernie Tedeschi, a former economist at the Department of Treasury, projects that what will follow is a two percent decrease in the nation's gross domestic product and 1.7 million fewer jobs by the end of this year.

This is not surprising. If Senate Republicans let the enhanced pandemic unemployment assistance expire, it could tank consumer spending while increasing business closings that will lead to even more unemployment. It could also further exacerbate this public health crisis by forcing more Americans into desperate situations.

That is why I, along with Senator MICHAEL BENNET and Congressman DON BEYER, have proposed the Worker Relief and Security Act. This legislation would take politics out of the equation and use "automatic stabilizers" based on actual unemployment rates to ensure the help goes where it is needed, when it is needed, and expires when it is no longer needed—rather than leaving it up to Congress and an arbitrary date.

And look, it's not just individuals who are struggling. Businesses need help too. That is why I have backed the bipartisan RESTART Act and today I am introducing the Workforce Retention Act, which would strengthen and expand work sharing programs that many businesses are effectively using to keep their workers. This program is a win-win that offers businesses increased flexibility and payroll support, while keeping more Americans attached to their jobs.

Right now, business owners who want to keep their doors open are facing the prospect of having to let go some percentage of their workforce because of circumstances far beyond their control. Businesses that are particularly dependent on foot traffic, such as the hospitality and tourism industries, are only looking at re-opening later this year or early next year. In many cases, businesses are also set to lose out on the considerable expense and time they have put in to hire and train these workers.

With work sharing, struggling companies can reduce hours instead of their workforce and it helps employers save money on rehiring costs, while employees who participate in work sharing keep their jobs and receive a portion of unemployment insurance benefits to make up for lost wages. Especially in this pandemic, work sharing programs would allow businesses to retain their employees, easily putting them back on full-time status once business picks up, and avoid having to lay them off in the first place.

As part of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, Congress enacted legislation that I authored, the Layoff Prevention Act of 2012, which

provided temporary federal financing for 100% of work sharing benefits paid to workers. According to the Department of Labor, work sharing saved approximately 570,000 jobs in the wake of the Great Recession. Multiple studies have found that communities that adopted more robust work-sharing programs weathered the recession with lower unemployment rates.

Mark Zandi estimates that temporary financing of work share offers a very high "bang for the buck" of \$1.69 . . . making it a critical companion to traditional UI benefits. It's another win-win policy that has been field-tested and demonstrated to work well in more than 20 states across the country. Simply put, work sharing helps more workers, businesses, and communities stay afloat, and positions them for a stronger economic recovery.

The Workforce Retention Act that I am introducing today along with Senators WHITEHOUSE, MERKLEY, and VAN HOLLEN, enhances the program and encourages states with existing work share laws to utilize them more frequently. It incentivizes states without work sharing laws to stop denying their businesses an easy and effective way to retain employees. This legislation is supported by the National Employment Law Center and the Economic Policy Institute.

It builds off the \$100 million initiative included in the CARES Act, stemming from my Layoff Prevention Act of 2020, by extending federal financing for states with permanent and temporary work sharing programs by two years. It would incentivize states to structure their work sharing laws to reduce barriers to entry for companies . . . particularly for small businesses that have been hard hit by this pandemic. Our bill also provides much-needed federal grants to state unemployment agencies to improve implementation and administration.

States would also qualify under a new grant program for meeting certain enrollment incentive benchmarks and increasing the number of work share claims as a percentage of their overall unemployment insurance weekly claims.

This is a cost-effective job preservation program and we need to invest in ensuring it is accessible to help more businesses, preserve more jobs, and save taxpayers billions of dollars in the long run.

Our economy can't afford more of the same mistakes that have deepened this crisis and steepened the economic climb back out. America controls its own destiny, and we have the tools and know-how to succeed. Other nations have fared much better during this crisis because their elected leadership took COVID more seriously. They encouraged people to wear masks. Other heads of state didn't taunt regions into reopening before it was safe to do so. And they invested in unemployment insurance and economic stimulus.

Ending unemployment insurance in the midst of a surging pandemic could