

here in Congress and therefore the taxpayers because insolvency would be in no one's interest.

Finally, we have to ensure that there is long-term solvency for these multi-employer plans. That entails enacting some restructuring, some structural reforms to the funding rules governing employer contributions so that bailing out these plans doesn't become a habit of the Federal Government. We don't want to fix this problem and be right back in a few years having to fix it again.

We should gradually phase down the rate of return which plans assume in budgeting for promises that are made to participants, partly because that keeps these plans from going bankrupt and partly because that is just fair. Investment risk is a problem in these plans now, and we need to give more certainty to workers and retirees.

The pension crisis is an issue that I, along with Senator GRASSLEY, Senator SHERROD BROWN from Ohio, and many other colleagues here in the Senate, have been trying to solve for quite a long time. We had a bicameral and bipartisan solution very close at hand at the conclusion of a committee process that ended about a year and a half ago, but we weren't quite able to get there. I think it is achievable, particularly now, but only if we are willing to listen to each other and willing to come around the table for a real discussion.

Republicans have reached out. I reach out today. We are ready to find an acceptable compromise. We are ready to talk, but that discussion needs to be driven by the merits of solving this issue, not just the politics of the moment. We owe solving this problem to those beneficiaries—the retirees, the workers, the active workers in these plans—and to the small businesses participating in these plans. We have to find common ground. We have to deliver a sustainable and lasting solution.

I believe we have an opportunity right now, this month, to try to come together, working with the House and the Senate and the administration. Everybody has a responsibility to do it. We talked about shared responsibility with regard to the plans; there is also a shared accountability here in the U.S. Congress. This is our job. We can get this done. I think we are quite close now with similar structures and having gone through various iterations during the select committee process a year and a half ago. Let's do the right thing. Let's act now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a pe-

riod of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SENATE INTERNS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this summer, it was my privilege to select several talented young Kentuckians for an internship in my Washington Senate office. As a former Senate intern myself, I am proud of the individuals who are eager to apply themselves to public service.

I would like to take a moment to commend James Adams of Jefferson County, William Cohen of Jefferson County, Julian Colvin of Jefferson County, Garland Ellis of Bell County, Mary Grace Furnish of Harrison County, William Miller of Taylor County, Lauren Reuss of Spencer County, Samuel Rickert of Oldham County, Elizabeth Rupp of Fayette County, Madelin Shelton of Owen County, Victoria Sisk of Christian County, Jordan White of Campbell County, and Erdin Zukic of Warren County for their interest in serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great Nation. Each of these young people has developed an impressive list of leadership experiences and extracurricular activities. Their applications stood out, and I was proud to offer them an internship.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus crisis forced the cancellation of this summer's internship program. The virus may have taken away this opportunity, but it can never change the great potential these Kentuckians have in store. I would like to thank each of them for pursuing public service and to extend my best wishes for a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SENATE PAGES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was my privilege to select three outstanding high school students from Kentucky for this summer's U.S. Senate Page Program. These talented young people completed a highly competitive application process, and they represent the next generation of Kentucky's leaders.

I would like to take a moment to commend Jackson Hester, Charlotte McCarthy, and Thomas Schrepferman for their interest in serving the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our great Nation. Their applications showed a broad range of leadership experiences and extracurricular activities. These Kentuckians and their families should be proud of all they've accomplished at this young age.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus crisis made it impossible for the Senate Page Program to bring these students to Washington this summer. The virus may have canceled this opportunity, but it can never change the great potential these young people have in store. I would like to thank Jackson, Charlotte, and Thomas for their com-

mitment to public service and extend my best wishes for a bright future.

NOMINATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, workers right now are dealing with unprecedented challenges and are making great personal sacrifices to keep the country running during this crisis.

And the nominees under consideration today for the National Labor Relations Board will play a critical role in safeguarding their rights and protections.

That is why I voted for Lauren McFerran to serve another term on the NLRB.

She is a dedicated, qualified, and well-respected public servant who had a proven track record of fighting for workers before she joined the Board and has stood by workers in enforcing these fundamental protections during her time on the NLRB.

But unfortunately, the opposite is true for Marvin Kaplan, the Republican nominee to the NLRB.

Mr. Kaplan spent his career working to further corporations' interests and gut workers' rights instead of protecting them. That is why Democrats opposed his nomination in 2017, and that is exactly what he has done since joining the NLRB.

He is exactly wrong to serve another term on the NLRB, and that is why I voted against his confirmation.

I am also extremely disappointed we do not have the nomination of another highly qualified Democrat to the NLRB, Jennifer Abruzzo, to consider today.

Years of Republican obstruction of highly qualified Democratic nominees to critical worker protection agencies like the NLRB and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shows a blatant disregard for longstanding deference to the minority party and is a significant departure from the customs of this institution. It is unacceptable, and I will not stop pushing for Democratic nominees.

I urge my colleagues to vote today to stand up for workers and their rights.

I would also like to say that, after months of delay from my Republican colleagues, the COVID relief proposal Republicans put forward this week is incredibly late, profoundly inadequate, and can't credibly be considered a starting point for negotiations.

It gives corporations a "get out of jail free" card to prevent employers from being held accountable for keeping their workers safe and a license to discriminate including on the basis of age, race, sex, and disability status.

And instead of expanding unemployment benefits that have been a lifeline for workers in my home State and across the country—which by the way, are due to expire tomorrow—Republicans have slashed them.

This bill doesn't get us anywhere near where we need to be on developing a vaccine that is accessible and affordable to every person and is completely

inadequate in addressing our testing and contract tracing shortfalls.

And while Democrats want schools to reopen for in-person learning if it can be done safely, the partisan Republican proposal would put students, educators, and communities at risk.

Republicans need to abandon this dangerous one-size-fits all approach to reopening schools in-person and pass our Child Care Education and Relief Act, which would provide \$430 billion to address the national child care and education crises during this pandemic.

My question to Republican leaders is why, when things are already so hard, are you determined to make them harder for people who are already struggling so much?

It is shameful, and we are going to keep calling you to account for it until workers, families, and communities get the support they need.

Thank you.

IDB PRESIDENCY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the campaign currently underway to select the next president of the Inter-American Development Bank in September of this year.

The IDB has served as the pre-eminent development bank in the Americas since 1959. For more than six decades, it has brought together the United States, Canada, and our partners from Latin America and the Caribbean to advance an agenda for development and inclusive economic growth in our hemisphere. The United States has proudly been a leading voice to strengthen the IDB's critical mission in the Americas, and donors from the European Union to Japan and South Korea, have provided enduring support to the institution.

In September, the IDB will hold elections to select its next president. Last month, the United States announced it would nominate Mauricio Claver Carone, the current National Security Council senior director for the Western Hemisphere, as our candidate to be the next president of the IDB. Since Mr. Claver Carone's nomination was announced, more than 15 governments in the region have offered their support for his candidacy. These governments represent a wide range of ideological perspectives, levels of economic development, and different historic relationships with the IDB. In recent weeks, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, our hemisphere's other premier multilateral institution, offered words of support for Mr. Claver Carone's candidacy.

I have known Mr. Claver Carone for over two decades. During this time, Mr. Claver Carone has demonstrated a commitment to inclusive economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and he has been an outspoken advocate for democracy and human rights in our hemisphere. In his more recent roles at the National Security

Council, the International Monetary Fund, and the Treasury Department, he has worked with governments across the region and across the ideological spectrum to advance United States' partnerships in the Americas. He has also worked to address the political, economic, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, and counter the agendas of governments that seek to counter U.S. interests in the region, from Cuba's authoritarian regime to Putin's Russia to China's Government. Of equal importance, he has shown the ability to work in a bipartisan manner with Democrats and Republicans in the United States, including in the U.S. Congress.

While I have been and remain an ardent critic of many aspects of the Trump administration's foreign policy towards Latin America and the Caribbean and I have not always agreed with every policy decision that Mr. Claver Carone has made during his service to our government, I recognize his consistent commitment to advancing U.S. national security, our foreign policy interests, and an agenda of shared priorities with our partners in the hemisphere.

For these reasons, I support Mr. Claver Carone's candidacy and would welcome the opportunity to continue working with him as the next president of the Inter-American Development Bank.

I recognize that selection of the next IDB president is taking place 2 months before the United States holds general elections and that some have concerns about the implications of this timing. Given that the United States is the IDB's largest shareholder, the next IDB president must commit to working in a bipartisan manner with the next U.S. President and their administration, regardless of party. This is an essential task for the success of the IDB. As the senior Democrat in the Foreign Relations Committee, I would look forward to working with Mr. Claver Carone to ensure that this happens.

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the Americas and severe economic impacts follow, the IDB will play an absolutely essential role in the recovery of countries across the region. This makes the selection of the IDB's next president of the utmost importance. The IDB needs leadership that can achieve consensus across the Western hemisphere and set the stage for a decade-long recovery effort. The task is formidable, but I remain confident that the United States can and will play an integral part in supporting the IDB's efforts and our partners in the region.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL SCOTT SCIRETTA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I honor a superb leader, liaison, and warrior. After 3 years of service as director of the Navy Senate Liaison Office, RDML Scott Sciretta recently pro-

moted from captain to rear admiral, lower half. On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Rear Admiral Sciretta's distinguished service and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Navy and this Chamber.

Rear Admiral Sciretta is a 1992 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University. A surface warfare officer by designation, Rear Admiral Sciretta has led our Nation's young men and women on shore and at sea, most prominently in command of USS *Jason Dunham*, USS *Cowpens*, and USS *Lake Erie*. The Navy has consistently relied upon Rear Admiral Sciretta for his exceptional leadership and unparalleled work ethic.

Rear Admiral Sciretta has excelled in numerous other leadership positions in the Navy, most recently as the director, Navy Senate Liaison. In the Russell Senate Office Building and around the globe, Rear Admiral Sciretta filled the role that was initially created and held by Senator John McCain after his return from Vietnam as a Navy captain. Decades later, Rear Admiral Sciretta had the job of coordinating a weeklong series of logistical movements around the country that enabled present and former Members of both Chambers to honor a late colleague and dear friend.

Over the course of the last few years, Rear Admiral Sciretta led 45 congressional delegations to 35 different countries. He escorted over half of the Members of this Chamber on travel and became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us. I have had the pleasure of traveling with Rear Admiral Sciretta on a number of trips. He distinguished himself by going above and beyond the call of duty to facilitate and successfully execute each and every trip, despite any number of weather, aircraft, and diplomatic complications.

Recently, Rear Admiral Sciretta departed Washington for Key West, FL, to serve as the deputy director of Joint Interagency Task Force South and lead operations to combat illicit trafficking. This Chamber will feel Rear Admiral Sciretta's absence. I join many past and present Members of Congress in my gratitude and appreciation to Rear Admiral Sciretta for his outstanding leadership and unwavering support of the missions of the U.S. Navy. I especially recognize his patient and supportive family, Mrs. Sharon Diane Sciretta, Navy Lieutenant James Francis Sciretta and his wife, Ms. Delma Eylin Sciretta, and Navy Midshipman Adam Joseph Sciretta. I wish this Navy family "fair winds and following seas."

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN RUAIRIDH MORRISON

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. John Ruairidh "Ru" Morrison, chief of Clan Morrison, as he steps down from his position as the founding executive director of the Northeast Regional Association of