

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

The senior assistant legislative 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 Mark Wesley Menezes, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Roy Blunt, Mike Crapo, Martha McSally, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Joni Ernst, Cory Gardner, Thom Tillis, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

The Senator from Nevada.

HEALS ACT

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, this Nation faces a moment of crisis. The coronavirus pandemic has taken a serious and devastating toll on our country. Right now, in every corner of America, families are struggling to get by, and they are worried about what the future holds in store for them. Americans are worried about where their next paychecks will come from. They are worried about whether or not they will be able to keep their small businesses open. They are worried about how they will be able to pay their mortgages, their rent, or their utility bills, and they are worried about how they are going to feed their children.

As I said before, this is a time of crisis, but it is a moment that we can overcome together. We are a nation that in the face of great challenges has responded with caring and compassionate leadership. COVID-19 is a major challenge—make no mistake about that—but we as a Congress can bring real and meaningful results to the American people. I am sad to say that the legislation introduced by Leader MCCONNELL, the HEALS Act, does not do this. In fact, it does not even come close.

This is a bill that slashes Federal unemployment assistance for people who are out of work not due to any fault of their own and because of a deadly pandemic and an unprecedented economic catastrophe. This is a bill that has no money for programs like SNAP to ensure that American children don't go hungry. This is a bill that provides no support to State and local governments so that they can continue to provide critical services during the pandemic. This is a bill that provides no support for the EIDL Program or EIDL Advance, which provide direct support to small businesses to pay their operating expenses. This is also a bill that doesn't even continue the eviction moratorium, putting countless Americans at risk of losing their homes as

soon as this weekend when the rent comes due. This is unacceptable.

In Nevada, our travel and tourism industry has been hit hard by the pandemic, which has hurt our entire economy. In April, unemployment reached over 30 percent—30 percent. It is the highest in our Nation. Even now, months later, unemployment is still in the double digits—15 percent by the last count—which is more than four times our pre-pandemic level.

Now, just as Nevadans feel that we can't take any more pain, this bill plans to slash unemployment relief?

Amidst our unemployment crisis, State and local governments are also struggling. In Nevada and across our country, our public employees have been on the frontlines of the pandemic, fighting against the disease and working to ensure the safety and well-being of all Americans.

With little revenue coming in and significant costs going out, our States, our cities, our towns, and our Tribes are now facing massive budget shortfalls that will require cuts to critical programs and which threaten the pay of our teachers, our firefighters, and our first responders. The HEALS Act—Senator MCCONNELL's proposal—has zero funds for any of them.

While the majority leader's party prides itself on helping business, our Nation's small businesses, too, are left behind in his legislation.

Small businesses, the economic engines that keep our communities going, have been hammered by this pandemic. But the HEALS Act has zero—zero additional funding for the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, which has benefited millions of small businesses nationwide, including tens of thousands of small businesses in Nevada.

Senator CORNYN and I introduced bipartisan legislation last week that would not only provide \$180 billion in funds to the EIDL and EIDL Advance Programs but will also lift the Small Business Administration's arbitrary caps on the loans and grants that all small businesses can receive.

Real bipartisan solutions are possible, but our bipartisan proposal to help small businesses is not in Senator MCCONNELL's bill either.

Let's be clear. The HEALS Act is not a bipartisan solution, and it does not address all the needs of the American people. Just as a house cannot stand without support from a sturdy foundation, we cannot expect the American people to stand upon a bill that is the legislative equivalent of cheap drywall and a coat of paint.

Our constituents, my constituents, need real support, a lifeline, not just window dressing. So I ask my colleagues in this body to rise to the challenge we face and provide that lifeline to the people of Nevada and to all of the American people.

Let's help people keep their homes. Let's help families feed their children. Let's help small businesses keep their

doors open. We must come together and develop timely, targeted, and thoughtful legislation to protect both the lives and livelihoods of the American people during this crisis. They deserve no less.

Across the country right now, scientists and healthcare professionals are working around the clock, maximizing resources, developing innovative ways to protect the health of our Nation and save lives. As they work day in and day out, Congress needs to do the same.

The House passed the Heroes Act over 2 months ago. It is long past time for the Senate to get to work. It is imperative that the Senate remain in session and that Senators remain in Washington, working tomorrow through the weekend until the Senate passes a true coronavirus relief bill. Working Americans don't get Fridays off, and neither should Congress.

Although we may not agree on every aspect of how to address this crisis, my Democratic colleagues and I stand ready to work across the aisle to deliver relief to the American people.

So I ask the majority leader, who controls our schedule—I ask him this: Don't we owe it to our constituents, to the American people, all Americans, to work through the weekend until we have an agreement? The essential workers on the frontlines of this battle aren't taking the weekend off to rest, and neither should we.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

ELECTIONS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, while I come to the floor this afternoon, I am kind of questioning whether the heat of Washington, DC, has gotten to people. Clearly, it has been a record July here, with 90-plus degree temperatures every day. But the notion that we should somehow cancel the election in the fall, I think, is either the heat of the moment or just clear wrongheadedness.

I have been waiting for some time to come to floor to talk about our voting system and why it is so important to protect it and why now we should recognize that Americans, in having to deal with the coronavirus, have had the ability to vote and the ability to get there and the ability to be protected while they are voting. It has occurred in several elections that we need to be doing more.

That is why I continue to support the efforts of our colleagues to make sure that we are doing everything we can to protect elections.

I know that Leader MCCONNELL has proposed the HEALS Act, but it doesn't contain any money for helping safe and secure elections in November. I know that the House bill, the Heroes Act, does help put money in place to keep polling workers safe during the pandemic. I know that we have other legislation, whether it is Senator WYDEN's bill, which I am on, the Vote By Mail

Act, which would help eligible U.S. voters vote by mail, or whether it is other legislation, like that of my colleague Senator KLOBUCHAR, to help back up paper ballots and create election security grants to help States improve their cybersecurity.

I have talked many times at many hearings about our challenges with cybersecurity, and I know that all this legislation—my colleagues have been out here on the floor, and they have tried to bring them up, but to no avail.

Well, I think instead of suggesting that the election be canceled, the President should be advocating that Congress pass aid and assistance to States to make sure that, during the COVID pandemic, things are in place so that poll workers can get to their jobs on time, that they can work effectively in doing that and protect their health and security and protect the health and security of the public. What I don't think he should do is to diminish the very important role that mail-in ballot voting has had in the United States of America.

I say that coming from a State where we have mail-in ballots. The mail-in ballot system has grown over time to be the primary way in which we vote in the State of Washington. I say it is the primary way because I am sure there are ways that people can show up and vote at particular election offices, and there are probably other things. But, no, we don't have an election site. For those who love going to the polling places as a way to exercise their democracy and their rights, I appreciate that too. There is nothing better than participating in the democracy of an election by going there and casting a vote. But you also can increase the participation of the American public to vote by mail if you give them that opportunity.

So it just happened to occur that on my way in today, I was actually trying to cast my own ballot; that is, I have my mail-in ballot for the August 4 election that is going to happen next week, and I want to make sure I fulfill my constitutional duty to vote in the next election. So I think it is a great opportunity to come to the Senate floor and put stock really to the myth that I think the President is continuing to create that you cannot vote by mail.

Here is my mail-in ballot. Here is the ballot that is sent to my home address in Edmonds, WA. It basically has the date of the election on it and requires me to fill it out and return it. What is great about this ballot is this. First of all, I love mail-in voting.

Even if I liked going to the polling place, what you now get enclosed, in addition to your ballot, is a voters' guide, which is sent by the secretary of State. It is pretty thick because candidates also give a statement about why they are running. Literally, the citizens of Washington, weeks in advance before getting this ballot, can sit and leaf through the various positions of candidates, and they also include

websites. If you want to go to the candidate's website and look up more information about a candidate or see where they stand on an issue, it is a guide that helps you understand what your ballot is and who is on it.

Who doesn't think that is a great way to inform the American people about voting? We have one of the highest voting rates in the Nation. As I say that, I know that there are States that are not mail-in ballot States that also have high numbers in Presidential election years, but the great thing about our vote-by-mail system is we have a pretty good participation by our public in off-year elections. The school board election or local county election or even a regional election gets the attention that I believe is important for democracy and for voter participation.

I actually happened to start filling out my ballot this morning. I am not going to show everybody whom I voted for, but I will just show you what the front of the ballot looks like.

I did vote already in the Governor's race. No doubt I voted for a Democrat. I am a Democrat.

At the top of this ballot, once I am done, I get to tear off this device right here. It says: I voted. So there I go. I got a little boost to my democracy gene. I am so glad I participated.

Here is the actual number of this ballot and an ID, and I tear that off. I tear that off and keep it. I keep this, and this is proof that I mailed this ballot. That is the great part of our system.

Just for those who are really curious about this, I now have a privacy envelope. Now that I am done filling out my ballot, I stick it in this privacy envelope. Why do I do that? If somebody thinks that my privacy is violated because on the outside of this envelope I sign this signature, they separate these two things. This privacy envelope separates this and throws the ballots that are legitimate to be counted, and now no one knows exactly how I voted.

I take this privacy envelope, and I stick it in the official document envelope that I am going to mail back. So I stick it in there, and guess what I have to do? I have to sign and date it. That signature is the validation of this system. It is the validation by my signature, the same as when I went into a voting booth, as we used to do, and signed my name. It is a validation against someone who is trying to create mischief with this system. It is what makes the vote-by-mail system work effectively in our State. I say that because our State has had many close elections, and yet no one has ever contested the outcome of the final election because we go through this system.

Yes, we have had some very interesting incidents. We had a very close Governor's race once, where as they were recounting the ballots and counting through the official system, a gentleman owned up that he had voted for his wife who had died. He was so worried that he was going to get caught in

this system that he owned up in advance and said: I am sorry. I might be one of the seven final votes in this decision, and I want to tell people I made a mistake. I know that she was so enthusiastic, but she passed away, and it was just a few days ago. So I went ahead and voted for her.

So, no, that is not allowed under this system. This system works because we know who people are, and we have a validation of this system. This system allows us to participate and understand the election process.

So I don't know why the President will not let America vote, only if they vote in a way that he thinks is—well, I am not sure, because now he is saying we should delay the election. He is saying it should be delayed. I am saying what the President should be doing to help the constitutional rights of American citizens is protecting their right to vote by helping to secure our election sites with enough workers, people working at the polls if they choose to go and do that, and also protecting our mail-in ballot system by allowing those States that want to pursue a mail-in ballot to make sure that those ballots work and are delivered on time so that they can be counted.

I don't expect every State in the Union to adopt the same philosophy as the State of Washington, but clearly our State allows enough time for those ballots to get there. They allow so many days after the election. Why? Because we have a lot of military. We have 10 military bases, and we have a lot of people from Washington who are stationed overseas, and their ballots should not be made invalid just because they mailed them before the election but somehow, because of the travel time, they didn't get there in a timely fashion. So our State considers 7 days, the postmark after 7 days if it is delivered.

I know that for some people this is all new. They don't want to move to this. I guarantee you, in 25 years we will all be voting by mail. This system will be in place, and we will be asking ourselves: Why did we drag our feet?

I am at least heartened to hear that my Republican colleagues in the Senate have squashed the President's idea of canceling the election. Now what I want to hear is, Are they going to help us get the dollars and the systems in place to allow America to vote, to allow them to vote with confidence, not to constantly hear an undermining of that process but a support of that process, and not to undermine vote-by-mail, because it has worked in Washington? It has worked.

I was elected in the year 2000 and only won by 2,229 votes—not a lot—cast out of the huge number of voters in our State. Yet people had confidence in that system. It is not as if the numbers didn't change in a recount here or there or somebody found a mistake here or there. It was that we had a system where you can find a mistake.

So stop trying to cancel the election based on the success of what has empowered more Americans to vote and be involved and be educated in our democracy. Let America vote, and let's get on with putting the securities in place that will help America get to the polling places in a secure fashion and get their ballots to the election officials in a timely manner.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, on February 21, 1940, John Lewis was born in Troy, AL—a son of sharecroppers, born to be a person to bring good trouble to the Nation. He grew up on his family's farm and attended segregated public schools in Pike County, AL.

As a young boy, he was inspired by the activism that surrounded him—the Montgomery bus boycott and the works of a leader name Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He attended Fisk University, and he organized sit-in demonstrations in segregated lunch counters in Nashville, TN.

In 1961, he started participating in the Freedom Rides. He was just a young man. He would get on board a segregated bus, and he would dare to sit in the “Whites Only” area just to make a simple statement—that any person of any race should be able to sit anywhere they choose to sit in America, and it would be OK. He literally risked his life just riding on a bus in the wrong seat.

He became best known in 1963 when he helped to organize the March on Washington. He was part of what they called the Big Six in the civil rights movement. He was nationally recognized. We lose track of the fact that in 1963 he was one of the keynote speakers in the March on Washington. He stood in front of the Lincoln Memorial at 23 years old.

His focus on nonviolent protests, his focus on training people on how to speak out for what is just and for what is right, his focus on challenging people to rethink justice and to be able to see all people as being created in the image of God, all people equal, was a message that our Nation needed to hear and was a message he delivered over and over again. From his youngest days, he brought good trouble, as he said, to our Nation to awaken us.

He led 600 peaceful, orderly protesters across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, on March 7, 1965. They were going to march from Selma to Montgomery to demonstrate the need for voting rights changes in the State of Alabama, but Alabama State Troopers met them there in what is known as Bloody Sunday. He and other peaceful protesters, simply marching, were attacked and beaten for doing what is just.

It was a telling thing to see John Lewis's body this past week cross that historic bridge one last time, and as he crossed, to have Alabama State Troop-

ers stand on the bridge and salute his body as it went by because John Lewis brought change to America.

John Lewis was elected to Congress in 1986 in Georgia's Fifth Congressional District, where he served faithfully. He was affectionately known as being the conscience of the Congress.

He was trained in religious teachings. He had a theological degree. He was often called “the reverend.” He never lost track of his faith. He treated people with respect. Even people he disagreed with and voted differently from, he would treat them with respect in a way that would honor God and honor them and honor his own family.

What is interesting, some of the statements John Lewis has made over the years always struck me. His quiet demeanor and his stern way of addressing justice always came back to his faith. A statement he made in 2004 really sticks with me. He said:

I'm deeply concerned that many people today fail to realize that the movement was built on deep-seated religious convictions, and the movement grew out of a sense of faith—faith in God and faith in one's fellow human beings.

Many of us who were participants in this movement saw our involvement as an extension of our faith.

He said:

We saw ourselves doing the work of the Almighty. Segregation and racial discrimination were not in keeping with our faith, and so we had to do something.

And he did.

Representative Lewis left a long legacy as a civil rights leader. He will not be forgotten in our Nation. The Big Six leaders made significant changes. I think about those changes he saw just in his lifetime and the changes that he, personally, was engaged in making in our Nation. Representative Lewis once made the statement: “When people tell me nothing has changed, I tell them, come walk in my shoes and I will show you change” because Representative Lewis, just in his lifetime, in the battles he fought, led, and changed, changed segregated schools in America; took away segregated water fountains in America; took away segregated movie theaters in America; took away segregated public transport in America; changed how people applied for jobs, got jobs, enjoyed their jobs; changed the opportunities for a person being able to live wherever they wanted to live in America; changed even how we vote in giving equal access for every American to be able to get to the ballot and vote. That is just in John Lewis's lifetime. He left a legacy of change.

His nonviolent protests, his training in leading people, stands in stark contrast to what I see some people who call it protests are doing right now. When I see what is happening right now in Portland every night and watching individuals gear up and literally attacking Federal law enforcement, throwing Molotov cocktails at them, pointing laser pointers at their eyes, shooting large-scale fireworks at

them, trying to set a building on fire—when I watch that and those individuals trying to say they are protesting for justice—they are not protesting for what is just. John Lewis was protesting for what is just.

John Lewis made the change in America, led a Nation and led a generation, even as a young 23-year-old man, to do the right thing in the right way. The change that he brought is a gift to the generations for millennia in our Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

HEALS ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and normally I come down to the Senate floor to talk about the Alaskan of the Week—what I call that person. It is one of my favorite things to do in the Senate. But I just witnessed something so remarkable and disturbing that I actually want to come down to the Senate floor and explain what just happened on the floor because I think a lot of people probably missed it, if they are watching at home, and maybe didn't understand it. There was a lot of discussion going on here. Let me just say that the Senate minority leader from New York just objected to extending the current level of unemployment insurance in the CARES Act—\$600 a week to help American workers who had been laid off due to the pandemic. He just objected to that and stopped legislation that was moving on the floor to extend unemployment insurance for another week. Let me repeat that: The Senate minority leader of the U.S. Senate, when we are moving in good faith, as we are discussing and negotiating bills here, one element of CARES that is going to expire at the end of this month, unemployment insurance in the CARES Act, the Senate minority leader just blocked that from happening. Who knows why, but there will be millions of Americans, in 2 days, who will lose that benefit, and the Senate minority leader just blocked it.

I sure hope our friends in the media write this story because that is exactly, exactly, exactly what happened.

Let me describe in a little bit more detail. As you would expect in a democracy, in the U.S. Senate, we have been debating, working on, and negotiating a new relief package due to the pandemic. In March, we passed unanimously in this body the CARES Act to try to bring relief to our fellow Americans whom we knew were going to be hurting from this pandemic. We didn't have a crystal ball on how long relief could last or should last for unemployment, for businesses, for small businesses, for families, for hospitals, for schools, or for fishermen. So we are now working on, as you expect in a democracy, what we view as the appropriate next level because this has extended longer than any of us thought, and the impacts are very significant. That is what we are doing here.