

What do the scientists and healthcare experts say? They say a national investment in personal protective equipment; they say a national investment in a testing strategy to be able to do massive numbers of tests to help identify folks who are carrying the virus and spreading the virus but are asymptomatic, as well as those who actually have symptoms; and a massive national investment in tracing so that we can follow up when somebody is identified as carrying the virus—Who did they get it from? Who did they have contact with?—so those folks can go into quarantine and stop the chain of infection from person to person to person.

The House, 11 weeks ago, passed a bill that has massive resources for testing and tracing, and for 11 weeks, the leadership of this body has said: Not needed. Let's do nothing. Let's just treat this as just another Thursday. No concern.

Then I hear from folks who are really worried about the nutrition for our children—not just the education but nutrition. We worked hard to get the EBT program to help out because of school sites being shut down, but what about this coming year? Why aren't we helping with nutrition?

The House, 11 weeks ago, acted, but here, it is just another Thursday—no crisis, no concern when children across America are going hungry. The bill that the House passed had resources for State and local government to help address the hemorrhaging of funds. I noted that Oregon predicts, just in its State government, a loss of \$10 billion over next three biennium—or this biennium and the next two. For them to sustain their basic programs, they need help.

I heard today from the president of one of our public universities—our 4-year university, Oregon State University in Corvallis—and they were estimating a massive loss of revenue. They need this bill, which would direct support for our 4-year institutions. They know that the State, if it is going to be able to sustain its support for the universities, so that the money doesn't come in the front door and out the back door, we need to provide help to the State government. I know this isn't a blue-red issue. I know that blue and red Governors are saying the same thing. I know blue and red county commissioners are asking for the same help.

So I say to my colleagues, it is morally unacceptable to just say: This is another Thursday. All is well. We have waited 11 weeks to act after the House. What is another week? What does it matter if a family that has been able to pay its rent or its mortgage or its utilities or put food on the table because they got \$600 a week extra help in unemployment, what does it matter if they lose their home? What does it matter if they are evicted?

Well, I will tell you this: It matters a hell of a lot—a huge impact on that

family for a long time to come. I don't know how many of my colleagues have worked in the area of assisting homeless families, but when you are destabilized, when you are tossed out, when you experience homelessness, when you are living in your car with your kids or it is a basement this week and it is a van the next and who knows what shelter will let you in, it destabilizes and knocks you down for a long time. It makes it hard to get ready to go to a job interview. It makes it hard to present yourself effectively in a job interview. It puts all kinds of stresses on the family relationship.

Is it really OK that we shut the Senate down when families are going to be evicted because we shut off that \$600 per week and the moratorium on evictions expired?

This, colleagues, is not just another Thursday. This is a moment of national crisis, a pandemic crisis, an economic crisis, and we need to be in crisis mode. We need to be here day and night. We need to be working on each of these issues that were addressed 11 weeks ago in the House while this body sat on its hands.

Sitting on your hands when the people of America need us, that is not acceptable in the U.S. Senate. Let's act boldly. Let's act decisively. Let's recognize that we must rise to meet this national challenge and do so now.

I yield to my colleague from Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to thank both of my friends from Oregon. We are Oregon strong on the floor. We have great, powerful, effective Senators from Oregon, and I want to thank Senator MERKLEY for his words, as well as my colleagues and friends from Delaware and New Hampshire and Maryland.

We are on the floor today because we know this isn't just another regular Thursday where you can close up for the week and go home and do whatever is going to be done and then maybe come back Monday, maybe Tuesday, maybe Wednesday. We don't know because we don't know what is happening on negotiations. But, oh, well, there is no real sense of urgency anyway, right?

There is an incredible sense of urgency, and, as we have been saying this afternoon, this should not be treated like just another end of the Senate week on a Thursday afternoon. We have the largest health pandemic in a hundred years. As of today, it is about 160,000 deaths in this country. You can't even wrap your head around that: 160,000 people. Yet we are a little over 4 percent of the world's population. We have 25 percent of the deaths.

This did not have to happen. This should never have happened. It should never have happened. And to be in a situation where people are acting as if

we have got all the time in the world—how many people have to die before we wrap our arms around what is happening and have a national strategy on testing and on contact tracing and a national strategy to make sure we have all of the testing materials and the PPE and everything that our doctors and nurses and other professionals need and we are treating this with the seriousness that it deserves?

This is a health pandemic. We have to get our arms around this. We have to be able to manage it until we can get vaccines. We did come together and work together on a bipartisan basis in the beginning. That is what is just so frustrating and disheartening and maddening about this situation we are in now, as we go forward, because it is not done.

I wish it was, for my own family and everyone else's. It is not even close to being done, and we have a responsibility to continue to be there and to have people's backs to address the pandemic and all of the economic hardship that has happened as a result of that.

Now, in the CARES package, it was comprehensive. It was great that we were able to come together. One of the things was that the Treasury, the Fed, was able to basically have the capacity to have a safety net under the stock market, under our large businesses: Don't worry. Keep investing. We have got a safety net for you.

But for somebody on unemployment, somebody who is worrying about feeding their children tonight, tomorrow, the next day—somebody who is worried that the water is going to get shut off or they are going to lose their shelter right in the middle of a pandemic when we tell people, "stay home and, by the way, wash your hands frequently," and then the water gets turned off or you have no shelter and you are on the street or you can't feed the kids, or the additional money—the \$600 that was allowing you to pay those bills—goes away, which is about a 60-percent cut, in Michigan, for people getting help—no safety net for you. Unh-unh.

There are over 31 million people right now who are on unemployment insurance, and somehow, people want to have us believe that nobody wants to work, that there are over 31 million jobs out there and people just don't want to take them; they just don't want to work.

I can tell you that is not true in Michigan. People in Michigan work. We grow things. We make things. We innovate. We build things. People in Michigan work and work hard.

It is not their fault that we have a 100-year health pandemic that has pushed everybody back down and taken away the capacity for businesses to be safely open and for people to continue their jobs. People would expect that in the United States of America all of us would care about that and that it wouldn't just be another Thursday afternoon, closing up shop for the weekend or beyond.

There is one other thing I want to stress when we talk about supporting communities right now. The President said: It is up to the Governors to step up. It is up to local communities to step up to keep people safe. No national response is necessary.

It is the Governors, the mayors, the county commissioners. They have done that. They have done that. They took all of their resources to make sure they could do everything humanly possible to make sure they could help people be safe: Get the PPE, create a way for people to get testing, do all of the other things to help people. Now, for the Senate and for the President of the United States to say that we have no responsibility to step up and have their back and support them is incredibly irresponsible.

What I find so interesting—who are we talking about locally? We want the restaurants to open. Yet you have to have a food inspector before you can open the restaurant. In Michigan, that is funded through the county—through county government.

We are concerned about first responders—police and fire and 9-1-1 call centers and all of the people who respond to keep us safe. Do you know who the largest group is that will be losing their jobs without help for local communities and States? It is the first responders and law enforcement.

In fact, I had a very prominent police leader in Michigan tell me that the only people he saw trying to defund the police were Donald Trump and MITCH MCCONNELL because they didn't and aren't—the Senate Republicans aren't willing to step up to support funding for first responders, as well as the public health department, as well as the teachers, as well as everyone else involved.

These are not normal times. These are not normal times in terms of the health risks for families. These are not normal times in terms of our economy and what is happening—not even to count the fact that racial disparities are on full display now in front of us in every part of our economy and services.

This is not a normal time. This should not be a normal Thursday afternoon in the U.S. Senate. Every single one of my Democratic colleagues feels a sense of urgency and panic about what is happening. People need help. There are incredible hardships, and they deserve that help.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed help over 2½ months ago. Senator MCCONNELL at the time said that he felt no sense of urgency. In fact, he suggested that States and cities go bankrupt. That is one way to do it: Lay off all the police officers, firefighters, food inspectors, teachers.

People in our country—and I know people in Michigan—feel an incredible sense of urgency to both manage and get beyond this healthcare pandemic, which is not going to be easy. It is going to take all of us working to-

gether. But they are anxious to do that, and they are anxious to open up the economy safely and to open up our schools safely and to know that there is some sense of normalcy that we can count on again.

That is going to take all of us working together on a bipartisan basis to get it done. It is going to take a sense of urgency, a sense of responsibility for the role that we play at this moment in time in the history of our country and people's lives. It is going to take a lot of hard work. It is going to take political will more than anything else because the other things we can do. We have to decide we want to do them.

I hope very, very soon that Senator MCCONNELL, our Senate Republican colleagues, the President and the White House decide that they want to work with us to really get things done for people all across our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of executive Calendar Nos. 820 through 832 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine Corps under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

#### *To be brigadier general*

Col. Jason G. Woodworth

#### IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be general*

Lt. Gen. James H. Dickinson

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be general*

Lt. Gen. Glen D. VanHerck

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

Lt. Gen. Richard M. Clark

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Sam C. Barrett

#### IN THE SPACE FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the permanent grade indicated in the United States Space Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 716:

#### *To be major general*

Maj. Gen. Nina M. Armagno

The following named officer for appointment in the permanent grade indicated in the United States Space Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 716:

#### *To be major general*

Maj. Gen. William J. Liquori, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the permanent grade indicated in the United States Space Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 716:

#### *To be major general*

Maj. Gen. Bradley C. Saltzman

The following named officer for appointment in the permanent grade indicated in the United States Space Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 716:

#### *To be major general*

Maj. Gen. Stephen N. Whiting

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Nina M. Armagno

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. William J. Liquori, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Bradley C. Saltzman

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Space Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

#### *To be lieutenant general*

Maj. Gen. Stephen N. Whiting

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1790 AIR FORCE nominations (74) beginning VINCENT W. ABRUZZESE, and ending MONICA SARAI ZAPATER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2020.

PN1832 AIR FORCE nomination of Peter B. French, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 11, 2020.

PN2140 AIR FORCE nomination of Laura A. King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 28, 2020.

PN2141 AIR FORCE nomination of Ismael H. Soto Rivas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 28, 2020.