

Center in Ashland—always wearing a mask and social distancing, of course.

I have thanked the frontline workers and heard how the Senate's last rescue package has helped them save lives and stay safer themselves while doing it. That is because the CARES Act provided \$1.3 billion for Kentucky healthcare providers alone, on top of more than \$120 million we had already sent for testing.

But Kentucky's incredible nurses, doctors, and hospitals are not finished fighting the battle on behalf of their communities, and Congress must not be finished helping them do it. That is why Senate Republicans proposed major new investments in health providers.

We want to send tens of billions more to expand testing, to reimburse healthcare facilities for unplanned pandemic expenses, to speed the development and rapid distribution of COVID-19 treatments, and to find a vaccine to finish this fight once and for all.

That is what Republicans would like to do, but Democrats have about blocked all of it over non-COVID-related, liberal demands.

Let's talk about the PPP—the historic program from Chairman COLLINS and Chairman RUBIO that has kept Main Street alive and kept millions of Americans from losing their jobs.

This program has been transformational for Kentucky. Our small businesses and their workers have received more than \$5 billion of payroll support. As the director of the Dare to Care Food Bank in Louisville told me recently, PPP funding is what has allowed his facility to keep its entire workforce—precisely when our community needs were the greatest.

And I heard from the director of a Kentucky museum that “[t]he PPP program was the one hope that we had to keep our business alive.”

But these small businesses and non-profits are now nearing the end of that help. The PPP had to close its doors last Saturday for new applications, and many employers are exhausting the money they had already received. Our country is approaching another small business tipping point, and workers could begin getting pink slips instead of paychecks.

That is why Senate Republicans wrote up plans for another whole round of PPP—a full second draw for the hardest hit businesses. House Democrats left this out of their bill entirely and essentially turned their backs on those benefiting from PPP. But Republicans want to keep helping Main Street workers.

One woman-owned small business in Northern Kentucky shared:

We are grateful for the \$465,000 in the PPP. [But] we have used all of it for payroll and employee related costs . . . 18 weeks of expenses. We are seeking [more] financial help to keep our most treasured asset, our people, employed.

And the president of an inspection company in Louisville says this:

You have no idea how much this second draw on PPP will help us. We were actually in the process of figuring out how we were going to make it through to our fall work season. . . . If we get this, we could make it into our season with no layoffs.

Republicans want to get more aid to these workers, but Senate Democrats have blocked every bit of it over non-COVID-related liberal demands.

Let's talk about our university presidents who are worried about testing and funding in the fall. Our K-12 school boards and superintendents want legal protections so they can reopen.

So Republicans proposed billions for education—actually, even more than House Democrats in their bill. But now Democrats are blocking it all over unrelated, liberal demands.

Republicans want another round of direct checks—direct checks to households across Kentucky and across America.

I just heard from one constituent who said:

With my first one, I was able to get an eye exam and new glasses. . . . I appreciate all you can do. Some of us are hurting and need help.

I want to put more cash in her pocket right now, but Democrats are blocking every penny over unrelated, liberal demands.

So do you see the pattern? Kentuckians need more help; Americans need more help. The American people are not done fighting this virus, and Republicans are not done crafting policies to help them. But the difference between now and March is that Democrats seem to be finished being reasonable.

The Speaker of the House and the Senate Democratic leader have cut all their colleagues—all of them, all of their committees—out of negotiations. They are doing this alone, and they have declared that none of the priorities I have named will see a single dime unless—the two of them have declared none of the priorities I have named will see a single dime unless millionaires in Brooklyn and San Francisco get a massive tax cut, States get a trillion-dollar slush fund to cover budget problems long before the pandemic, and we tax essential workers to pay unemployed people a higher salary to stay home.

Republicans wanted to reach agreement on all these issues where we could find common ground and fight over the last few issues later. But the Speaker and the Democratic leader say nothing can move unless every one of these unrelated, far-left items tags along.

These two individuals are letting the wish lists of wealthy coastal elites stand between every working family in America and the additional help they deserve.

So maybe in a few moments the Democratic leader or somebody on the other side will try again to explain how this is all some big political game.

Well, Kentuckians know differently. They need results. All of our States

need results. And Republicans will fight until we actually get an outcome.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Virginia.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the latest coronavirus emergency aid package, but before I do, as a matter of personal privilege, I want to offer some comments in praise of a colleague.

Just as we gather together, regardless of party, to mourn when a colleague dies or be together with a colleague who is undergoing a challenge, I think it is good to gather together and acknowledge when something positive happens to a colleague, regardless of our political affiliation.

This is the first opportunity on the Senate floor to offer a word about Senator KAMALA HARRIS, one of our colleagues, who, in a historic move, was asked by another former Senate colleague, Vice President Joe Biden, to join him as his preferred nominee to be Vice President of the United States.

I have come to know Senator HARRIS in her 4 years in the Senate, as many of us have, through her service on especially the Judiciary Committee and the Intelligence Committee.

Her public service track record is a significant one worthy of praise, from her work as a district attorney, first a line prosecutor, and then the elected district attorney in San Francisco, where she focused on trying to keep her community safe, to serving as California's attorney general, broadening the portfolio to include environmental justice and consumer protection, and now her work in the Senate since 2016.

What I find so compelling about Senator HARRIS, in addition to her track record of public service during a very long career, is her personal story. Raised as the child of two immigrants, a Jamaican father and an Indian mother, as so many in this country raised as children of immigrants, she developed a passion to serve and a patriotic love of country.

She is the first African-American woman nominee ever to be on a ticket. She is the first person of South Asian descent ever to be on a ticket. And in the year 2020, when we are commemorating the 100th anniversary of the amendment that guaranteed women the right to vote, I can think of no

greater way to celebrate a centennial than for one of our colleagues who is a woman to have a chance to break a glass ceiling that still has existed, whereby no woman in this country has ever been a Vice President or President.

We are so good at so much in this country. In fact, we are so good at many things with regard to women in this country, but we are sort of uniquely bad in electing women to higher office. In Congress right now, 24 percent of Congress is women, and that ranks us 76th in the world in terms of our percentage of women in a national legislative body. We are tied with Afghanistan, but we trail Iraq and Mexico and many other nations.

So regardless of how it all works out between now and November, and regardless of our own political affiliations, this is a good day, I believe, for the country and a good day for the Senate when 1 of the 100 is recognized in such a way and introduced to the American public with an opportunity to serve at a significant level.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, returning to the latest coronavirus emergency aid package—currently, the package doesn't exist. There have been no bipartisan negotiations on it since last Friday. That is disappointing to all of us who are here, ready and willing to negotiate and vote for a strong bipartisan relief package.

The House of Representatives passed its strong package back on May 15, now nearly 3 months ago. Today is August 12. There was some hope that maybe COVID-19 cases were ticking downward. At the end of May, there was some hope that maybe the economic devastation was reducing, but COVID cases did not tick down over the summer as some had hoped. In fact, they have ticked up in many parts of the country, and the Senate has not taken any votes on the House bill or indeed on any bill. That is disappointing.

More than that, it is disappointing for millions of Americans who are in the midst of hard times right now. They are worried about their own health or the health of their loved ones. They are worried about whether they will receive unemployment benefits or how they will make rent or mortgage or how their children will get an education. We know in this body we can transcend politics as usual to address the coronavirus because we did so in March by passing the CARES Act, even as Members of the body, including me, were getting coronavirus as we were having those negotiations. Even as staffers were getting it, even as Senate spouses were getting it, we stayed at the table and found a bipartisan bill that helped us deal with the challenge for a few critical months.

But we are here debating this again because the magnitude of the crisis is not a crisis of a few months. No, it is

such that the aid provided thus far is running out while Americans' hardships continue. That is why it is essential that we not give up and that we stay here as long as it takes to come through for the American people.

I have heard some in Congress and, indeed, some in this body say about more Federal aid for the coronavirus response say: I just don't see the need for it. Indeed, the majority leader has candidly acknowledged that approximately 20 Members of the Republican caucus will not vote for more aid. Well, I want to make the case first that there is need for it, and the need is undeniable because the circumstances that people are living in are dire.

Last Friday, we found out that the unemployment rate in July was 10.2 percent, which is a number that is higher than at any point during the 2008, 2009 recession. The President called these "Great Jobs Numbers!" But I don't see anything great about 1 in 10 Americans who are in the workforce not being able to find work.

More than 30 million Americans are collecting unemployment benefits, and last week their benefit checks were cut by more than 50 percent. In Virginia, just as an example, unemployed workers are now receiving a maximum—a maximum—of \$378 a week. That is not enough to pay rent, let alone rent, groceries, childcare, electric bills, and many other costs that families face every day.

Because they lost their jobs and other income, millions of Americans are now at risk of eviction or foreclosure. The \$600 Federal unemployment benefit and Federal eviction moratorium were holding this off for many, but with those relief measures expiring, families are unable to continue paying their August or September bills.

One estimate is that 12 million evictions will be filed by October, and 12 million is essentially the combined population of about 6 or 7 States. There could be that many evictions filed by October. Just in Virginia there was a State-imposed eviction moratorium that lapsed for 5 weeks, and just in those 5 weeks, nearly 10,000 evictions were filed, potentially forcing people out of their homes.

Three in ten Virginia renters surveyed a couple weeks ago said that they were uncertain how they could pay August rent, and it was more than half of all African-American renters surveyed who said that was the case. Housing instability is difficult at any point in time, but imagine losing your housing during a pandemic. What are people supposed to do during a pandemic? The advice is, if you can stay home and don't go out and don't be with others, that will help keep your family safe. But how can you quarantine at home if you are in danger of losing your home?

Like the majority leader, who quoted from constituents in Kentucky, I am hearing from Virginia constituents every day.

From Allison in Henrico:

I have now exhausted my savings account and have rent due, groceries to buy and bills to pay. I am now desperate for immediate help.

From Rhys in Mechanicsville:

I have three children, one with significant special needs. My wife cannot work now due to covid-19 and the school closures. I am behind on numerous bills, including mortgage, utility, and other bills.

From Dominique in Fairfax:

My rent is now 3 months behind as well as my other bills and I am receiving letters [threatening] evictions and services being turned off.

Unfortunately, these examples are now not aberrations, but they are common. We all know people—we all know people—who are at risk of losing their home or being hungry or losing healthcare or their savings being depleted because of the absence of work.

So we have to make sure that people are not removed from their homes in the middle of a health crisis. We need to make sure they can continue to pay bills until the health crisis is sufficiently addressed and the economy gets back to where it was.

Schools and colleges across the country are trying to reopen right now. It doesn't matter if it is in person, online, or a hybrid model, we want them to reopen safely right now, and this is the time to provide schools with the resources they need to deliver quality instruction, not punish them for following public health guidance and data.

Working families are struggling to find childcare options. This is critical to reopening the economy. Childcare providers themselves are struggling. Virginia, according to national surveys, is at risk of losing 45 percent of its licensed childcare capacity; that is, 130,000 childcare slots in Virginia without the additional support they would need to help them stay viable. If we lose childcare capacity, that will have a significant consequence in terms of the ability of people to go back to work so that the economy can start to grow again.

On the nutrition front, we are facing an unprecedented rise in food insecurity as thousands of Virginians and millions of Americans have newly enrolled in the SNAP program. The Brookings Institute estimates that nearly 14 million children are living in food-insecure households—14 million children. That is nearly six times the number of children who were food insecure just as recently as 2018, and nearly three times as many who were food insecure at the peak of the great recession in 2008 and 2009.

I bet all of my colleagues have experienced this because we are all out in our States talking to folks. Food banks have been slammed with demand they have never witnessed before, and it has been harder for food banks to get grocery access because grocery store shelves have also been ravaged because people are going to grocery stores while restaurants are closed.