

crisis; cash assistance for struggling families to avoid eviction and foreclosure rather than just delaying bills and piling up debt; sufficient funding and flexibility for State and local governments so that we don't have a second wave of job loss when those governments are forced to cut their budgets, and so they don't have to cut vital programs and lay off first responders during a global health pandemic; sufficient childcare funding both to help working families and to allow childcare providers to reopen so that we can get back to work; providing K-12 schools with the funding they need regardless of how they choose to reopen so that they can effectively educate students; ensuring every American can have access to free treatment for coronavirus; helping families keep food on the table by giving an increase in the SNAP benefit plus additional funding for nutrition programs; continuing support for America's small businesses; protection for the integrity of our elections during a period of uncertainty and fear. Those are the proposals that are contained in the Heroes Act.

The Republican proposals, combining both the HEALS Act—the Senate GOP proposal—and President Trump's Executive orders, include this: \$1.75 billion to keep the FBI headquarters in DC so as to prevent potential hotel competition for the Trump International Hotel; expanded corporate tax writeoffs for business lunches—another top priority for the White House; sharp cuts to unemployment benefits for workers who are suffering and out of work; broad immunity for large corporations even if they are not taking any actions to protect their workers; the effective elimination of State rules, including a rule in Virginia designed to facilitate the safe reopening of businesses and the economy; undermining important protections and enforcement of long-standing civil rights and disability laws; punishing public schools that choose to follow public health guidance but still want to provide their students with an education by reopening virtually; pushing a tax credit program that would make donations to private school scholarships already deductible as charitable contributions—that would make those now preferred over any other charitable contribution, likely draining money away from other charities and hurting government funding, as well; and finally, stopping payroll tax contributions into the Social Security trust fund, creating huge uncertainty for employers and employees but also threatening to undermine the fiscal future of Social Security retirement benefits.

These are elements of the Republican HEALS Act and President Trump's Executive orders.

Equally important is what is not in any of the Republican proposals—either that offered in the Senate or implemented by the President's Executive orders. Food aid for hungry kids and

families? Nothing. Rental assistance? Nothing. Mortgage assistance? Nothing. Aid to the States and localities where Americans live and work? Nothing. Funding to ensure the integrity of the upcoming elections? Nothing.

So I would ask anyone, which of these proposals seems more likely to help Americans who are experiencing hard times? If anyone is in doubt—and I don't think any are—about what kinds of hard times people are in, yesterday I shared some stories from Virginians who have shared them with me, just as they are sharing them with all Senators. Here are a few more of the constituents who have reached out to me.

The owner of a small business with 18 employees in Northern Virginia wrote me: "My business is struggling, my employees are suffering, and we need further assistance." He went on to describe how his business was completely shut down in the crisis. Even now that they are open, they will be operating at less than half their normal revenue for the foreseeable future. Their PPP and EIDL loan funds—they were glad to get them—have run out, and they need Congress to act to prevent the business from shuttering and those 18 jobs from disappearing permanently.

A woman from Henrico County, which is right outside of Richmond, wrote:

As I watch the news, it gets harder and harder. We desperately need help. . . . My son had COVID, he is still struggling with health issues and cannot work.

A woman in Springfield, here in Fairfax County, has been waiting for information that she needs mailed to her so she can get access to unemployment benefits, but the delays in the Postal Service have left her without the benefits she earned and is entitled to. She is a single mother of five and said: "At this point, I am struggling to feed my family."

A woman from Dumfries in Prince William County said:

I'm asking for help with the aid for the unemployed workers like myself that Covid has affected. We are a family of 4 and I have lost my unemployment that we depended on for groceries. My husband's salary covers the bills but I worked for groceries and any extras. As of now I may be able to get \$190 a week from the state if they reevaluate my claim. Please, I'm asking for bipartisan support on an unemployment package that will help families like mine to make it through this pandemic.

Finally, a woman from Alexandria—just across the Potomac—wrote:

I would like to request consideration for more emergency funding for daycare and preschool facilities. My 14 month old little girl attends daycare 5 days per week. Her daycare is wonderful, but it's at risk of closing in the very near future because it only has 1/3 of the minimum number of enrollees that it needs to be able to afford to stay open. I'm an essential worker in healthcare, specifically in pediatric care, and my husband is an essential Department of Defense employee. If I have to stay home with my daughter, I can't take care of the children of others, and I'm honestly very worried about

the prospects of eventually finding a new job, as healthcare facilities are also suffering a large reduction of daily patients. I ask this from the bottom of my heart. Please provide funding for our daycare and preschool facilities, so they can be here for us through and after the pandemic, so parents in Virginia will be able to continue work now or return to work when it is safe to do so.

It is not about politics. It is not about credit. It is about coming through for Americans when they need it. It is the case that, yesterday, Democratic leaders reached out again to the White House and repeated what they had offered last Friday. Let's meet in the middle. Let's meet halfway between the Republican proposals laid out in the HEALS Act and the President's Executive orders and the Democratic proposal passed by a sizeable majority in the House nearly 3 months ago.

That is what Americans want—negotiate, compromise, meet in the middle, and find common ground, just as we did in the CARES Act. The White House response was, no dice. They refused the Democratic proposal to meet halfway. They said that is not going to happen.

We need to get serious. Days continue to tick by as families face hard decisions. Democrats are here, and we are ready. The White House must stop its "no compromise" position to meet the needs of American families. Let's buckle down, make a deal, and get this done. The American people can't afford to wait any longer.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:53 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:43 p.m., when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, after the Senate adjourns today, we will have our regular pro forma meetings through the end of the State work period.

If the Speaker of the House and the minority leader of the Senate decide to finally let another rescue package move forward for workers and for families, it would take bipartisan consent to meet for legislative business sooner than scheduled. As has been the case,

Senators would receive at least 24-hours' notice before any unanticipated votes.

The American people need more help. The coronavirus is not finished with our country, so Congress cannot be finished helping our people. The Republicans have been waiting and trying to pass bipartisan relief, literally, for weeks. I hope our Democratic colleagues will let the Senate act sometime soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 771.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 772.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 811.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Hala Y. Jarbou, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Hala Y. Jarbou, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Mitch McConnell, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tom Cotton, Marsha Blackburn, Kevin Cramer, Jerry Moran, James E. Risch, Michael B. Enzi, Tim Scott, John Bar-

rosso, Richard Burr, Deb Fischer, James Lankford, John Thune, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, John Hoeven.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 646.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Mitch McConnell, Richard C. Shelby, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Marsha Blackburn, David Perdue, Kevin Cramer, John Cornyn, Shelley Moore Capito, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, Martha McSally, John Barrasso, John Boozman.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 358.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.