

that America could reach this milestone as an almost worst-case scenario, 2,300 Americans had died. And because Donald Trump has provided no national leadership, Dr. Fauci's warning will, more than sadly, soon come to pass.

Over 6 million Americans have contracted coronavirus. Tens of millions of Americans remain out of work. Millions of Americans have lost their healthcare. Colleges and universities have started their fall sessions with students back on campus and are experiencing significant outbreaks. Millions of parents are facing the agonizing choice of sending their children to schools that aren't safe or dealing with the challenge of distance learning and childcare needs. And State after State, long abandoned by the Trump administration's failure to lead during the pandemic, are left on their own to deal with billions in budget deficits as a result of the pandemic and to make difficult decisions about how to confront new outbreaks.

In Hawaii, new cases have been rising since July. The severity of our outbreak, particularly on Oahu, led the mayor of the city and county of Honolulu to issue a 2-week stay-at-home order on August 27. Yesterday, he extended this order for another 2 weeks. This order and the outbreak that preceded it offer a grim reminder that constant vigilance is necessary in the fight against COVID-19. It is a reminder that even States like Hawaii, which for months was lauded as a coronavirus success story, can become home to one of the fastest growing outbreaks in the country.

At the end of July, Hawaii had barely over 2,000 cases of COVID-19. Yesterday, Hawaii crossed the grim milestone of 10,000 cases. Like in many other States, our outbreak has hit certain communities and populations the hardest. Our thriving, dynamic, and vital Pacific Islander community represents a mere 4 percent of our population but nearly one-third of our total cases. More than a dozen long-term care homes across our State are experiencing significant outbreaks that put our kupuna—our seniors—at heightened risk.

The Oahu Community Correctional Center has seen the 299 inmates and 76 staff members infected with COVID-19. The rising caseload on Oahu is putting pressure on Hawaii's already understaffed medical system, where existing provider shortages are straining the capacity of our hospitals.

Although Hawaii's outbreak is centered on Oahu, we are seeing troubling signs on the Neighbor Islands, as well, with serious outbreaks at the Yuko Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo and the Maui Memorial Medical Center in Kahului.

As we analyze and assess what is happening in Hawaii, the most important thing our State can do is learn from our experience and not to repeat the same mistakes. We have to explain

things clearly and plainly, and we have to be accountable and transparent in our decision making.

Our States certainly should have done a better job conducting outreach to at-risk communities, expanding our testing capacity, developing an effective contact tracing system, and establishing a clearer chain of command. But we don't have the luxury of simply pointing fingers, assigning blame, and moving on. In other words, we cannot be like the President.

Instead, we need to work together to get our outbreak under control and support the hundreds of thousands of Hawaii residents who have suffered from this unprecedented public health and economic crisis.

The Senate must do its part by passing a real comprehensive COVID relief bill that would help States like Hawaii confront their outbreaks and help the millions of Americans who are suffering right now. While the majority leader struggles to unite his caucus even around an emaciated, weak bill, like the one we voted on today, Democrats are united behind passing the Heroes Act because that bill's scope matches the urgency and severity of this moment.

I certainly understand and appreciate the need to negotiate and compromise to get something done, but we cannot lose sight of whom we are fighting for. Unlike the majority leader and Senate Republicans, who are fighting tooth and nail for corporate interests in the next COVID bill, I am fighting for the workers, families, and small businesses that are getting screwed.

I am fighting for Hawaii's small business owners, like Laura Andersland, who runs Salty Wahine on Kauai. Laura is one of the favorites on the Hill, where many of my colleagues, including those on the other side of the aisle, line up to sample Salty Wahine's Hawaiian salts. Laura's products are incredible, and her success over the years reflects the hard work she has put into building and growing her business. But Laura and Salty Wahine have been devastated by the pandemic. Although she was able to take advantage of past relief programs that we passed, Laura is struggling. She needs more help right now to pay the rent and rehire her employees.

Alongside congressional Democrats, I am fighting for hundreds of billions in new assistance for small businesses like Laura's. I am fighting for the homeowners and renters who have lost their jobs and are terrified to think of what might happen to them if the Federal protections that have prevented their foreclosure or evictions expire.

I am grateful that organizations like the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii are stepping in to help people worried that they will lose their homes. Legal Aid's executive director Nalani Fujimori Kaina told me that doing this work during a pandemic is like playing 3D chess on a Tilt-A-Whirl. In other words, it is mighty hard.

The Senate needs to step up and provide the \$100 billion-plus in housing and rental assistance needed to make a dent in this crisis. I am fighting for parents, teachers, and students who are struggling to adapt to the new normal of hybrid and distance learning: grandmothers, like a retired educator I spoke with last week—she is concerned about learning loss and her 5-year-old grandson struggling to sit and learn, sitting behind a computer screen for hours a day; women like the restaurant owner of Kauai I spoke with—she is worried about how to balance running her struggling business with tutoring her high school-age children; and the many students I have spoken with over the past few months—they are struggling with learning loss, finding a quiet place to study from home, hunting down reliable internet at Starbucks, or having trouble concentrating—all because Republican Senators can't get their acts together.

We need to increase our support for public schools so they can create safer environments for students once they are back in school. We can do this by investing billions of dollars to help States get their outbreaks under control through testing and contact tracing so we can get our kids back to school safely. The operative word is "safely." We all want our kids to go back to school. They need to go back in a safe environment.

The bill our Republican colleagues offered today was anemic and weak, at best. It does more to help their corporate benefactors than to address the pain so many Americans are feeling right now.

After today's vote, I am left wondering: How much more pain do the American people have to endure before Senate Republicans get serious and act? How many more Americans have to die? How many more Americans have to lose their jobs? How many more businesses have to close? How many more children have to go hungry during this pandemic? How many more people have to lose their health insurance? The list goes on.

I say to the majority leader: What is it going to take for you to finally do your job?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S. RES. 685

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH's resolution honoring the service and sacrifices of members of the U.S. Armed Forces and our veterans. The resolution rightly criticizes President Trump for a series of statements and actions which

have denigrated our men and women in uniform, our veterans, and our institutions.

Service and sacrifice run deep among my constituents in the Commonwealth of Virginia. With 130,000 Active-Duty members living in Virginia, the Commonwealth has one of the highest populations of military personnel in the Nation. Virginia is home to more than 700,000 veterans, men and women who have displayed the highest level of selfless service while defending this country and who have endured hardship and have put country above self.

I am proud to call these American heroes my constituents, as well as my neighbors, and I am humbled to represent and serve them in Congress. I am thankful to them for protecting this great country.

President Trump, though, again and again, has made disrespectful remarks about servicemembers, veterans, and military leaders despite being Commander in Chief. His name-calling and disdain for the value of service is divisive and dangerous.

Remember how President Trump ridiculed the Gold Star parents of Army CPT Humayun Khan, who died in June 2004 from an IED in Iraq. Mr. and Mrs. Khan are residents of Virginia.

Remember his comments questioning whether Senator John McCain should be called a hero and remember his recent comments, even after the reports of his comments in *The Atlantic* article came out—his recent comments that our top officials at DOD want to continue fighting wars to make defense contractors happy.

Whether it is pardoning and excusing those in uniform who commit crimes or not standing up to President Putin in defense of our troops when reports emerged that bounties have been offered for killing members of our Armed forces, whether it is deploying our military in response to peaceful protests, threatening to politicize and divide our military from civilian society, the President, on each of these occasions, is on the wrong side of honoring our servicemembers. These actions and statements are an affront to everyone who serves or has served. They are unacceptable and un-Presidential.

Instead, let's stay focused on what matters in this country. Let's stay united. We need to ensure that we are expressing each and every day how thankful we are to those who serve for protecting the freedoms we hold dear.

I want to thank Senator DUCKWORTH for the introduction of this resolution and, more so, I thank her for her dedicated and exemplary military service to our country.

It is my hope that all my colleagues in the Senate will recognize the mistakes made by our Commander in Chief when addressing the heroes of our military and our Nation's veterans.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the world today is in the clutches of a pandemic disease that touches directly or indirectly pretty much every human being on the face of the planet. It is costing us in lives, in money, and in immeasurable human pain.

It didn't have to be this way. We could have been better prepared. President Trump was left a detailed playbook from his predecessor, but he ignored it. Trump did away with key safety systems like the National Security Council's pandemic response unit. Once the pandemic struck, Trump and his team assured us it would all go away in time—no urgency.

It is a cautionary tale, it is a lesson, and it brings me today for the 270th time to call this Chamber to action on the issue of climate change. We cannot wait flat-footed for the next foreseeable crisis to engulf us. Climate change is a foreseeable crisis. It was indeed a foreseen crisis—indeed, even foreseen by Big Oil—and it is an actual crisis right now. It is a crisis we maybe can manage if we act swiftly and decisively, but if we fail to heed the warnings our natural world is screaming at us, we will be lost.

The fossil fuel industry runs a massive dark-money influence campaign to foment fake uncertainty about climate change, but the evidence—the evidence—is overwhelming. We see climate effects in harsher wildfires, more frequent and intense storms, and more extreme heat waves. Mother Nature's warnings grow clearer and louder every day. It is the ocean—the ocean—that signals some of the strongest warnings.

The changes in our marine world are clear. Oceans are acidifying, oceans are warming, and oceans are rising against our shores. These changes are measured; they are not hypotheticals. They are measured with thermometers, with tide gauges, with simple pH tests.

The tide gauges in Rhode Island don't lie about sea level rise. Sea levels are up nearly a foot over the last century. In other areas of the globe, sea levels have risen even higher, and the rate of sea level rise is accelerating.

We just learned more about Greenland, whose melting ice sheet is an enormous contributor to global sea level rise. Over a fifth of global sea level rise since 2005 is Greenland ice melt. Last month, Greenland broke its previous record for ice loss. Again, the pace of the melting is accelerating.

A team at Ohio State University just released a new study of the Greenland ice sheet based on 4 years of satellite data. The data showed that Greenland poured an average of 300 billion tons of melted glacier into our oceans every year across that period. But over the

last two decades, that rate of melting—that glacial collapse, as the scientists put it—is up sevenfold from the earliest years they studied. The rate is accelerating. That means that Greenland's ice is now melting so quickly that winter snows that typically replenish these glaciers won't keep up. We are now on course for the entire Greenland ice sheet to disappear.

“Glacial retreat has knocked the dynamics of the whole ice sheet into a constant state of loss,” said Ohio State's Ian Howat.

Greenland's glacial collapse portends dramatic and destructive sea level rise. Scientists reckon Greenland holds enough water to raise sea levels by about 20 feet. That puts my capital city of Providence and Florida's major cities underwater. Antarctica holds enough ice to melt and raise sea water levels 60 feet. So it is not hard to see the problem—total coastal inundation.

But well before total coastal inundation, coastal property values would plummet. Financial experts have been following the sea level economic threat for years because a coastal property values crash would radiate quickly through the rest of the economy. That crash creates what financial experts call systemic risk—a threat to the entire economic system. In 2016, the top economists for mortgage giant Freddie Mac—which is no liberal environmental group—warned that climate-driven flooding along U.S. coasts will lead to economic losses “greater . . . than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession.”

It is not just Rhode Island. Pulitzer Prize-winning outdoors reporter Bob Marshall has warned of losing essentially all of Louisiana south of I-10. He said: “Voting for congressmen who oppose emissions regulations is a vote to drown this coast.”

It is not even just coasts. A new study out of the University of Arkansas shows sea level rise could push inland water tables higher, flooding communities many miles from the sea. We already see this phenomenon in inland Florida.

Last, there is really no dispute about the data. A tide gauge is a simple and ancient measure. But we see this and do nothing.

Another alarm bell is ringing in the ocean, and that is temperature. Oceans are warming, and the warming is accelerating. The rate of ocean warming has already doubled, and the ocean is projected to absorb up to five to seven times more heat by 2100. Why? Because the oceans regulate our planet's temperature by absorbing atmospheric heat. The oceans indeed have absorbed over 90 percent of the excess atmospheric heat fossil fuels have caused. If you think things are bad right now, we are actually only experiencing 10 percent of the global warming we have caused. The other 90 percent has been absorbed by the ocean. It is a lot of heat. By one example, our oceans are