

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Enzi	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Paul	Wyden
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—2

Blumenthal	Schumer
	NOT VOTING—5
Capito	Johnson
Harris	Moran

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to devastate our public health and our economy, it is far past time that we reach agreement on another relief package that is so desperately needed. It will require good-faith negotiations on both sides of the aisle, not just saying no and turning the tragedy of 200,000 COVID deaths into a partisan political issue.

For my part, I believe there should be nine elements in the bill. First,

there should be an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, known as PPP. This is a program that I crafted with Senators MARCO RUBIO, JEANNE SHAHEEN, and BEN CARDIN to provide forgivable loans to our small businesses so that they could pay their employees.

I am pleased to report that, in my State, 28,000 small businesses—that is nearly three out of four of our small businesses—have taken advantage of \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, sustaining 250,000 jobs. It has truly made a difference. Now we need to do a second round of PPP for the hardest hit businesses, those for whom the first PPP loan was the lifeline but they need additional help.

So we have set a revenue test such that, if your revenue is 35 percent below what it was in an equivalent quarter last year, you would qualify for another PPP loan. In addition, those who have never received a first PPP loan could apply under the initial rules. This would make a difference in keeping our small businesses afloat, particularly those in the tourism industry that have been so hard hit, and ensuring that their employees will still have jobs.

Second, we need to provide aid to our schools. I have talked to superintendents all over the State of Maine, and I have visited schools in Hollis and Houlton. I have seen firsthand the enormous investments they have had to make in order to reopen the schools safely or adapt to a hybrid model, depending on where the location is and the incidence of COVID-19.

In one school that I visited, they have replaced all of the round tables around which the elementary schoolchildren would usually be working with desks lined up. It reminds me of when I went to elementary school because that was the style of teaching back then.

They are sanitizing and deep-cleaning the schools. They are trying to figure out what to do with the little toys that are used to teach children how to count: How do they sanitize them? Or do they get each child his or her own set of toys to place in individual bins?

They are cutting new doors into the nurse's office so that no longer will ill children or staffers have to go through the front office. They are putting up plexiglass shields. They are adding additional bus routes in order to safely separate the children.

These changes cost a lot of money, and it is one reason why, in addition to providing direct aid to our schools, we need to provide assistance to our States, our counties, and our communities.

I have talked to city and town managers all over the State of Maine. They did not receive much from the initial allocation of funding that went to State governments, and they need help now.

Let me give you an example. The city of Auburn has had to freeze six vacant

positions because of expected revenue losses. That is two firefighters, a police officer, and three public works employees. These cuts come as the city of Auburn has spent \$200,000 in new expenses responding to the virus.

I have yet to talk to a city or a town manager who is not experiencing the need due to similar cuts and who experienced delayed or canceled public works projects, like paving local roads. That has a trickle-down effect. It affects the contractor and his or her employees, who will no longer have that work. It affects their suppliers from whom the concrete or the tar is no longer going to be purchased.

This is why I feel strongly that the bipartisan SMART Act, which I worked on with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, led by Senator CASSIDY and Senator MENENDEZ, needs to be passed. We can negotiate exactly how much money and exactly to whom it should go, but it is essential that aid go to the community level.

Fourth, we need to help our airlines. Otherwise, come October 1—just right around the corner—we are going to see massive layoffs. We are talking about between 80,000 and 100,000 layoffs of airline employees and also related jobs in airports, such as concessionaires. It will also lead to canceled service, if there are no longer crews for airplanes and ground crews. We are going to lose airline service to communities all over this country.

We need not to forget the motor coach industry, which few people are talking about. They have been hurt by the cancellation of everything from school sports to tours. We need to help them survive this period of economic struggle. Senator JACK REED and I have introduced a bill with more than 40 co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle that would provide that assistance.

No. 6, we need to continue investing in testing. That is key to reopening our economy and safely housing people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

I am excited by the new Abbott Labs test, which will cost only \$5 and give a result in 15 minutes. I take particular pride because Abbott Labs has a large facility in my State, and they are expanding from Scarborough to Westbrook in order to produce these tests more rapidly.

No. 7, we need to provide limited but important liability protections to our frontline hospital workers, to our small businesses, and to our schools and colleges.

One restaurant owner put it this way to me. He said: Susan, what if I get sued despite taking every precaution, following the CDC guidelines, but a customer comes in, later develops the coronavirus, and sues me, saying, I think I got it in that restaurant. Well, I am pretty sure that he didn't, but I still have to pay to defend that lawsuit?

Clearly we should not protect anyone who is guilty of gross negligence, but

that is not what we are talking about here.

No. 8, we need to provide a reasonable Federal unemployment insurance supplement to help struggling families during this difficult time when so many people have lost jobs through no fault of their own, but we need to make sure that we are not creating a disincentive to return to work when jobs reopen. That is why I like the approach of either having an 80-percent replacement of the pre-job-loss wage or figuring out a formula that would approach 80 percent. That is far higher than the normal wage replacement under our State systems, but these are extraordinary times.

No. 9, we need an emergency appropriation for the U.S. Postal Service. Otherwise, I am worried that the Postal Service will not be able to meet its payroll starting the second quarter of next year. Think of the costs the Postal Service has incurred. It has had to retrofit every post office, every processing center in this country, as well as provide protective gear to its postal employees who are both essential and frontline workers.

Those are the elements that I believe should be in the next coronavirus package. While there are disagreements on perhaps three of the nine elements that I have suggested, by and large, there is agreement on seven of the elements. There may be disputes about exactly how much money should be appropriated, but we can work those disputes out, just as we do in the appropriations process.

We simply cannot wait and do nothing and just hope for the best. Hope is not an effective strategy when it comes to dealing with this persistent pandemic. The American people have demonstrated resilience, courage, and compassion during this crisis, but they need our additional help.

I hope that next week we will put aside the partisan bickering, the “just say no” approach that we have seen, unfortunately, from the Democratic leader, and that we will come together for the good of the American people; that we will come together not as Democrats and Republicans and Independents but as Americans to do what our country needs done right now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant senior legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to remember a daughter of New York and an American giant. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an icon, a legend, and a role model for so many people, myself included. We may never

see a jurist with her kind of courage again in our lifetimes.

The daughter of an immigrant furrier and Garment District bookkeeper, born and raised in Brooklyn, she pushed back against every expectation and limitation that society had for her and rose to the bench of the highest Court in the land. She was a brilliant legal mind, an unparalleled jurist, an opera fan, fearless dissenter, and the “Notorious RBG.”

Justice Ginsburg spent her whole life fighting against injustices, those she faced personally and those she could not abide in society.

When Ruth Bader Ginsburg went to law school, she was one of just 9 women in her class of 500. She graduated at the top of her class but was rejected by law firm after law firm because she was a woman and because she was a mother. Undaunted, she found a different path to success.

She educated generations of law students at Rutgers and Columbia and spent her time outside the classroom at the ACLU, becoming an architect of the plan to eradicate gender discrimination. One strategically chosen case at a time, she proved to a male-dominated legal system that discrimination on the basis of sex is real. She was a trailblazer. She took herself to places that few women had ever been, and she took the law to places it had never been.

She stood for all of us. She stood against discrimination in all its forms. She was someone who fundamentally understood the gifts that people have to give to this country regardless of one’s sex, one’s gender orientation, one’s race, or one’s background.

She knew that the words etched in stone above the entrance of the Supreme Court—“Equal Justice Under Law”—were still a goal, not a given, and she fought to make them a reality every day of her life.

As has been noted, in the Jewish tradition, only those of great righteousness die on Rosh Hashanah—because God determined that they were needed until the end. Justice Ginsburg was truly someone of great righteousness, and at the very end, she left us with one final message: “My most fervent wish is that I not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

She asked us to respect the right of the American people to be heard, but within just hours of her passing, that wish was denied by Members of this body.

The hypocrisy of my colleagues is breathtaking. The same Members rushing this process are the very same ones who denied Merrick Garland hearings because his nomination was supposedly too close to an election. He was nominated in March. It is nearly October. This election is not just close. It is already happening. People across the country are already casting their ballots. Yet this is about more than rank hypocrisy. Let’s look at what is really at stake.

The first case that will be argued in November will decide if 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions will continue to have access to affordable healthcare. Think about that. My Republican colleagues are rushing through the confirmation of a judge in order to nearly guarantee that 129 million Americans with preexisting conditions will see their premiums go up or have their healthcare ripped away entirely. That would be inhumane at any time, but in the middle of a pandemic, it is truly unthinkable.

They are rushing to vote on a Justice who will decide the fate of more than 640,000 DACA recipients who have known no other home, no other country, but this one.

They seek to confirm a judge who will revoke the rights of 50 percent of the population to make decisions about their own bodies and their reproductive healthcare.

This new judge could very well overturn recently decided cases that have finally granted same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry the persons whom they love.

This new judge will likely decide on the Nation’s ability to conduct a fair and accurate census and the right of every person in this country to have equal representation under the law.

It is clear to me why our colleagues are rushing this. They fear that the American people simply don’t agree with their views. They fear that this is their last chance to impose an ultra-conservative view on our country, in which women’s rights, LGBTQ rights, and immigrants’ rights take a back seat to corporate interests and discrimination. That is not what the American people want. They should get the chance to have their say. Their ability to access healthcare, to marry, to live in this country, and to be represented fairly and fully by this government is on the line. Their rights hang in the balance.

The actions of my colleagues deny the people a voice. What does that say about this Chamber? What does it say about our democracy?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXTENDING THE UNDERTAKING SPAM, SPYWARE, AND FRAUD ENFORCEMENT WITH ENFORCERS BEYOND BORDERS ACT OF 2006

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4779 and that