

When the ACA was challenged years ago, the Supreme Court upheld it by a 5-to-4 vote. We are one vote away from the decimation of our healthcare rights at a time when nearly 7 million Americans have contracted COVID-19.

The threat is not only to the ACA but also to women's reproductive healthcare, our environmental protections, and what is left of our campaign finance limits. So we know why they are moving at a record pace to fill this seat.

But while the President and the majority leader want to rush through a lifetime Justice in just a few weeks, COVID relief has languished on Senator MCCONNELL's desk for months. Millions of Americans are out of work. Small businesses are closing their doors. Schools can't reopen safely. Parents are burning the candle at both ends, working and caring for kids at home. State, local, and Tribal governments can't meet budgets for essential services.

The American people desperately need another relief package, but the Senate Republicans and the President don't think there is any urgency. Leader MCCONNELL said that himself.

According to the President, COVID-19 "affects virtually nobody." The President said that—"affects virtually nobody."

This virus that "affects virtually nobody" is the third leading cause of death in the United States, has taken more lives in 8 short months than the Vietnam and Middle East wars combined, and has sent our economy into a nosedive not seen since the Great Depression.

We talk a lot about priorities here in the Senate. Right now you are seeing Senate Republican priorities in stark relief. They will rush a lifetime Supreme Court pick in weeks—violating every principle they established themselves—to please their far-right donors. But they will neglect relief for you—for struggling families, for people out of work, for people sick and dying—for months.

Finally, we cannot ignore the fact that the President has explicitly said he wants to fill this vacancy to help decide the 2020 election in his favor. He has repeatedly lied that absentee ballots, votes from Democratic areas, or votes that are tabulated after election day are somehow fraudulent.

And like an authoritarian, he does not even try to correct himself when his lies are debunked. Instead, he openly admits he wants the Supreme Court to decide the election by disqualifying votes he does not like and even refuses to commit to a peaceful transfer of power.

The Senate should not become an accomplice to this corrupt scheme that threatens the future of our democracy, and every Senate Republican should condemn the President's refusal to commit to give up power peacefully.

I would note that several of my Republican friends have stood up and

have said that there should be a peaceful transition of power, and I applaud them for that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTIONS TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the nominations confirmed this week, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

THE JOURNAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

RECOGNIZING GOLD SHAW FARM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, agriculture has always been at the heart of Vermont's economy. For generations, families across Vermont have made a living through agriculture, tilling our rocky soil and raising livestock on our hillsides. Farming in Vermont has always been a challenging yet very rewarding way of life. Now more than ever, it is clear to see the obstacles faced by farmers. I would like to take a moment to recognize Gold Shaw Farm, a farm founded by a husband and wife team in northeastern Vermont. Morgan and Allison Gold, the owners of Gold Shaw Farm, have found a very interesting way to meet these challenges, supplement their agricultural income, adapt their practices, and share their work with the world.

Morgan and Allison Gold moved to Peacham, VT, and established their farm in 2016. On their 150-acre plot, the Golds raise chickens, geese, ducks, and sheep and cultivate a variety of vegetables and berries. Soon after they started farming, the Golds began filming their daily activities and posting them on YouTube. The farm may be small, but over the years, Gold Shaw Farm has amassed a very large and loyal fan base that tune in regularly to watch as Morgan and Allison collect eggs, chase ducks, and play with their dog, Toby.

Some of the farm's fans have even driven all the way to Peacham to buy eggs and visit the farm. With the help of their growing audience, the Golds hope to expand their farm into a larger sustainable operation. Starting and maintaining a farm is challenging work, but in the Golds' model, we see innovative and creative ways to not only document farming experiences, but share those experiences with the world and hopefully inspire a new generation of farmers. I look forward to tuning in to watch their progress.

Earlier this year, the Golds were profiled in *The New York Times*, and I ask unanimous consent that the article, "In a Wistful Age, Farmers Find a New Angle: Chores" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the *New York Times*, Aug. 7, 2020]

IN A WISTFUL AGE, FARMERS FIND A NEW ANGLE: CHORES

(By Ellen Barry)

PEACHAM, VT.—The sweet smell of hay rose off the earth on a recent evening, as Morgan Gold strode across his farmyard in heavy boots. He crossed the paddock, scanning for new eggs, water levels, infected peck wounds, rips in the fence line.

But mainly—let's be honest—he was looking for content.

Though Mr. Gold sells poultry and eggs from his duck farm in Vermont's northeast corner, most of what he produces as a farmer is, well, entertainment.

Mr. Gold, who is short and stocky, with the good-natured ease of a standup comedian, does his chores while carrying a digital camera in one hand and murmuring into a microphone.

Then, twice a week, like clockwork, he posts a short video on YouTube about his exploits as a neophyte farmer, often highlighting failures or pratfalls. Keeping a close eye on analytics, he has boosted his YouTube audiences high enough to provide a steady advertising revenue of around \$2,500 to \$4,000 a month, about eight times what he earns from selling farm products.

This part of New England is rocky, hilly and isolated, and generations of small farmers have cast about for new ways to scrape out a living: the sleigh rides, the alpacas, the therapy ponies, the pick-your-own hemp. It is a new thing, though, to make farm life into reality TV.

Mr. Gold, 40, has learned the hard way—he tried to take a month off last winter—that any gap in his YouTube publication schedule results in a steep drop-off in audience. So he keeps a running list of themes that could be fodder for future videos. It reads, in part:

Should I Feed My Dog Eggs?

Don't Trust This Duck

My Homestead Is a Dumpster Fire

What Does My Guard Dog Do All Day?

He has learned, through trial and error, what works with an audience. The sheepdog-mounted GoPro didn't work. ("People were like, 10 seconds and I was puking," said his wife, Allison Ebrahimi Gold.) Slow, sumptuous drone footage of his sun-dappled 150 acres, land porn for wistful cubicle dwellers—that definitely works.

Character development works, as demonstrated by Mr. Gold's most popular video, "Our Freakishly Huge Duck (This Is Not NORMAL)," which, as he would put it, blew the doors off. Slow-motion footage of waggling goose butts, set to a bouncy, whimsical orchestral soundtrack, works.

But few things compel audiences, he came to realize, more than a real-life setback. He came to this realization last summer when a mink broke into his duck hutch, leaving its interior spattered with eggs and blood and feathers.

"It was one of the most depressing days of my life," he said, adding, "but at the same time, I'm thinking, 'How is the audience going to react to this sort of thing?'"

The next videos, which featured freaky night-vision footage of the offending mink, helped boost Mr. Gold's YouTube audience toward the 100,000-viewer threshold. And it helped him understand his own place in the universe of farmer-influencers, which tilts heavily toward the how-to genre.

"The storytelling part is what I'm good at," he said. "I'm not that good at the farming part." It is a paradox that the less financially viable small farming becomes, the more that Americans want to experience it firsthand.

This idea is as old as the dude ranch; video streaming of farm life is only the most recent iteration. Amy Fewell, the founder of Homesteaders of America, said the number of farmers who earn substantial income off YouTube channels is steadily climbing, and now stands at around 50. Some of them earn money through product endorsement deals, like Al Lumnah, who posts videos five days a week from his farm in Littleton, N.H.

It's a lot of work: Mr. Lumnah wakes up at 3:30 a.m. so he can edit the previous day's footage in time to post new video at 6 a.m., which his 210,000 regular viewers, who are scattered as far as Cambodia and India, have come to expect. "People will say, it's lunchtime here in Ukraine," Mr. Lumnah said.

Others, like Justin Rhodes, a farmer in North Carolina, have parlayed a giant YouTube audience into a dues-paying membership enterprise—he has 2,000 fans who pay annual fees of up to \$249 for private instruction and direct communication, via text message. "We don't sell a single farm product," Mr. Rhodes said. "Our farm product is education and entertainment."

Mr. Gold, who moved to Vermont and started his YouTube channel four years ago, has not reached that point. He still has a full-time job, as a marketing executive for an insurance company, and so far has refused the endorsement deals. He has built up his flocks of chicken, geese and ducks to 100, and is hoping to add cows next spring.

He's certainly captured the interest of the farmers who surround him in Peacham, said Tom Galinat, a neighbor whose family farms 550 acres.

Farmers here struggle to eke out a living from a rocky, uneven soil and hostile climate, and they are astounded—in some cases a little jealous—to discover that Mr. Gold is internet famous, he said.

"He's found a way to way to monetize farming with less physical labor," Mr. Galinat said. "Some guys are like, this is silly, since he's farming 20 ducks. But at the same time, he's making more than other farmers who have 500 acres of land."

But Mr. Galinat, who is also Peacham's town clerk, counts himself among a younger generation of farmers who are learning from Mr. Gold.

"He has taught me I am no longer selling hay, I am selling a lifestyle," he said. "He's really selling himself—his emotions, his opinions, his downfalls, his successes. Boom! That's it, that's the way forward."

As Mr. Gold's audience has grown, he has at times been taken aback by the enthusiasm.

Several dozen viewers have driven all the way to Peacham and knocked on his door, hoping to buy eggs or talk about ducks, something his wife described as "really distressing." "Morgan is so vulnerable on film," she said, "that people assume they know us as people."

Most of it is nice, though. Viewers send handcrafted accessories for his outbuildings, like a plaque that says, in elaborate lettering, "Ye Olde Quack House." When one of the Golds' barn cats was hit by a car recently, at least 50 viewers offered cash to cover her medical bills.

Samier Elrasoul, a nursing student in Howell, Mich., is so devoted to Mr. Gold's videos that he got a vanity license plate reading QUACKN, in honor of the catchphrase—"Release the Quacken!"—that Mr. Gold exclaims when he frees his ducks from their hutch in the morning.

Mr. Elrasoul, 34, says the videos inspire him because he, too, has a dead-end job—he works as a supervisor at Starbucks—and he, too, harbors a dream of changing his life.

"Seeing some guy just like me, just dropping everything and doing what he's passionate about, was very encouraging to see," he said. "I'm like, wow, he's living his dream."

For others, Mr. Gold's farm has provided a haven in a difficult time. Charlotte Schmoll, who is 6 and lives in Portland, Ore., spent days at the beginning of lockdown watching Mr. Gold's videos over and over. She announced last month that she, too, plans to raise ducks in Vermont.

"One of the questions that comes up when we watch shows is, 'Is this real? Did this happen?'" said her mother, Julie Schmoll. "That's one of the things she liked about Mr. Rogers, and maybe she likes about the duck farmer, that he is also quote-unquote true, or real."

Mr. Gold does wonder, sometimes, about what it means, in the long term, to make his life into a story. When the cat was hit by a car, he found himself reflexively converting the event into a script, and stopped to ask himself who he was becoming.

"It's like, how much is the experience and how much is the packaging of the experience, and how do you distinguish between the two," he said. "Because you almost go, 'I had a duck die, let me think about the first act here, and the second act.'"

And still, the show goes on. Late on a recent evening, Mr. Gold was putting finishing touches on a video about his dog, Toby, who has never quite grown into his intended role as a duck herder.

Early drafts of the video had focused on how much the dog had improved.

But there was something dishonest about that, Mr. Gold realized that evening, as he and Ms. Gold flung themselves around the paddock, trying to catch birds with string nets, while the dog looked on placidly, thumping his tail.

Now, in the gathering dark, Mr. Gold was rewriting the ending to one that emphasized his acceptance of the dog's true nature.

It's always difficult to bring closure to a video, Ms. Gold said. It was almost 9 o'clock, and she was hoping to go inside.

"You have to create an end," she said. "Because the truth is, we do this every day, so there's not really an end."

But Mr. Gold, for his part, was pleased. "I love it when a story has a good moral," he said.

BUDGET ENFORCEMENT LEVELS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the Chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider H.R. 8337, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act. This measure includes two provisions, found in sections 126 and 163, that are designated as being for emergency purposes pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that these provisions will have no net effect on budget authority but would result in \$92 million in outlays in fiscal year 2021.

As a result of the emergency designations, I am revising the outlay allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$92 million in fiscal year 2021. Further, I am increasing the budgetary outlay aggregate for fiscal year 2021 by equivalent amounts.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974—\$ Millions)

	2021
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	3,832,200
Outlays	4,008,705
Adjustments:	
Budget Authority	0
Outlays	92
Revised Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	3,832,200
Outlays	4,008,797

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974—\$ Millions)

	2021
Current Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	671,500
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	626,500
General Purpose Outlays	1,584,277
Adjustments:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0
General Purpose Outlays	92
Revised Allocation:	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	671,500
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	626,500
General Purpose Outlays	1,584,369

Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above