

As chairman of the Budget Committee, he has passed budgets with an eye to restraining spending and lessening the burden we place on future generations. His 2018 budget also paved the way for the landmark Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which reformed America's outdated Tax Code, helped create jobs and opportunities for workers, and put more money in the pockets of American families.

MIKE is an outstanding legislator, and he is also one of the finest human beings you will ever meet. I think all of us have benefited from his thoughtfulness at one time or another. I remember when I was experiencing heel pain a few years ago with an ailment called plantar fasciitis, and I mentioned it to MIKE because he was a shoe salesman and a shoe store owner. It wasn't more than a few days later when MIKE came to me with some heel inserts to put into my shoes, which, I might add, helped a lot. Obviously, he had a lot of experience through the years dealing with people with foot issues. But it was typical of MIKE ENZI—thoughtful and practical, down-to-earth.

In business, as everyone knows, the customer comes first, and MIKE has brought that attitude to his 24 years here in the U.S. Senate. As a shoe salesman, he put his customers first, and as a Senator, he always put his constituents and the American people first. He has never forgotten how to help people. He has never forgotten where he comes from. He has worked hard every day that he has been here in the Senate to make life better for the people of Wyoming and for American citizens.

He is an outstanding colleague and a friend, and I will miss his wisdom and expertise—and his great fishing stories.

MIKE, I wish you the very best of everything in your retirement. I am glad you will have more time to spend with Diana and the kids and grandkids and more time to enjoy your beloved home State of Wyoming. While no State will ever compare to South Dakota in my book, I have to say that Wyoming is spectacularly beautiful, and I am glad you will be able to be there now on more of a full-time basis. But you will be missed here. I want to thank you for your service and your friendship. May God bless you and your family in your retirement.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the floor.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today to talk a little bit about what is happening in Nevada. Last week, I had the opportunity to be home, and I went to one of our mobile

food banks in East Las Vegas just before Thanksgiving. The mobile food bank is one of our food pantries throughout the State of Nevada, and this particular one is run by Three Square. I arrived around 8 a.m. in the morning to a line of cars waiting at the site. That line sometimes gets so long, police have to direct traffic around it. Literally, they lined up at 3 a.m. The food pantry doesn't even open until 7 or 8 in the morning, but they were there at 3 a.m., around the block, in their cars to stay safe from the COVID-19 pandemic. There were over 350 of them throughout that morning. That is not unusual with what is happening in Nevada right now. That is not unusual, and it should be, but because this pandemic has hit Nevada and so many States so hard, we are seeing the consequences of inaction by this body in the Senate.

As I got there that morning, I imagined those people in the middle of the night with their lights and power off in their cars to save fuel in the cold desert night. And they waited patiently. They were quiet because they knew assistance would be there when morning came. And sometimes that food runs out for those many people who are waiting, and then they have to come the next day. But because of the inaction in this Chamber, most Nevadans who are hurting don't have that reassurance that there will be immediate, swift relief for them because they don't know when Federal help will come. Lifeline organizations like Three Square, which are working tirelessly to help families fill the gaps, are running out of resources.

It has been 223 days since the Senate last approved funds to help all Americans endure this once-in-a-lifetime catastrophe. Meanwhile, too many people in Nevada are languishing in the dark, hoping for economic assistance that still hasn't arrived.

In Nevada, we continue to have the second highest unemployment rate in the country at 12 percent. That is almost twice the national rate. Unemployment is so high in Nevada because of the coronavirus pandemic. It has stopped conventions, entertainment, hospitality, and travel operations in the Silver State and across the country. In August, in Nevada, employment in travel and tourism was down 25 percent over last year. Nationwide, spending on travel has declined by 42 percent compared to 2019. As a result, there are 60 percent fewer travelers to McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas and 50 percent fewer travelers to Las Vegas itself. The American Hotel and Lodging Association estimates that without more funding, nearly 70 percent of hotels may close by the end of this year.

Because of the devastation to what had been a thriving hospitality industry in Nevada, many of the jobs aren't there right now, and too many workers in Nevada can't pay their bills. More than 175,000 people in the Silver State continue to claim unemployment in-

surance. People without jobs are struggling right now to pay rent or mortgages or healthcare.

Let me tell you, housing assistance from the CARES Act helped tens of thousands of Nevadans and millions of Americans keep a roof over their heads. That was legislation we passed immediately in a bipartisan way—one of four. But those funds have run out. They are gone, and they need to be replaced. When the limited CDC eviction moratorium expires on January 1, Nevada is bracing for 250,000 to 400,000 possible evictions. That is more than 20 times the national number of evictions in 2019.

Families and seniors can't get enough to eat. In August and September, 234,000 Nevadans said their households were experiencing food insecurity. That is 11 percent of Nevada households going hungry—the second largest share in the country. One hundred and twenty-nine thousand said that the children in their homes didn't have enough food.

The longer we delay passing additional economic relief, the more jeopardy we create for our entire economy, nationwide. Don't take my word for it; just listen to Chairman Powell of the Federal Reserve, who has been saying this over and over again—most recently in a hearing in the Banking Committee, which I am a member of.

The Senate must do more to help people not just in my home State but across the country, especially now, as case counts are climbing. We are only months away from being able to give the population at large immunity to this deadly virus. We have to do everything we can to help people get to that time, to ensure that for the coming months, Nevadans can stay in their homes, they can take care of their kids, they can keep their businesses running, knowing that they will have an opportunity to open them in the future, and they can protect themselves from this virus. The only way to do that is to get them the relief they need now.

That relief simply has to include more money for State, local, and Tribal governments, which have had to cut back on critical services in the middle of a pandemic.

It should include extended unemployment benefits and pandemic unemployment assistance, as well as more loans for our small businesses and for PPP.

It must have housing assistance to prevent a wave of homelessness and illness.

It should do more to protect workers, fund education, and stave off hunger for families.

It also needs to include billions that States have asked for to help with vaccine distribution. We are going to be rolling out millions of doses of vaccines, all of which will need to be stored, handled, and tracked across 50 States. Healthcare workers not just in Nevada but across the country will

need training to administer the vaccine, and the public needs education about vaccine safety and access.

We have witnessed an amazing feat of human ingenuity in developing a vaccine faster than we have ever done it before, but the Federal Government and this Chamber still haven't set money aside to make sure that vaccines get to those who need it.

It also has to include money for testing and tracing so that we can contain spread of this virus and get more people back to work.

Nobody should be standing in the way of a comprehensive, bipartisan relief package to help Americans hold out until they can get the vaccines we know are coming. They need relief now. That is why I support the bipartisan proposal that our colleagues in the Senate put together just recently.

That proposal, which they look at in a comprehensive way for all of our States, includes money for State, local, and Tribal governments. It includes additional unemployment insurance. It supports funding for small businesses, including the Paycheck Protection Program, EIDL disaster loans, restaurants, stages, and deductibility. What I mean by stages are the live events in the hospitality industry that have been so devastated and have not received any relief during the time we have appropriated funds to address the pandemic. It includes CDFI, community lender support. It includes transportation—our airlines, our airports, our buses, our transit, Amtrak—and our workers there. It includes vaccine development and distribution and testing and tracing. It includes money for healthcare provider relief. It includes money for education, for student loans, and, yes, housing assistance and rental assistance that is needed now. It also includes money for nutrition, for the food insecurity that I just talked about that I witnessed that morning in Las Vegas and that we hear about constantly, not just in Nevada but across this country. It includes money for childcare, for broadband, for the U.S. Postal Service—so many things.

It was well reasoned and compromised and thought out, and it was our colleagues coming together—Republicans and Democrats coming together—for the best interests of this country.

I will tell you, we do not need unanimous support for this proposal. What we need is a vote on the floor of the Senate. That is why I am asking MITCH MCCONNELL to allow this proposal to come to the floor of the Senate for a vote. If some of my colleagues don't want to support any more relief, then they don't have to vote for it. But I would guarantee and I would suspect that there are more than enough of my colleagues on both sides of aisle who want to pass relief for the many Americans across this country in our States who are suffering right now, but they have to be given the opportunity.

I get that right now, there is only one person who gets to decide what

goes on the floor of the Senate. I don't agree with that, but that is the way the rules are set. MITCH MCCONNELL decides every single day what legislation comes to the floor of the Senate, what can be debated, what amendments can come. I have watched this for years as MITCH MCCONNELL, instead of including the Democrats in bipartisan negotiation on some of these important bills, puts them together behind closed doors, with only Republicans and maybe the current administration, and then puts them on the floor of the Senate for the first time; bypasses our committee hearings, where there is bipartisan support, usually, for bills; bypasses that and puts it on the floor of the Senate without any compromise, without any of the Democrats' involvement, and expects us to vote for it, and then holds the Democrats accountable—accountable—because we didn't have the opportunity to fight for our States and put important funding in there for State and local government, for broadband, for our healthcare workers, for our hospitality industry—you name it. That is not the way the Senate should be operating. You know that, and I know that.

We have to get back to a time when we compromise, when we all come representing our States. We all have equal votes. There are two of us from each State. We are fighting for our constituents and our States, and we should be able to have that debate, that conversation, on the floor of the Senate in a fair manner. That is why I ask MITCH MCCONNELL to allow a vote on this proposal.

I had the opportunity to watch one of my colleagues talk about this. I absolutely agree with him, Senator ANGUS KING. He said: I sit in these committees, in these bipartisan committees, and I vote for relief for disasters, hurricane disasters, fire disasters—fires in the Western States where I come from and where you know so well that the fires are devastating our Western States. But for the hurricanes that happen in Texas, Florida—you name it—I vote for relief because I know those constituents in those States are suffering. I don't look at them as blue States or red States. I look at them as Americans who are in need right now, and I am going to support that relief.

Why are we doing that with this coronavirus relief package? I do not understand. It is not what the American people expect of us. It is not what they want, and it is not what they deserve. I cannot stress this enough: It is time for the Senate to get back to work on behalf of the American public. That means that we are willing to compromise. That means we are willing to do what is right and what is needed in our communities because I can guarantee you, any one of us who goes home to our State—we are all suffering; we all see it. That is what the American people expect of us.

I hope MITCH MCCONNELL allows a vote on the floor for this bipartisan

compromise that the Senators have worked on.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me thank my colleague and friend, the senior Senator from the great State of Nevada, for her words. They are on point. I hope the Republican leader was listening. I hope our Republican colleagues were listening because her genuine concern for her State, which is suffering just like mine is—both States depend on entertainment and tourism. It is real. We all want to get something done, and we are all willing to give to get something done, but the Republican leader holds the key, and we hope he is open to compromise. I will have more to say on that in a minute, but I thank her for her comments.

We all know how desperate things are. Yesterday, we were leveled by some of the grimmest statistics of the pandemic. More than 100,000 Americans were hospitalized; more than 2,700 Americans died, the highest recorded number in a single day since the pandemic began; more than 274,000 Americans have died in total. That is the equivalent of a 9/11 attack every day for 92 days in a row.

Unlike the spring, when the rates of infections and fatalities peaked before steadily declining, the winter months and the hangover from Thanksgiving travel will likely cause these rates to get worse before they get better.

The steady yet staggering loss of American life is horrific. And because so many of us are isolated, because so many have contracted the disease and have experienced relatively mild symptoms and recovered quickly—thank God—there is a sense that things are not as bad as they seem. But the raw accounting is unavoidable, and it is harrowing. The loss of our friends, our parents, our neighbors, our siblings, our colleagues must be acknowledged and mourned and must inspire us to redouble our efforts to defeat this evil disease.

As COVID-19 races through much of the country, the economic fallout of the pandemic also broadens. Many family budgets and small businesses are at their breaking point.

Economists are now warning that the U.S. economy could fall into double-dip recession without additional relief from Congress. Let me say that again. We could have a double-dip recession unless there is relief—good, strong relief from Congress. That is why Democrats have been so desperately trying to convince our Republican colleagues and the Republican leader, in particular, to work with us in a bipartisan fashion on another round of emergency Federal relief.

Speaker PELOSI and I made a new offer to Leader MCCONNELL and Leader