

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 grimdest 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

MCCARTHY on Monday in hopes of jump-starting serious negotiations. Leader McCONNELL responded by circulating another version of a partisan, Republican-only draft.

In the spirit of compromise, Speaker PELOSI and I believe the bipartisan framework introduced by a group of eight Senators on Tuesday should be used as the basis, the framework, for immediate bipartisan, bicameral negotiations. Of course, we and others will offer improvements, but the need to act is urgent, and we believe that with good-faith negotiations, we could very well come to an agreement.

We are already much closer to an agreement because of the bipartisan talks these eight Senators have created, and we can build off their momentum.

What is the alternative—another round of legislative failure, a failure to help the American people? The Republican leader came to the floor this morning to say “compromise is within reach”—his words—before reiterating a long list of Republican demands and blaming the Democrats for everything. Once again, the Republican leader argued that the Senate should pass only what Republicans approve of and leave the rest for later, and he now says that an emergency relief bill should be limited by only what President Trump will sign.

Of course, we could say, similarly, that the bill should be limited only by what a Democratic House will pass.

Neither is true compromise. The leader knows that. But for some reason, in the midst of this generational crisis, Republican Leader McCONNELL does not seem inclined to compromise to actually get something done. But what he wants to do is posture, to put partisan bills on the floor and say: Take it or leave it.

The real answer here is to sit down and talk. Let's use the bipartisan framework developed by eight Senators from both sides as our starting point.

We have precious little time left before the end of the year. The country has some desperate needs. Unemployment remains too high. Laid-off workers need our assistance until the economy fully recovers. Small businesses need another round of support.

With the imminent availability of a vaccine, it is crucial that there be additional funding for manufacturing and distribution. The distribution efforts will be led by the States, which further increases the need to deliver assistance to State and local governments.

As we all take great hope and solace in the idea that a vaccine is just around the corner, we must make necessary preparations to ensure that we have enough doses; that it is distributed effectively, efficiently and fairly; and that Americans can access it affordably.

We can make a significant downpayment, right now, toward preparing the country for a vaccine with an emergency relief bill before the Christmas holiday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS LAMAR ALEXANDER, MIKE ENZI, PAT ROBERTS, AND CORY GARDNER

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to pay tribute to friends and colleagues who will be leaving the Senate at the start of the new Congress.

I consider LAMAR ALEXANDER, who spoke yesterday, to be a friend and a mentor. He is an institution around here. He is what I would consider an old-school Senator in the best way. He not only takes the time to learn the issues, but he also understands how to explain the importance of the policies that we work on up here to the people back home. By embodying the principles of collegiality and bipartisanship, he has accomplished a lot for the people of Tennessee and all Americans.

In the Senate, you need 59 other Senators to say “That is a good idea” to get anything accomplished. It is critical, then, to get to know your colleagues, learn about how to work with them constructively to get things done. LAMAR ALEXANDER is masterful at that.

We have accomplished a lot under his leadership on a lot of important issues. In the interest of time, I will mention two recent examples where I worked with LAMAR and watched him make a difference in the lives of all Americans.

First, his 21st Century Cures Act, which passed back in 2016, provided needed authorization for investments in the National Institutes of Health and other research institutions to help create new breakthroughs in treatments and cures for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other diseases, as well as advancements in developing medical treatments tailored to each person's individual genome. It was groundbreaking work.

It probably got less notice, but it also authorized an unprecedented amount of funding in the State opioid response grants to combat opioid epidemics that have hit almost all of our States. Certainly, it has hit Ohio and Tennessee hard. This has served as an absolutely exceptional complement to what is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which we passed earlier that year. Without the 21st Century Cures Act, we would not have made the progress we have achieved in the past few years in turning the tide of this deadly disease, and I have seen it firsthand in my State and around the country.

We also could not have accomplished the landmark Restore Our Parks Act without his help. This bill, now law, will help to rebuild our national park infrastructure by helping to address that backlog of \$12 billion now in maintenance projects. Over 100,000 jobs will be created in the next 5 years due to this legislation.

LAMAR didn't care about getting the credit for this historic bill, by the way—probably the most important bill

for conserving lands in 50 years. He just wanted to get it done. I saw that as he worked tirelessly in public and behind the scenes to ensure we got it across the finish line.

Jane and I have cherished our time together with you and Honey, LAMAR, and we hope that will continue.

Here in the Senate, we will miss your experience, your wisdom, your spirit of bipartisanship, and your perseverance and determination to advance our country's priorities and get things done.

Another colleague who has focused on results is Senator MIKE ENZI, a true son of Wyoming, who has represented his home State with class in this Chamber for nearly a quarter of a century. MIKE is someone I have gotten to know and respect over the past decade as we have served together here in the Senate.

In his time here on the Hill, MIKE has accomplished a lot for Wyoming. As chair of the HELP Committee, he helped lead the way on crucial pension reforms—complicated stuff but really important. He promoted greater access to education and affordable healthcare and pushed for improvements to workplace safety. He was always willing to reach across the aisle.

Over the past three Congresses, he has embraced his past life as an accountant and used his position as chair of the Senate Budget Committee to push for smarter spending here in Washington. That is a perspective we will really miss in this time of exploding deficits.

I have to say, I am a bit envious of MIKE's post-Senate career plans. As he tells me, he is going back to Wyoming to spend time with Diana and his wonderful family and to spend more time on the rivers of Wyoming with his fly rod.

MIKE, I hope sometime soon I will be able to come out to Gillette to join you and Diana so you can show me your favorite fishing spots. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

We are saying goodbye to another giant of the Senate this year when Senator PAT ROBERTS leaves us. I saw Senator ROBERTS on the floor here a moment ago. I see him now.

I view PAT ROBERTS as the Matt Dillon of the United States Senate. Matt Dillon, for those of you who know who he was, was a resident of Dodge City, just like PAT, and like Marshal Dillon and the marine he is proud to be, PAT knows how to lay down the law. But he does it with humor and smiles and a wink, and he does it in a way with that dry Kansas sense of humor that is very effective. By the way, he is always looking for Miss Kitty.

He has used that combination of toughness and hard work and humor to accomplish a lot here in Congress. PAT's focus has always been on the people of Kansas. He has done a lot for the people of Kansas, but his work went far beyond Kansas.

It turns out he is the only person in America to have chaired the Agriculture Committee both in the House

and in the Senate. His tireless work to pass farm bills over those years to help growers and ranchers has made him a friend to farmers everywhere, even in Ohio.

Just as important was his work as chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Some may not recall this, but he is the one who spearheaded the reforms to our intelligence services after 9/11 to avoid another such tragedy.

PAT, I hope you and Franki get a well-deserved retirement, and I look forward to continuing to stay in touch.

We are also going to be losing a relatively young and energetic Member of our caucus here, who is also an accomplished bipartisan legislator, when CORY GARDNER leaves next year. With only a few short years in the Senate here, CORY has proven he knows how to get things done, using his background in the House and his friendships to be effective for Colorado and the country. He is a smart guy, and we have worked together on a lot of critical issues to address some of the biggest issues facing our country.

Like almost all Coloradans, he loves the outdoors. His work for conservation in the outdoors is something that I have had an opportunity to work with him on, including the historic Great American Outdoors Act, which was signed into law recently by the President. It includes the Restore Our Parks Act, but also a passion of his was the permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has been a long-sought goal of the conservation and environmental community. Frankly, it could not have been done without CORY's involvement—period.

CORY, we are going to miss your sunny disposition.

He may be the most optimistic Member of the U.S. Senate. He always has a smile on his face. Even when things seem bad, he manages a way for them to look good.

I will miss working with you on some of these important projects. I wish you the very best as you start the next stage of your career.

We are also sad to see MARTHA MCSALLY go. I have appreciated getting to know her over the past couple of years. In a short period of time, she was a passionate advocate for Arizona as a member of the Armed Services Committee. She used her own trailblazing path as the first female fighter pilot to have flown in combat to advocate for our men and women in uniform. We worked together on bipartisan legislation, as an example, to end cosmetics animal testing. She was involved in a lot of different issues.

We want to thank you for all you have done in the Chamber, and I look forward to staying in touch.

Senator TOM UDALL has joined us here in the Chamber. I call Senator UDALL "Cousin" because of his cousin Mark Udall and our friendship. TOM UDALL has now served for 12 years in the U.S. Senate for the people of New

Mexico. I have gotten to know him over that time through our work together on a number of different legislative projects. Most have been around conservation and the environment. We have had a lot of success in that regard.

We have been cochairs together of what is called the International Conservation Caucus. There is legislation called the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, which we have been able to work together on to get reauthorized. This has been incredibly important legislation. Probably the No. 3 or 4 source of CO₂ emissions in the world is the burning forest, and this has managed to save many millions of acres from the burning by simply saying to these countries: We will do a debt-for-nature swap with you. If you owe a debt to the United States—which, by the way, many are unlikely to ever pay anyway—we will let you use that in exchange for protecting your forest.

It has been remarkably successful. At a time when we seem to have a lot of partisanship and fights around here about global warming and climate change, this is one area in which we have been able to find common ground, and that is because TOM has been willing to step up and be a great partner in that.

He has also helped me pass legislation that requires that the U.S. Postal Service use its inventory of the Save Vanishing Species stamps to help protect the rich wildlife and natural resources that we have and protect endangered species. This has resulted in \$5 million to \$6 million a year going toward that effort. Unfortunately, we have had to convince the Postal Service to continue allowing that great source of funding to be there for our vanishing species. Again, TOM has been very helpful in that.

Even in these past months, we haven't stopped our work on environmental issues. Earlier this year, we introduced the bipartisan REPLANT Act to help the U.S. Forest Service address the growing reforestation backlog across our country. This is supported by the Trump administration. It is also supported by TOM UDALL. Therefore, we are hoping it can get done.

He leaves the Senate with a legacy of tirelessly working to protect the natural beauty of his State and our country for future generations, and we wish him well in the future as he and Jill continue to work on those issues together.

Finally, our colleague DOUG JONES is going to be departing after serving the people of Alabama for the past couple of years. I have gotten to know DOUG through our bipartisan efforts that have focused on standing up to unfair trade practices. Our Trade Security Act to reform section 232, I think, is the right approach to be sure we hold those accountable who violate our trade laws but to also do it in a way that protects American jobs and strengthens our U.S. economy. I will

miss DOUG as a bipartisan partner in that effort, and I appreciate his working with us on those trade issues and other things.

The Senate is a body that is really driven by personal relationships between 100 Members. Senators ALEXANDER, ENZI, ROBERTS, GARDNER, MCSALLY, UDALL, and JONES have been key and valuable Members of that 100-person group, and we are going to miss them. They have all served this body well as legislators and as people. They are of high character. They are the kind of folks with whom you want to work, and they have been effective because of that. They will be missed, and I wish them all well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

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

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

VOTE ON WALLER NOMINATION

Under the previous order, all postclosure time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Waller nomination?

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Alexander	Enzi	Portman
Barrasso	Ernst	Risch
Blackburn	Fischer	Roberts
Blunt	Gardner	Romney
Boozman	Grassley	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Burr	Hoover	Sasse
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young