

I appreciate these points. Obviously, we have a disagreement. President Trump pushed for Congress to pass a payroll tax cut. I would rather see a cut, not a deferral. That is the way to really help workers across this country. When Congress failed to act in July, the President enacted that deferral as a way to provide immediate relief to the American people. I would ask that we come together and let's forgive those taxes. Forgive them, and they won't be getting a surprise tax increase if we do that.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, just very briefly in response, I think everyone knows what is going on here. This is a very simple proposal. If you want to participate in President Trump's deferral, you can continue to participate in the deferral program. But if you are in the Armed Forces or are a Federal employee and you are being required to do that right now and you don't want to, we should let them opt out. That is all this is about, and I am really surprised that our Republican colleagues would block members of our Armed Forces and Federal employees from making a simple choice which they believe is in their best interest.

So I am disappointed with the objection and will continue to pursue this.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back the time in order for the vote to occur now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON HARDY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hardy nomination?

Mr. DAINES. 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 North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFFLER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

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. CAPITO). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Alexander	Blunt	Capito
Barrasso	Boozman	Cardin
Blackburn	Braun	Carper

Cassidy	Hyde-Smith
Collins	Johnson
Cornyn	Jones
Cotton	Kelly
Cramer	Kennedy
Crapo	King
Cruz	Lankford
Daines	Lee
Enzi	Manchin
Ernst	McConnell
Fischer	Moran
Gardner	Murkowski
Graham	Murphy
Grassley	Paul
Hassan	Reed
Hawley	Risch
Hoeven	Roberts

NAYS—34

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Schatz
Bennet	Heinrich	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Booker	Kaine	Stabenow
Brown	Klobuchar	Udall
Cantwell	Leahy	Van Hollen
Casey	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warren
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Murray	Wyden
Durbin	Peters	
Feinstein	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—7

Burr	Loeffler	Sanders
Harris	Perdue	
Inhofe	Portman	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Tennessee.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized to speak for as long as I may require.

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

RECOGNIZING THE STAFF OF SENATOR ALEXANDER

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, here is my view of serving in the U.S. Senate: It is hard to get here, it is hard to stay here, and while you are here, you might as well try to accomplish something good for the country. Accomplishing something good in the U.S. Senate means working with a superior staff.

Today, I want to pay tribute to the 270 men and women who have served on my staff since I came to the Senate in 2003, in my personal office, both here in Washington, DC, and in the six Tennessee offices; in the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee; the Senate Rules Committee;

the Senate Appropriations Committee; and at the Senate Republican conference.

Some who started with me in 2003 are still working for me after 18 years, and some have moved on to other opportunities, but each has played a major role in the Senate, whether they were helping to pass laws, serve our constituents, or answering the front-office phone.

We have some important traditions here in the Senate, including the maiden speech, which I delivered 17 years ago, in my case, and the farewell speech, which I delivered yesterday, but for me, something is missing. Usually staff is acknowledged in the farewell address, which either makes the address way too long or at least too little time to properly acknowledge their contributions. I am here today to make a "Salute to the Staff" speech. I know my colleagues agree that their own accomplishments are the result of working with superior staff, so perhaps, if I may not be presumptuous, a "Salute to the Staff" speech might become an additional Senate tradition.

When I say "superior staff," here is what I mean: superior in being what Senator Howard Baker used to call an eloquent listener—that the constituent on the phone might be right or even the staffer in the other office might be right; superior in courtesy to the Tennesseans for whom we work; superior in insight; superior in resolving complex issues and wrapping up the result in a nice package with a ribbon tied around it, ready to be passed and signed into law whenever the moment came that it could be passed, which would usually be a surprise and at an inconvenient time; and superior in writing and speaking plain English in order to persuade at least half the people we are right; and superior in working well together—something you are supposed to learn in kindergarten—so we have a good time while we are working.

Unlike almost every other Senate office, at the suggestion of my chief of staff, David Cleary, we created a single team composed of personal office staff here and in Washington, DC, and the committee staff, with David in charge of all of that. I originally thought that was a big mistake. I didn't see how anyone could be in charge of all of that, but I was wrong about it because what it did was break down barriers and eliminate jealousy, improve communication, and create a much happier and effective working condition.

The results have been exceptional. For 18 years, I have gotten up every morning thinking I might be able to do something good to help our country, and I have gone to bed most nights thinking that I have. That couldn't have happened without the privilege of working with an exceptional staff.

The truth is—we all know this—that there is just no physical way for any U.S. Senator to see every single one of our constituents every time we want to

see them or talk to them on the phone, although we all make our best efforts to do that. And you learn pretty quickly that constituents expect and deserve to be treated not just with courtesy but promptly. For example, Senator Estes Kefauver held this seat that I now hold when I was a high school student.

One day, Maude from Madisonville, his hometown, called Senator Kefauver's office and said: "I want to speak to Estes."

The staffer said: "I'm sorry but Senator Kefauver is tied up on the floor."

There was a long silence. Maude said: "Well, you go down and untie the son of a gun and get him up off the floor and tell him Maude's on the phone and wants to speak to him."

So our constituents expect to talk with us when they want to.

My first visit to the Senate was when I was a junior in high school. It was part of the American Legion Boys Nation Program. I was invited to visit Senator Kefauver. I was 17 years old. I was reluctant to do that because I was sure he had many more important people to see than a 17-year-old boy from Maryville, TN. I was even more sure of that when I arrived at his office because his office was just filled with people who looked important and looked like they had come from all over the world to see him. But his assistant came out and swished me in through all the important people, doing her best to make me feel comfortable. Kefauver had a reputation for being accessible, and it was because his staff made it appear that he always was.

I remind my staff that there are many people who want to see us who suspect that we feel we are too important to see them, and we should do everything we can to help them understand that we know that they are the important ones.

The staff and I have done our best to try to do that. With all of the Senators with whom I have served from Tennessee, we have what we call Tennessee Tuesday, which are breakfasts where any Tennessean can come and visit with both Senators, have a little breakfast, and have their photograph taken.

In 18 years, 270 people have worked on my Senate staff—as I mentioned, in Jackson, Nashville, Tri-Cities, Knoxville, Memphis, Chattanooga, or in Washington, DC, on my personal staff or the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions staff or the Rules Committee or Appropriations Committee or at the Senate Republican conference. There are a lot of places to have a lot of staff—153 women, 117 men.

Our staff has also benefited from the work of 433 interns. These interns usually stay with us 1 to 3 months, and they have some real work experiences while they are here, and they are pretty good. In fact, 30 staff members—that is 11 percent of our staff—began their work in our office as interns.

Our staff has experienced some great personal joys. We celebrated the birth or adoption of 30 babies over those 18 years. Just as I met my wife Honey while we were both working in the Senate, some of our staffers met their spouses while working on my staff, including: Mackensie Burt and Paul McKernana, Will Patterson and Katherine Knight, Virginia Heppner and Bobby McMillin, Laura Lefler and John Herzog, Will Campbell and Victoria Souza, and Patrick Jaynes and Jill Salyers. They are all married now.

We also have experienced some profound sorrows. Some have lost parents, nursed seriously injured children, or been through their own health emergencies.

In November 2007, Trey Lefler, a very special staffer and friend, was involved in a serious car accident and died as a result of his injuries.

Many staff members have stayed. We have worked together for a long time. Some have been a part of our team—meaning we worked together—since I became a Senator: Patrick Jaynes, State director; Lindsey Seidman, deputy staff director on the HELP Committee; Jane Chedester, field representative in Knoxville; Kay Durham, constituent services representative in Nashville; Charlotte Jackson, who knows more about how to help people with a visa problem than anybody in the world; Matt Varino, field representative in Jackson; Gina Parkerson in Tri-Cities; Stephanie Chivers, a senior adviser in Nashville.

It is pretty remarkable. It is not so easy to be on the staff of a U.S. Senator in the State they represent. Everybody knows who you are. Everywhere you go, you are likely to be sought out by people who need help, people who are hurting. It is easy to get burned out. It is hard to stay in a job like that for that long.

Patrick Jaynes says that while these might be jobs in politics, the politics end when you start the job. You have to work with everyone and help everyone.

Our Tennessee field representatives have traveled thousands of miles, meeting with mayors, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other organizations across our 95 counties.

Caseworkers have handled about 20,000 cases over the years, like getting disability benefits, helping a World War II veteran get a medal, helping a family stranded overseas get home.

For example, Laura Ray Goodrich is a staffer in Jackson. She heard of a single mother having desperate issues getting her tax refund. The mother needed the money to help pay rent and the rest of her bills. Laura got to work and reached out to the IRS. She discovered the mother's returns had been wrong for several years and helped the thrilled single mother recover far more money than she was expecting.

Keith Abraham, who works in the Knoxville office, heard from a Tennessee company about an employee

with a grim cancer diagnosis. The employee's parents lived in China. They were unable to see the employee because of COVID-19 restrictions. Long and short, Keith worked it out so they could receive the appropriate paperwork and fly here to be with their daughter.

One story that I got to see in person was about Wilbur "Bill" Hoffman from World War II. Mary Wooldridge, in our Memphis office, was asked if there was some way he could be recognized for his World War II service. She worked with the service and discovered that he was not only eligible for a Purple Heart after he had been wounded at Pointe du Hoc on D-Day in 1944, he had also earned the Bronze Star and the Ranger Tab awards. In 2012, he was presented with these awards by our State's highest ranking military officer, General Haston at a ceremony I attended. He died a year later.

Each fall, Kay Durham in our office works through about 150 Tennesseans' applications to attend our Nation's service academies. She has worked with over 2,500 candidates applying for those academies.

There is no better State director than Patrick Jaynes. He also served as deputy chief of staff. He worked to create a smooth relationship between what happens in Tennessee and what happens here. I have traveled thousands of miles with Patrick. He has not run into anybody, but we have been through a lot of flat tires and some speeding tickets. Patrick and I have seen it all. He is full of insights. He always has energy for the next event and can always solve a problem.

During my time in the Senate, the conference elected me three times as chairman of the Senate Republican conference. That is a little bit of a political job. What you are supposed to do is come up with something that Republicans can say to counter what Democrats are saying. It is especially a challenge to do that for Republicans to get them to talk on a single message.

All of the Senators—every one of us—are experts in politics or we wouldn't have gotten here. And Republican Senators are especially independent-minded. Republicans and Democrats will often all do things together as a caucus, but we do it differently than they do. Democrats will all hold hands and jump off the cliff together. Republicans will also all jump off the cliff at the same time, but one will do a somersault, one will do a back flip, one will do a dive, and so forth.

The goal was to come up in the caucus with a catchy phrase. For example, on energy, "Find more, use less," or about ObamaCare, "step by step," instead of "comprehensive."

To persuade Senators to say the same thing, staff would record clips of them saying what I thought they should say, and then we would show that back to them at lunch. I found that Senators paid a lot more attention to watching themselves say things

than they did to watching me suggest to them what to say.

It wasn't me doing all that; it was staff doing it. They came up with catchy phrases, many of them. They made sure we communicated them at the conference.

While I was on the Rules Committee, I had a chance—I worked with Senator SCHUMER on that. We were ranking—really, like this year, we didn't know who would be the new President. I had an opportunity to speak at President Obama's inauguration. We talked about the peaceful transfer or the reaffirmation of power as a conspicuous symbol of our democracy. There is no possible way to organize a Presidential inauguration without a superior staff. Mary Jones and Lindsey Seidman were the ones who were in charge of all that for us.

Then, in 2012, on the Senate HELP Committee—as the senior Republican for 2 years, then 6 years as chairman—the staff grew a lot. Senator Ted Kennedy used to say that the HELP Committee had about one-third of the jurisdiction of the Senate. It certainly does a lot of work, and it needs a lot of talented staff members. During my 8 years as the senior Republican, the staff helped organize 209 hearings, 752 witnesses, mostly bipartisan—meaning that I agreed with Senator Harkin first, then Senator MURRAY for the last 6 years, on whom the witnesses would be. We produced 90 bills that have become law.

That is a lot of work—weeks of work by the staff. Securing each witness often takes a host of conversations with Democratic committee staff, numerous phone calls with experts.

Every bill that becomes law takes efforts that are hard to comprehend outside the walls of Congress, from the consultations with constituents and experts to the drafting of the legislation, to the work with other members and outside groups, to consulting, to trying to soothe bruised feelings, to working with other committee members, bring it to the attention of the majority leader, try to find an opportunity for it to be on the Senate calendar, then bill support, then remove holes. There is a lot of work to do in passing a bill and making a law, and staff does most of the work. Senators do a lot, but they can't do it all.

Here are some of the achievements worth highlighting. I mentioned many of them yesterday in my farewell address, so I won't go into great detail about them today; for example, the Every Student Succeeds Act. This was the bill to fix No Child Left Behind. It affects 50 million children in 100,000 schools. President Obama called it “a Christmas miracle.” The Wall Street Journal said it was the largest devolution of power from Washington to the States in 25 years. I will never forget what, to me, was a truly emotional moment, when every Senator on our committee—this is from RAND PAUL to ELIZABETH WARREN—voted to rec-

ommend the bill to the Senate. This law was the result of complicated and nimble work by Peter Oppenheim, Lindsay Fryer, Matt Stern, and David Cleary.

FAFSA Simplification. Twenty million Americans fill out this ridiculously complex form for Federal aid for Pell grants and student loans. You have seen me hold it up on the Senate floor. Everyone agrees it can be 33 instead of 108 questions. Almost everyone agrees it is the major obstacle to low-income students getting Federal aid to go to college because they are intimidated by it. Bob Moran, Lauren Davies, and Andrew LaCasse have worked hard with Senator MURRAY's staff. We have it about half done. We would like to get it across the finish line before the end of the year.

Head Start. In 2007, we came up with the idea. Sarah Rittling was the staffer. It was to establish 200 centers of excellence for the Head Start Program.

Then, in 2005, Katrina came and Rita came, two big hurricanes. Kristin Bannerman was critical to legislation, where we worked with Senator Kennedy, Senator Dodd, and Senator Landrieu for voucher funding to assist with the cost of educating 150,000 public and nonpublic school students in grades K–12 displaced by the hurricane.

Then, reauthorizing the Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. Education Week said it was “a watershed moment.” Staffer Jake Baker worked on that. Senator ENZI did a lot of the heavy work.

I have been fortunate to have two extraordinary women whom I work with on the team of staff on the HELP Committee who handle family health policy: Mary-Sumpter Lapinski and Grace Graham.

Before they started, Melissa Pfaff, Page Kranbuhl, and Marguerite Salee Kondracke were instrumental in passing the PREEMIE Act in 2003, getting the bill well written and signed into law, working with the March of Dimes to help give more babies a chance to live long and healthy lives.

Once I became senior on the HELP Committee, we began to work on the 21st Century Cures Act. Senator MCCONNELL said it was the most important law of that Congress. It helps speed medical innovations to patients in doctors' offices. Margaret Coulter, Andy Vogt, Melissa Pfaff, Brett Meeks, and others spent countless hours getting ready for that.

FDA user fees. This showed Grace Graham's ability to be a traffic cop working with Senator MURRAY's staff and with House committees. We had a really fairly seamless effort to take these complicated pieces of law to collect user fees from drug and device makers and include significant new provisions to speed those drugs and devices into doctors' offices.

The most popular bill that never became a law was called Alexander-Murray. I even bought a case of Scotch called Alexander-Murray to give out to

everybody when it passed, but it never was passed. The result of the immense efforts—the whole goal—was to reduce the cost of healthcare premiums in the individual insurance market. President Trump worked well with us on that. Virginia McMillin and Liz Wroe did countless hours of work, but we couldn't quite get it across the finish line.

Then, this year, there was the shark tank. With the support of Senators BLUNT and SHELBY, we worked together with Francis Collins, of the National Institutes of Health, to create an initiative of \$2.5 billion to produce 50 million more COVID diagnostic tests a month than current technologies would do. Grace Graham, Melissa Pfaff, and Laura Friedel on Senator BLUNT's staff worked on that.

During all of this, Grace Graham was in her third trimester—not during all of it. During the latter part of this, she was in her third trimester. She was working on design policies and being a traffic cop between here and the House. To date, she and Stash, her husband, have had their first child, Penn. She is back at work, and the country is better off for everything that she has contributed.

Our committee leadership positions are often considered the plum positions, but you can do a whole lot with a talented personal staff. Ours has put in long hours and has met expectations. For example, on the Great American Outdoors Act, Anna Newton and Lindsay Garcia did yeoman's work. This is a bill that good people have literally been trying to pass since the Eisenhower years. It was the most important piece of outdoor legislation in that period of time.

With the Music Modernization Act, we worked with Senator Hatch and his staff. We eventually got 85 cosponsors, but this one nearly ran off the road several times. Lindsay Garcia and Paul McKernan made sure it became law.

The America COMPETES Act was back in my early years as a Senator, when I was very junior, so I got the Republican leader and the Democratic leader to cosponsor it. It passed with, I think, more than 60 cosponsors to improve our competitive position in the world.

Matt Sonnesyn and David Cleary were the key staffers on that. They were not just working with staff people around here. For example, with the America COMPETES Act, the bill wouldn't have passed if it had not been for 800 outdoor recreation environmental groups outside of Congress who supported the bill and encouraged Senators to get off planes and come back here to cast crucial votes. We are grateful for that. Matt Sonnesyn worked with the Iraq Study Group recommendations that we made during the George W. Bush years, and Erin Reif and Lucas DaPieve have been experts on foreign affairs and appropriations.

While I have been chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations, we

have had 5 straight years in a row—hopefully, we will have 6—of funding the Office of Science, which supports our 17 National Laboratories. We have also stepped up funding for all of the inland waterways, like Chickamauga Lock, and for supercomputing in order to keep us first in the world. Tom Craig, Tyler Owens, Meyer Seligman, Jen Armstrong, and Adam DeMella all played key roles in that.

I met every week with what I called my Energy Working Group. I found the intersection of energy and environment to be, really, the most fascinating new subject for me during my time as a Senator, and we did a lot of work on that both on the Committee on Appropriations and with other Senators. Meeting with that energy policy staff helped to get the America COMPETES Act passed. It stopped the Road to Nowhere in the Smokies. It pushed back on the efforts to promote Big Wind on our mountain ridges, and it resulted in record funding for energy and water development. Sharon Segner, Jessica Holliday, Conrad Schatte, and Lindsay Garcia all led those teams.

We spend a lot of time working with staff to get the policy right and trying to get the message right. You have to be able to persuade at least half the people that you are right in this business. Words matter. We spend a lot of time on headlines so that we convey what we are trying to do. The individuals who have led our communications unit include Alexia Poe, Harvey Valentine, Lee Pitts, Jim Jeffries, Brian Reisinger, Margaret Atkinson, Liz Wolgemuth, Ashton Davies, and Taylor Haulsee.

You can't run an effective office without a good office manager. We have had the best—Trina Tyrer and Debbie Paul. Misty Marshall came to us from the White House, where she was the director of correspondence for Laura Bush.

One of the toughest, most important jobs in the Senate office that people outside the Senate don't really appreciate as much is the job of scheduling. It requires constant changes, great discretion, enormous promptness, and attention to detail. Every day is a mismatch of meetings and calls. There is no schedule, really, in the U.S. Senate. You just kind of keep up with what is going on, and you put it down on a piece of paper. Suddenly, everything can get wiped out by an emergency call. Bonnie Sansonetti, Sarah Fairchild, and Alicyn York have been the very best.

The legislative director conducts the office orchestra. I have been very fortunate that Allison Martin has been our conductor. She used to work for Bill Frist and Fred Thompson. She is a West Tennessean, but the whole State is what she cares about as well as the country. If you were to look for somebody with her skill and talent, you would be looking for a very long time. David Cleary, Richard Hertling, Matt Sonnesyn, and David Morgenstern were also legislative directors.

One thing I know is I wouldn't be very good as a chief of staff, so I needed a very good chief of staff to do some things that I don't do as well. My first one was Tommy Ingram, whom I have known since 1966 when he was a Tennessean reporter, and I was working for Howard Baker in his second campaign. We have been friends ever since. He was my campaign manager and chief of staff as Governor. He did the same thing. He is really responsible for much of my success in politics.

David Morgenstern joined my staff in 2005 as legislative director, and he became chief of staff in 2009.

Matt Sonnesyn came to me from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He was initially a senior policy adviser. He was one of the few Republican students in the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, so he was well trained in defending his views.

Ryan Loskarn served as chief of staff starting in 2007.

Then, in my personal office, David Cleary has been the chief for the past 7 years. You can see him somewhere in an outrageous red and black suit on the Senate floor. David and I have worked together for almost 15 years. First, he served as staff director for the HELP Subcommittee on Children and Families. He used to work for John Boehner in the House.

In 2014, after becoming the ranking member of the HELP Committee, David suggested, as I said earlier, that he be both chief of staff and staff director of the committee. I recounted how, at first, I thought that was a bad idea, but it was one of the best ideas suggested to me because it made our staff so much more effective and work so much better. It was the key to our success, really, and I do not know of a more effective chief of staff of the Senate than David Cleary. He led our efforts to fix No Child Left Behind, the 21st Century Cures, the reauthorizing of Perkins, and the FDA user fees legislation. I appreciate how much time Marci, his wife, and Maria, their daughter, have given to our team.

To close, I would like to thank all 270 staff members who have given time and energy to our office. One of those, Reynard Graham, has been my administrative right hand for many years. His bigger job is that he is a minister on the weekends. There isn't time to recognize the accomplishments of each one by name, but there are many, and I am grateful to every single individual.

It has been a tremendous gift to work with a skilled and dedicated staff. Each person who has served in this office should be proud of what we have accomplished. I have been so fortunate to have been on the same team with each of you for the last 18 years.

In a farewell address yesterday, I said that I wake up every day thinking I might be able to do something good for our country and that I go to bed most nights thinking that I have. It has been a great privilege to be a U.S. Senator.

It has been a great privilege over these 18 years to work with such an exceptional staff.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a list of the names of my staff.

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

Keith Abraham, Halee Ackerman, Hayley Alexander, Abbey Allen, Stacy (Cline) Amin, Carrie Apostolou, Sarah Arbes, Katie Argo, Jen Armstrong, Abby Atkins, Margaret Atkinson, Jill Bader-Thompson, Jake Baker, Brandon Ball, Aaron Baluczynski, Andy Banducci, Kristin Bannerman-Herrmann, Kathryn Bell, Bailee Beshires, Anthony Birch.

Jeremy Boshwit, Lyndsay Botts, Jennifer Boyer, Charlie Brereton, Kelly Brexler, Palmer Brigham, Justine Brittain, Louie Brogdon, Austin Bryan, Adam Buckalew, Brenda Buescher, Ace Burch, Jonathan Burke, Andrew Burnett, David Campbell, Will Campbell, Victoria (Souza) Campbell, Meredith Carter, Laura Chambers-Crist, Robbie Champion.

Jane Chedester, Stephanie Chivers, Sarah Chu, David Cleary, Joseph Cody, Chris Connolly, Molly Conway, Mary Catherine Cook, Hannah Cornwell, Margaret Coulter, Tom Craig, Sydney Crawford, Starling Crossan, Joseph Cwiklinski, Lucas DaPieve, Ashton Davies, Elizabeth Davis, Adam DeMella, Evan Dixon, Christine Dodd.

Kay Durham, Emily Durnin, Jennifer Ellis, Grant English, Seth Ephrussi, Greg Facchiano, Sarah Fairchild, Anna Catherine Feaster, Qur'an Folsom, Kyle (Hicks) Fortson, Harrison Fox, Jr., Emily France, Evann Freeman, Lindsey Fryer, Alice Ganier, Kitty Ganier, Lindsay Garcia, Jaime Garden, Nick Geale, Elizabeth Gibson.

Randall Gibson, Jr., Houston Goddard, Meredith Good-Cohn, Laura Ray Goodrich, Carolyn Gorman, Elizabeth Gorman, Reynard Graham, Grace (Stuntz) Graham, John Grant, Jon Grayson, Sarah Greene, Sharon Hagget, Daniel Hale, Jeremy Harrell, Brandon Harrison, Heather Hatcher, Jenn Hatfield, Taylor Haulsee, Crystal Hayslett, Faye Head.

William Heartsill, Alicia Hennie, Richard Hertling, John Herzog, Laura (Lefler) Herzog, Kai Hirabayashi, Madison Hite, Jessica Holliday, Alexander Honeycutt, Derek Horne, Elizabeth Howell, Haley Hudler, Kara Huffstutter, Jones Hussey, Jordan Hynes, Joel Igelhart, Neena Imam, Tom Ingram, Charlotte Jackson, Patrick Jaynes.

Jill Jaynes, Jim Jeffries, Lora Jobe, Tonya Johnson, Madeline Jurch, Nora Khalil, Lina Kilani, Kimberly Kirkpatrick, Emily Kirlin, Katherine Knight, Bill Knudsen, Hillary Knudson, Page Kranbuhl, Andrew LaCasse, Lesley Landrum, Mary-Sumpter Lapinski, Trey Lefler, Jeff Lewis, Bridget Lipscomb, Rachel Littleton.

Anne Locke, Brett Logan, Linda Long, Ryan Loskarn, Molly Lukic, Nick Magallanes, Christina Mandreucci, Molly Marsh, Misty Marshall, Allison Martin, David McAdam, Meghan McCully, Paul McKernan, Mackensie (Burt) McKernan, Bobby McMillin, Virginia (Heppner) McMillin, Kayla McMurry, Brett Meeks, Michael Merrell, Will Meyer IV.

Latonya Miller, Meade Miller-Carlisle, Scot Montrey, Lana Moore, Bob Moran, David Morgenstern, Jennifer Moroney, Nicole Morse, Brandon Morton, Kim Morton, Jeff Muhs, Patrick Murray, Katie Neal, Beth Nelson, Anna Newton, Laura Marks O'Brien, Andrew Offenburger, Katie Oglesby, Peter Oppenheim, Tyler Owens.

Mary Parkerson, Will Patterson, Debbie Paul, Megan Paulsen, Austin Payne, Constance Payne, Laura Pence, Kelly Perry,

Morgan Petty, Melissa Pfaff, Charlie Phelps, Jr.; Lee Pitts, Alexia Poe, Greg Proseus, Erin Reif, Brian Reisinger, Sarah Rittling, John Rivard, Michelle Rodriguez, Adam Rondinone.

Kristin Rosa, Kristyn Royster, Marguerite (Sallee) Kondracke, Bonnie Sansonetti, Sandra SawanLara, Conrad Schatte, Lowell Schiller, Michael Schulz, Lauren (Davies) Schwensen, Kelly Scott, Sharon Segner, Lindsey (Ward) Seidman, Meyer Seligman, Erin Shea, Trina (Eager) Shiffman, Tyler Shrive, Aliza (Fishbein) Silver, Tiffany Smith, Kathleen Smith, LaShawnda Smith.

Rhonda Smithson, Charles Snodgrass, Matt Sonnesyn, Daniel Soto, Kristin (Nelson) Spiridon, Riley Stamper, Daniel Stanley, Matthew Stern, Deborah Sturdivant, Bill Sullivan, Carey Sullivan, Curtis Swager, Caroline Taylor, Rhonda Thames, Josh Thomas, Nathan Thomas, Kristi Thompson, Sean Thurman, Kara Townsend, Diane Tran.

Bill Tucker, Harvey Valentine, Tim Valentine, Curtis Vann, Matt Varino, Andy Vogt, Sandra Wade, Jack Wells, Marty West, Mitch Whalen, Rob Wharton, Louann White, Donovan Whiteside, Brent Wiles, Samantha Williams, Liz Wolgemuth, Mary Wooldridge, Liz Wroe, Sharon Yecies, Alicyn York.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, let me join with so many of my colleagues in wishing our distinguished friend and Senator from Tennessee best wishes.

Thank you, Senator ALEXANDER, for your incredible leadership and working across the aisle. So many good things that you have talked about are so meaningful to all of us. I appreciate the way you have conducted yourself with the committees and with Members, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with you. Electric vehicles didn't quite get across the line this year with what we wanted to do in terms of tax cuts, but I appreciate the chance to have been able to partner with you. Certainly, I wish you the best in your next steps in work as you end the year with your family. In whatever you do, I know you will be very successful.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, it might be hard to believe it is actually December. In normal times, a lot of families in Michigan would be focused on getting ready for the holidays, and while Michigan children might still be counting down the days until Santa arrives, their parents have a lot bigger issues weighing on their minds.

A Michigan dad has been out of work for months and is wondering how long his family will be able to keep scraping by in the new year after his unemployment runs out.

A Michigan single mom whose hours have been cut and who has been unable to pay the rent for months is wondering just how long it will be until her family will be out on the street.

The owner of a Michigan small business is wondering if he will see enough of a holiday boost to keep the doors

open and his three employees on the payroll.

A Michigan retiree who struggles to buy enough groceries is wondering if it is safe to wait in a long line at her local food bank or if that is where she will get sick.

Michigan families who have seen almost 9,300 of their grandparents and neighbors and uncles and cousins and friends and community leaders get sick and die from this horrible virus are wondering who is going to be next.

The truth is that we are not just facing a health crisis right now—we are facing an economic crisis; we are facing a housing crisis; and we are facing a hunger crisis all at the same time. Coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths keep rising, and we haven't even seen the effects of Thanksgiving gatherings yet. We are seeing unemployment claims tick up, and those are expected to get worse after seasonal jobs will be cut in January.

Some studies have estimated that about 40 million renters in the United States are at risk of losing their homes. There are already 10,000 eviction actions that have been filed in a number of States. Those are 10,000 families who need to find new places to live right now, in the winter, in the middle of a health pandemic.

We have all seen the massive lines of cars at food banks across the country. In a normal year, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan helps about 14 percent of the population in 22 counties get enough food to eat. This year, it is helping 40 percent to put food on the table. Before COVID-19, the South Michigan Food Bank provided food to about 80 families a week. Now it is helping more than 500 families a week. This is an emergency. These families, businesses, community organizations, and seniors can't just wait around, hoping for a Christmas miracle. They need help now, and it is our responsibility to do it now.

That is why I am so pleased that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been working to come together on additional help. There are still a lot of details to work out, but I am hopeful, in being part of the process on the workings of the details, that we are going to be able to come together on an agreement that will help families and businesses and communities get through these tough times.

Whatever agreement we reach won't be perfect. We know that. It won't be everything everybody wants. Yet we can't wait because time is quickly running out. On December 26—only 23 days from now—vital unemployment programs will expire, cutting off benefits that millions of workers will need to be able to provide for their families.

If you are self-employed, if you are a contract worker, if you are a gig worker, suddenly you will have zero help—zero.

Five days after that, on December 31, the Federal Reserve's emergency lending program ends. That will cut off cru-

cial credit that is keeping businesses open and helping State and local governments provide necessary services.

Also on December 31, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium expires, and the Federal foreclosure moratorium and some opportunities for forbearance expire.

Imagine what it would be like to begin a new year with no roof over your head or your family's, no place for your children to sleep, and no place to stay clean in the middle of a raging pandemic.

And on January 1, millions of student loan borrowers will have to resume their payments whether they can afford them or not.

These programs have been, literally, a lifeline for families, for communities, for businesses during the pandemic. And while vaccines are on the horizon and we are so happy to hear the progress, this pandemic is far from over. Cutting off this vital help now would be like an ambulance driver stopping 2 miles short of the hospital and making the accident victim get out and walk the rest of the way to the emergency room.

We need to face this health crisis, this economic crisis, this housing crisis, this hunger crisis with seriousness and boldness. People in Michigan and across the country are crying out for help. It is time for this body to listen. It is time for Congress to lead.

We should not go home until we have passed at least a short-term survival package to help Americans through the next few months. That is our job. That is our job, and we should not go home until that job is done.

We are the United States of America—United States of America. Nothing is holding us back from helping our citizens other than people's unwillingness to do it. Nothing.

We are the United States of America. There is no reason we are not coming together, and shame on the Congress and the White House if we don't act now to help our citizens.

There is nothing holding us back but the political will to do it, and it needs to get done. There are many of us now on both sides of the aisle working to do that, and we need to make sure that people lean in together and get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from West Virginia.

REMEMBERING OFFICER CASSIE JOHNSON

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to talk of one of West Virginia's very own—Police Officer Cassie Johnson.

Officer Johnson was a member of her hometown of Charleston's police department, where she joined less than 2 short years ago.

She was a devoted daughter, sister, a loyal friend, and a lover of animals.