

one reason: The Republican leader has refused to compromise. Again, today we heard the same old song from the Republican leader. His position has not budged since March. First, he put the Senate on pause while the spread of the virus got worse and worse. Then, after pressure mounted, the Republican leader finally decided to put forward a series of bills that comprised only the things the Republicans want.

While the Nation has been clamoring for a bipartisan solution, the Senate, under the leadership of the Republican leader, has only been allowed to vote on partisan Republican proposals, each of which has been sorely inadequate and each of which has contained poison pills designed to ensure the bill's failure.

The Republican leader never mentions those poison pills in his speeches to this Chamber where he excoriates Democrats for refusing to pass "bipartisan legislation" that everyone agrees on. But "bipartisan" does not mean Democrats must agree to whatever the Republican leader wants or whatever issues he picks. "Bipartisan" means both sides sitting down and finding an agreement. We all know that is the case.

We have a Democratic House. They are going to need Democratic votes in the Senate. So Senate Democrats are simply asking the Republican leader to do one thing: Sit down and negotiate.

Now, since March, since Secretary Mnuchin and I negotiated the CARES bill, the Republican leader has constantly refused to sit down with Republicans and negotiate a bipartisan solution. He puts his bill—with no Democratic input—on the floor and says, "Take it or leave it." That is no way—no way—to get things done. It wasn't in April or May or June or July or August or September or November, and it isn't now.

We want the leader to sit down and negotiate so we can come up with a bipartisan proposal that can pass both the House and the Senate. And Speaker PELOSI and I have modified our proposal several times in an effort to meet our Republican counterparts in the middle. Last week, Speaker PELOSI and I went even further and agreed to use a bipartisan bill, crafted by moderate Senators from both sides of the aisle, as a framework for the negotiations. We have not heard the same willingness from the Republican leader.

However, there are some encouraging signs. The bipartisan group of Senators and House Members working on this latest proposal continues to make progress. I was encouraged to see the Senator from Louisiana this weekend say he was hopeful the President would sign such an agreement. Let's use the work of the Gang of 8 as the basis for bipartisan negotiations and compromise.

The bottom line: We have to get something done for the American people before the end of the year. We Democrats have been trying since the

spring, back when Republicans were saying they did "not feel the urgency of acting." I believe those were the leader's words.

Well, it is going to take a sense of urgency now, Mr. Leader, and it is going to take a willingness to give a little, not just to put your bill on the floor and say: Take it or leave it.

As I said, it is encouraging that some Republicans are already on that path. Hopefully, the Republican leader can catch up with the more fairminded Members of his caucus.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now, on nominations—another matter. The incoming Biden administration continues to name candidates it will tap to lead Cabinet agencies and other key positions in the Federal Government.

Today, President-Elect Biden introduced his healthcare team, including Dr. Fauci, who will stay on—thank God—as Chief Medical Adviser; Dr. Vivek Murthy to serve as Surgeon General; Dr. Rochelle Walensky to head the CDC; and Xavier Becerra, the attorney general of California, to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Like most of President-Elect Biden's selections so far, Mr. Becerra's nomination is groundbreaking. He will be the first Latino to ever run the Department of Health and Human Services.

Now, these nominees, once confirmed, will face a monumental task. President-Elect Biden will inherit a once-in-a-generation healthcare crisis—a crisis made worse by the Trump administration's lack of focus, competency, and consistency over the past year.

By naming a deeply experienced and tested team of senior healthcare advisers, President-Elect Biden is getting ready to right the ship and execute a whole-of-government approach to crushing the virus and providing affordable healthcare to all Americans.

As safe and effective vaccines become available over the next year, President-Elect Biden's team will also have to work with States and healthcare providers to get Americans vaccinated.

To state the obvious, healthcare is going to be the No. 1 challenge when the new administration takes office. We are in the middle of a once-in-a-century public health crisis. Accordingly, President-Elect Biden's team should be confirmed swiftly to ensure that no time is lost in the fight against the pandemic.

Regrettably, there is a split screen this week between the seriousness of the incoming Biden administration and the activities of the Republican majority here in the Senate.

On Tuesday, the Republican chairman of the Homeland Security Committee has invited Dr. Jane Orient to give testimony at a hearing in his committee. Dr. Orient is a member of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons—a benign-sounding name that obscures some dangerous policies.

According to the New York Times, Dr. Orient's association "opposes government involvement in medicine and views Federal vaccine mandates as a violation of human rights."

Dr. Orient herself has expressed skepticism about coronavirus vaccines and continues to hawk hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment, following the lead of President Trump, who boosted the drug despite scientific evidence that it is ineffective.

So while President-Elect Biden is nominating experienced, committed public servants to lead the next administration's healthcare policy, the Republican majority is inviting prominent anti-vaxxers to Senate committee hearings—a study in contrasts, to say the least.

After one of the most difficult years in recent memory, we finally have a light at the end of the tunnel in the discovery of several effective and safe vaccines. They are the best chance we have of ending the terrible scourge of this disease and getting our lives back to normal.

And yet, the effectiveness of the vaccine only matters insofar as the number of Americans who are willing to take it. The more Senate Republicans dip their toes into the water of these anti-science, anti-vax conspiracy theories, the more damage it does to our country. Public figures at all levels should be building up confidence in a vaccine, not giving a platform to those who would undermine it.

The Senator from Wisconsin, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, should revoke his invitation to Dr. Orient.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I came to the floor to talk about some other things, but I just want to say in response to our friend, the Democratic leader, it sounds to me that he has got a case of "do as I say, not as I do" when it comes to COVID-19 relief bills.

If my memory serves me correctly, he has led the effort to block the Senate's consideration of five different COVID-19 relief bills.

Speaker PELOSI has made the incredible statement that "nothing is better than something" when it comes to COVID-19 relief. That is easy to say when you are still getting a paycheck, when you have a job you can go do, and you can provide for your family, and you have access to healthcare.

But for the millions of Americans who have suffered through this pandemic, those are words that sound a lot like Marie Antoinette: "Let them eat cake."

I mention this because I have been around this place long enough to know that, unless you tell people the whole story, too often they believe the talking points and the half story or the incomplete story, like we heard from the Democratic leader.

It is shameful that, after passing four separate COVID-19 relief bills, including the CARES Act, through the end of March on a virtually unanimous basis, that Speaker PELOSI chose to pass a partisan bill out of the House, the Heroes bill, for another \$3 trillion, including things like tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires in New York and San Francisco, unrelated to the COVID-19 relief bill that we needed.

So I applaud the group of bipartisan Senators who have been working now, after the election, to try to come up with the relief rather than kicking this can down the road and leaving people in the lurch during the Christmas holiday season.

And then when it comes to a vaccine, I have no doubt that the incoming administration is going to claim complete credit for producing a vaccine and getting this virus in the rearview mirror.

I understand why they would be tempted to do so, but it is because of the bipartisan action that Congress has taken with this administration through Operation Warp Speed that we have seen our world-class scientists come up with safe and effective, I hope, soon-to-be-certified vaccines by the Food and Drug Administration, and people can begin to start getting vaccinated by the middle of this month. That is a modern-day miracle. We should all be proud of it, but it should not be part of a partisan campaign now after we have had an election on November 3.

I wish our friends would get out of the campaign mode and get into the governing mode. We have got important work we need to do here.

JENNA QUINN LAW

Madam President, part of that is the Jenna Quinn Law. This bipartisan piece of legislation that I introduced with Senator HASSAN over a year and a half ago to help identify and stop child sexual abuse in communities across our country has passed the Senate unanimously but is stuck in the House of Representatives.

Nationwide, there are more than 42,000 survivors of child sex abuse—adults now, 42 million adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

Sadly, these victims often stay silent for days, months, years, even a lifetime. As a result, they and countless other victims continue to be abused. We need to stop this cycle as quickly as possible, and that is why the Jenna Quinn Law is so important.

It is modeled after a 2009 Texas law, which requires teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children to receive training on how to identify and report child sexual abuse.

After the Texas law passed in 2009, one study found educators reported child sexual abuse at a rate almost four times greater after the training than they got during their pretraining career.

Jenna Quinn herself tells the story of her own mother saying: If I had just

known that you were showing all the classic symptoms of a victim of child sexual abuse, I would have intervened sooner.

Well, the 2009 Texas law was one of the first to mandate this training, and now more than half of all the States have adopted a form of Jenna's Law. So you may ask: Why do we need to pass a Federal law? Well, the States don't have the funding for the training, and that is what the Jenna Quinn Law provides. It allows current Department of Health and Human Services grant funds to be used for this specialized training.

This bill has received the support of every member of the Senate Health Committee—Republicans and Democrats, not surprisingly—and it has passed the Senate unanimously, but it has been months, and we are still waiting for the House of Representatives to act.

Just last week, House Democrats, under Speaker PELOSI, did find time to act on a bill to decriminalize marijuana; on a bill to deal with large cats, the "Tiger King" bill. But did they have time to provide assistance to small businesses? Did they find time to pass bipartisan COVID-19 relief? Did they find time to pass the Jenna Quinn Law, which I am sure, if put on their suspension calendar, would pass very quickly and go to the President for his signature?

In a move that defies common sense, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee in the House, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, is blocking—blocking—the Jenna Quinn Law.

He voted to decriminalize marijuana; he voted to ban the private ownership of big cats, but he won't even let the Jenna Quinn Law receive an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Well, if you are confused by the logic of this move, you are not alone, especially because the urgency for this legislation has only grown during the pandemic.

As families have stayed at home as part of the mitigation efforts, their lives have been filled with a range of new stressors. Loss of income, isolation, health anxiety, and the stress of teaching children at home can test even the healthiest families and relationships. But they also put children at a higher risk for abuse and neglect.

In April of this year, nationwide reports of abuse or neglect dropped an average of 40 percent compared to the same time last year. Now, ordinarily, you would say: Well, that is good news. But the reason the reports of abuse and neglect have dropped is because children have not been going to their classrooms, where the teachers who train in identifying these signs and symptoms can see them and help them by intervening.

In 2018, two-thirds of the reports of child abuse were submitted by people who came in contact with children as part of their jobs. I mentioned teach-

ers, counselors, caregivers, also police officers, lawyers, social services, but predominantly teachers who see these children at school.

Teachers, educational professionals, and other support staff at schools, like busdrivers, are responsible for more than half of the reports of child abuse.

But as I said, with children home during the pandemic, out of sight from their teachers and other adults they would otherwise see on a routine basis, abuse is becoming more difficult to identify and report, not because it is not happening but because these children are having to suffer silently, living with, perhaps locked down with, their abuser.

As the stresses of the pandemic and the lack of reporting take a violent toll on our children across the country, it is time for action, not excuses, not decriminalizing marijuana, not a "Tiger King" bill but passing legislation that will actually make their lives better, give them some hope—not action at some time in the future but now.

And there is one person in the House of Representatives who is holding that up right now, and he is Chairman SCOTT.

Children are suffering every day. They are not worried about politics or whether Chairman SCOTT has the leverage he needs to advance a larger partisan bill later on next year. These victims are worried about their own safety. They are worried about: How much longer will it be until some adult identifies my abuse and gets me out of this abusive relationship—gets me out of a living nightmare?

Well, the sort of mindless obstruction we are seeing from Chairman SCOTT in the House exemplifies everything people loathe about Congress—holding up a bill to prevent child sexual abuse as a means to gain political leverage for a bigger partisan bill. It is just shameful. Let's call it what it is—shameful.

It is time for Chairman SCOTT to stop blocking the Jenna Quinn Law so we can provide training to the men and women most likely to stop the cycle of child sexual abuse.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, finally, last week on the Senate floor, I spoke briefly about our retiring colleague Senator MIKE ENZI, from Wyoming, and some wisdom he imparted to me shortly after I arrived in the Senate—something he calls the 80-20 rule. As my friend from Wyoming told me, you are never going to agree or disagree with somebody 100 percent of the time, but that doesn't mean you can't get important work done. So instead of just focusing on the 20 percent you cannot agree on, look at the 80 percent you can agree on.

I hope all of my colleagues will remember this formula for success in the coming days as we work to deliver another round of coronavirus relief for the American people. It is clear that we are never going to agree 100 percent of the time on what that bill should