

businesses that need the help the most. It is really more targeted this time. It is targeted relief for some of our hardest hit industries, including our airlines and our mass transit industry.

It includes funds to help those Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own—the unemployment insurance extension that I talked about earlier. As a bridge to normalcy, we need this funding. It provides funds for State, local, and Tribal governments based on their revenue shortfalls or their expenses due to COVID—in other words, needs-based.

We are also working on commonsense liability reforms to give businesses, nonprofits, schools, healthcare providers, religious organizations, and others the legal protection they need to reopen with the confidence that they are not going to be subjected to frivolous lawsuits that could put them out of business. That is really important because getting these businesses back up and running is a critical part of getting our economy through these next few months. In my view, these protections are essential.

I am hopeful that both sides can now come together and find common ground on liability protections that we can all support. Several of my colleagues are working on a proposal here, right now, in the U.S. Senate. All of this gives us hope that we will have better days around the corner.

By the way, this proposal is not what any of us would write. It is not the proposal I would write. It is not the proposal our Presiding Officer, who is here in the Chamber, would write. Personally, I would put more emphasis on tax incentives for hiring. We have some good proposals for that. I would put tax incentives in place to get businesses to reopen safely—one called the healthy workplaces tax credit so they could get compensated for putting up the partitions or for having the PPE and providing safer work environments. I would expand the work opportunity tax credit to help those, again, who are on the sidelines in order to bring them back to work through a credit. I would help with regard to the employee retention credit, which was in the CARES Act, that could pick up some of these companies that aren't picked up by the PPP program, companies that have slightly more employees, let's say, so that they don't otherwise qualify.

So there is more I would like to do, but do you know what? This proposal is needed. It is needed so badly that, of course, all of us, regardless of our particular interests or our particular ideas, know it is right, and all of us should get behind it. Let's not make the perfect the enemy of the good—I would even say the enemy of the necessary. Targeted relief now, I think, is the right approach.

Most importantly, all of these significant economic problems I laid out and the healthcare crisis I laid out need to be addressed now. As I said ear-

lier, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for the health side of this crisis, and our proposal that I have been talking about also helps us get there because it has more funding for vaccine development and vaccine distribution. I talked today to some experts in that area who know a lot more about it than I do, and they said it is necessary. We actually have to provide more funding to keep the vaccine train moving so that, by March and April, we will have it widely available. Again, my hope is that Americans will step up and be vaccinated.

By the way, there is also bipartisan legislation that four of us introduced last week—two Republicans, two Democrats—to provide for a public service campaign, not with politicians talking about the importance, as I am doing tonight, but with the experts talking about why the science says that it is a good idea to get vaccinated—again, just like we do for smallpox or polio or the measles.

Will another COVID-19 bill solve every problem we face right now? No, but we could do a lot with this proposal to help the most vulnerable individuals just get by for the next several months rather than slip into poverty, rather than miss out on mortgage payments or miss out on their rent, miss out on their car payments, and other bad outcomes. We can help the most vulnerable businesses keep their lights on and their employees on payroll. Frankly, this is work we should have been doing months ago, but we are here now. Let's get it done.

My hope is that we can end this year by recapturing that spirit of bipartisanship that was on display in March of this year when we passed the CARES package here in the U.S. Senate by a vote of 96 to nothing. That doesn't happen very often. The CARES Act was not a perfect bill either, but we all recognized it was a bill needed for the moment. I hope we can also recognize that another bill is needed now even if it is not perfect. Let's build on the bipartisan proposal we have put forward, and let's ensure that the people we represent get the targeted economic relief they desperately need in the coming months.

Folks, let's not leave for the holidays until we have done that.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO TOM UDALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, when Senator TOM UDALL announced last year that he would not seek reelection, he said, "The worst thing anyone in public office can do is believe the office belongs to them, rather than to the people they represent." Throughout his more than three decades of service to his State and to our Nation, TOM has demonstrated time and again his adherence to that principle. As New Mexico's attorney general, Congressman, and Senator, he has always treated public office as a public trust.

Everyone who serves in this Chamber takes an oath to support and defend our Constitution. That remarkable document begins with three words TOM lives by, "We the People."

That commitment to our Constitution was put to the test in early 2019 when the President issued an emergency declaration that diverted \$ 3.6 billion from 127 military construction projects that Congress duly approved and funded and the President had signed into law. TOM stood strong against this clear violation of the separation of powers doctrine that is so vital to our enduring Republic, and I was proud to stand with him.

In a powerful floor statement on the resolution we introduced to overturn the emergency declaration, TOM got right to the point. He said:

This is no longer about the president's wall. This is not about party. This is about protecting the very heart of our American system of governance. Congress—and only Congress—holds the power of the purse.

TOM also made clear that this encroachment upon Congress's authority was not an isolated incident but part of a dangerous pattern Congress has permitted over many decades and under many Presidents. And make no mistake—the hyperpartisanship that afflicts Congress far too often aids and abets this lamentable historical trend. By pursuing a bipartisan response to this Executive overreach, TOM helped to make real progress in defending the separation of powers.

It has been a pleasure to work with Tom on many other issues over the years. From land conservation and environmental protection to rural health care and pandemic relief, he has been an informed and effective legislative partner.

TOM leaves the Senate with an impressive record of accomplishments. Even more important, he leaves a legacy of reverence for our Constitution and courage in defending it. I thank him for his service to the people of our Nation and wish him well in the years to come.

REMEMBERING ERNIE BAPTISTA

• Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we recently lost a great Rhode Islander, Ernie Baptista.

Ernie was immensely successful in his professional life; his wise counsel was sought not just around the country but around the globe. Ernie was also a civic-minded community leader at home, with a passion for politics. He immersed himself in Rhode Island's political whirl, where he was well liked and well regarded by people of many different political perspectives. Ernie's keen insight and advice was relied upon by many candidates, including myself and Senator REED. We both treasured Ernie's quick wit, sharp intellect, and great sense of humor. He was bright, insightful, and loyal and always provided wise counsel.

Ernie enjoyed the good things in life: good friends, good meals, and good

works. We will fondly remember Ernie with a trademark cigar in hand and a smile on his face and the way his presence filled every room he entered. We will remember his generous and kind spirit, which lifted us all.

Our deepest condolences go to Ernie's beloved family, Sharon, Peter, and Jennifer. We mourn your great loss.

To Ernie, rest in peace, dear friend.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID E. BENOR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am honored to thank and congratulate one of my constituents and one of the Federal Government's unsung heroes, David E. "Dave" Benor, who is retiring on January 3, 2021, after more than 48 years of service as a public health attorney at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the General Counsel, HHS-OGC.

After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1972, Mr. Benor began his career at HHS-OGC and never left, rising to positions of increasing responsibility throughout the years. Since 2004, he has served as the Associate General Counsel for Public Health. In this leadership role, he has led HHS-OGC's Public Health Division, a 100-person office within HHS-OGC that provides legal services to the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Surgeon General, and multiple agencies that comprise the Public Health Service, including the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Indian Health Service, the Health Services and Resources Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Mr. Benor has worked extensively on product liability, grant law, organ transplant, and vaccine issues, and has particular expertise with the Public Health Service safety net programs, in public health emergency response issues, and in implementing regulatory and compensation programs.

Mr. Benor has dedicated his entire career to implementing HHS's mission to advance the health of all people. He has done this by providing authoritative legal advice on major health initiatives, including those related to bioterrorism preparedness, biomedical research, organ transplantation, vaccine development and liability, and the provision of healthcare to medically underserved populations through such programs as the community health center program, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and maternal and child health grants. He has been a key legal adviser on the Department's international health initiatives, including Afghan and Iraqi reconstruction, global AIDS programs, and quarantine activities for diseases such as SARS, pandemic influenza, and monkey pox, and has been part of multidisciplinary teams working on the public health response to the War on Terrorism, including the response to anthrax attacks, smallpox vaccine development,

COVID-19, and pharmaceutical stockpile development.

Mr. Benor has received numerous awards throughout his career. In 2012, President Barack Obama awarded Mr. Benor the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, one of the highest awards that a career Senior Executive Service member may receive.

Dave Benor's impact on public health will be felt for years to come both through his work on a wide variety of public health programs and by the inspiring example he has provided for the many attorneys with whom he worked and mentored. I was pleased to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend as a symbol of our Nation's thanks to this outstanding public servant.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dave Benor for his distinguished service to our country and to wish him all the best in the coming years as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FRYE

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the career of New Hampshire State Trooper Scott Frye, who recently retired from the force.

A native of Milford, NH, Scott served with the New Hampshire State Police for more than 22 years as a road trooper, a member of the narcotics unit, and most recently as head of the executive protection detail. During his time in executive protection, Scott served under three Governors, including for 4 years during my time as Governor.

Through our work together, I saw firsthand Scott's commitment to the Granite State. He always sees the big picture; he can step into a room and immediately assess it and the people in it, both as a security risk, but also for need. Scott can find a way to connect with and put almost anyone at ease. As a result, he is greeted as a welcome friend wherever he goes in New Hampshire.

While Scott served for nearly a dozen years on the security detail of Governors, he never lost sight of his commitment and obligation to protect the safety of every person in New Hampshire.

Scott's experience and deep understanding of the Granite State were an important benefit to those he worked with. When we would travel to sites of natural disasters during my time as Governor, Scott always had a sense about who needed to be checked in with and what a community or a public safety official needed in challenging times. Even when his day ended and he was officially off-duty, if he were on his way home and an extra State trooper was needed, he would be there to help in any way that he could.

Perhaps nothing exemplifies Scott's dedication, bravery, and heroism more

than when he was driving Governor John Lynch in 2012 and they witnessed an accident. A car had gone through a guardrail, fallen into an embankment, and caught fire. Scott pulled over, and along with an off-duty firefighter, freed a man who was trapped in the vehicle—just seconds before it was engulfed in flames. For his lifesaving action, Scott was honored with a number of awards, including a Carnegie Medal, a national honor that recognizes those who risk their lives to an extraordinary degree while saving or attempting to save the lives of others.

Throughout his service, Scott approached everything with humor, kindness, and patience. He never complained, and he always served with an incredible amount of professionalism.

Above all, Scott's main commitment was to his family. His service would not have been possible without the support and love of his wife Susan, his sons Zachary and Matthew, and his extended family.

I am grateful for Scott's friendship and his years of dedication to the people of New Hampshire. His retirement is well-deserved, and I know that he will continue to look for ways to improve his community and the entire Granite State.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing the years of service of State Trooper Scott Frye.●

REMEMBERING DEE BENSON

● Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Judge Dee Benson, who passed away this week after a heroic battle with cancer. Dee had a remarkable and far-reaching legal career, making an impact throughout Utah and the country. But even more than that, he has made an indelible mark as a beloved teacher, mentor, role model, and friend.

Dee grew up on small farm in Jordan, UT, across from the old Jordan High School. He served a 2-year mission in Sweden for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and afterwards attended BYU, graduating in 1973 with a degree in physical education. After a brief stint as a student teacher and soccer coach at Hillcrest High, he decided to change career paths and on a whim applied to law school.

Dee stumbled onto what would become a brilliant vocation in law. He was one of the very first law students at Brigham Young University, when my late father, Rex Lee, was founding BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School. Dee quickly took to law, grasping legal concepts with speed and ease, and soon became a star of his class, even without spending all his time in the library. He was an equally affable student, loved by all of his classmates. A gifted athlete, he still managed to participate in school activities and sports while in law school, even playing for the soccer team during his final year and finishing near the top of his class.

After graduating in 1976, Dee spent a few months playing professional soccer