

We are just days away from working together and being able to get that done, and it will serve all students, no matter how, no matter where they learn.

And for our farmers, speaking as the incoming chair of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, our farmers who have been directly affected by the ups and downs of the pandemic, the plan addresses the break in the food supply chain, and it enables us to buy and donate their products to food banks.

You know, we had so many selling to restaurants and big enterprises, the food supply chain stopped. They have excess food. I know dairy farmers in Michigan; it breaks their hearts to think of the idea of dumping milk when we need that.

So the efforts that are in this bill will help them be able to move from a bulk supply chain to be able to get gallon jugs, put the milk into the hands of families, and stop the wasting of precious, valuable food that our families need. This is going to help farmers' bottom lines, and it feeds families in need.

Our agriculture provisions also provide critical funding for PPE for farmworkers and workers who labor every day in food processing plants so we have the food that we need—protective equipment that they need and that they deserve.

The plan also targets help for farmers of color who have been hit especially hard by the pandemic, on top of the historical challenges and discrimination they have faced in accessing land and capital. The plan provides critical debt relief to help them weather the storm and keep their operations going until the next growing season.

Vaccinating Americans, providing economic help for families, getting our children back to school safely, those are the three main goals of this plan.

All of these goals have one thing in common: It is about investing in people. It is about putting people first—the American people first. Over our Nation's history, the policies that have truly been lifting people out of poverty and moved them forward have invested in people, from our land grant universities to social security and Medicare and Medicaid, to the Civil Rights Act, to the Children's Health Insurance Program, to increasing the minimum wage. And these are all policies, I am proud to say, created and supported by Democrats.

Investing in our people helps American families, and it helps our economy too. We have seen these Democratic policies create more jobs when you look at the numbers. When we look at the numbers, under which policies and which Presidents have we seen more good-paying jobs? And over and over again it is Democratic Presidents because of the way that we invest. It is what we do, how we invest, to create opportunity to give everybody a fair shot to succeed, to invest in people and

opportunity. Those things have created better economies and more jobs.

So, broadly, we are committed to making sure everyone shares in the prosperity of our country, and these policies create the conditions necessary to help people dream big dreams and actually achieve them.

It is a new year. It is a new Congress. It is time to act. It is time to end this pandemic, give families the economic support they need, and get our children safely back to school. This is the moment. This is the moment we need to think big. We need to be bold. We need to lean in on policies that we know work—because they have worked before.

Americans know how to meet the moment, and our moment is now.

I yield the floor.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, 50 million Americans, including 17 million children, are facing food insecurity because of this public health and economic crisis, with Black and Latino families more likely to go hungry. In New Mexico, one in three children and one in five adults are at risk of hunger. In the wealthiest country in the world, this is simply unacceptable.

The budget resolution focuses on getting relief to the people who need it most, beginning with an extension of the 15-percent increase in supplemental nutrition assistance benefits through September of 2021. Increasing SNAP benefits has proven to be one of the most effective forms of economic stimulus, and it has the dual benefit of allowing families to purchase the food that they need to stay healthy, as well as supporting businesses that accept SNAP dollars.

The budget resolution also bolsters the WIC Program to ensure that children and their mothers have access to a nutritious diet necessary for healthy development, an important investment in the future of our country. This funding increase is especially significant for States like New Mexico, where nearly a quarter of children are born into families with incomes that fall below the Federal poverty line.

In addition to addressing hunger, this resolution includes critical support for the people who grow our food, produce our food—our farmers and ranchers. In New Mexico, farmers and ranchers, who were already struggling due to drought conditions, face new challenges due to COVID-19. Shuttered restaurants left chile growers and dairy farmers without their customer base and scrambling to find new markets. Ranchers

experienced long delays at meat packing plants where workers were hard hit by COVID-19. Those workers need help too. The pandemic also made it harder to find workers to cultivate the land and tend to the animals.

This resolution also supports a provision I advocated for to provide debt relief for minority and disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who did not receive their fair share of COVID relief under the last administration.

It is said that societies are judged by how they treat their most vulnerable. It is sad because not everybody opens their eyes to see how this should be measured.

The Senate must act for the families and children facing hunger and for our hard-working farmers and ranchers—those that are producing food, picking food, preparing food, and getting it to market and stocking the shelves.

We must pass this budget resolution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS PBS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Arkansas Public Broadcasting Service, PBS, for its tremendous work to provide educational resources throughout the COVID-19 health crisis.

Arkansas PBS was recently recognized with five national Public Media Awards from the National Education Telecommunications Association, NETA, including honors for overall excellence for the programming it provided to children, parents, and teachers through Arkansas AMI, Alternative Methods of Instructions.

As the COVID-19 emergency progressed in March 2020, Arkansas PBS upended its weekday schedule and began broadcasting streamlined, curriculum-based programming for children from Pre-K through eighth grade.

When schools first closed in Arkansas, educators were immediately challenged by the lack of internet access in many rural areas of the State. This made the Arkansas AMI project even more important. For many without

computers at home, the programming provided by Arkansas PBS became their classroom.

I am proud of the partnership between Arkansas PBS and the Arkansas Department of Education, which offered students a way to keep learning when they couldn't be at school. This effort was possible because of a long-standing relationship between the broadcast network and education officials who have worked together for many years. With a strong foundation in place, they were quickly and creatively able to pivot and provide classroom learning on a network of stations that reached 76 percent of the State with a simple over-the-air signal. The programming was also available on cable and satellite, live-streaming, on-demand, and various apps that families could access on mobile devices.

I am proud of these devoted Arkansans who rose to meet an incredible challenge, and I am grateful for the work they do every day to make education in our State a priority. This recognition from the NETA is a testament to its commitment to offering quality educational, informative, and entertaining content that benefits the people of Arkansas. We appreciate the hard-working staff of Arkansas PBS and celebrate their accomplishments which reflect so well on the organization and its service to our State.●

RECOGNIZING 70 YEARS OF KRVN

● Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the 70th anniversary of KRVN, a longtime Nebraska radio station.

KRVN was founded in 1951 to bring the news to Nebraska's rural communities, and they have remained committed to that mission throughout their existence.

From the very beginning, Nebraska's farmers and ranchers have depended on their straightforward approach to the stories that matter most, and their outstanding reporting continues to be a crucial part of our agriculture industry's success.

As everyone who has listened to KRVN knows, they have achieved 70 years of success because they put their audience first. That is no accident—KRVN is one of the only radio stations in the country that is owned by a cooperative of farmers and ranchers.

As a cattle rancher myself, my family, friends, and neighbors have listened to their daily livestock reports for decades, and I always enjoy stopping by their studios when I am in Lexington, NE.

As a lifelong Nebraskan, I am immensely proud of all they have done for our State.

I congratulate them on reaching this historic milestone. Here is to 70 more years.●

REMEMBERING PAUL CHARLES WESCH

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of Paul Charles

Wesch of Mobile, AL, who passed away on December 27, 2020. He will be long remembered for his vast knowledge of finance, law, and business, and for his commitment to his community.

Paul was born in Seattle, WA, on November 20, 1954. He grew up in Hunstville, AL, where he graduated from Butler High School in 1973. He went on to earn two undergraduate degrees, a law degree, and later a LL.M degree in taxation from the University of Alabama. Upon graduation from law school in 1980, he accepted a position with Stanard and Mills law firm in Mobile. In 1984, Paul joined The Mitchell Company as a real estate developer, where he worked for nearly 30 years. During his tenure at The Mitchell Company, he served as executive vice president, general counsel, and director. Paul was later appointed in 2013 by Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson to be the city's executive finance director. A few years later, in 2016, he became Mayor Stimpson's chief of staff while continuing to serve as finance director.

In addition to his professional achievements, Paul previously served as chairman of the Mobile County Republican Party and managed several political campaigns. He served on the board of directors for National Security Group, Inc., as well as the USS Alabama Battleship Commission. Paul was also involved with Camp Rap-A-Hope, St. Mary's Home for Children, and the University of Alabama President's Cabinet for several years. He was a respected member of the Athelstan Club, the Mobile Bar Association, and the Alabama Bar Association.

I offer my deepest condolences to Paul's wife, Linda; his children, Paul, Caroline, and Colden; his sister, Sharon; his brother-in-law, Stephen; and his nieces and nephews. I join all of their loved ones as they mourn his loss and celebrate his many life accomplishments.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to

the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 11. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following concurrent resolution was read, and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 11. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2021 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2022 through 2030.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-221. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller/Chief Financial Officer), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Antideficiency Act (ADA) Violations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-222. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standardized Approach for Calculating the Exposure Amount of Derivative Contracts; Correction" (RIN3064-AF52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-223. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rule: Changes to Applicability Thresholds for Regulatory Capital and Liquidity Requirements; Correction" (RIN3064-AF66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-224. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Treatment for Investments in Certain Unsecured Debt Instruments of Global Systemically Important U.S. Bank Holding Companies, Certain Intermediate Holding Companies, and Global Systemically Important Foreign Banking Organizations; Total Loss-Absorbing Capacity Requirements" (RIN3064-AE79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-225. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Implement the Hong Kong-Related Sanctions Regulations as a New Part 585 in 31 CFR Chapter V" (31 CFR Part 585) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 2, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-226. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department