

to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3684.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 12 NOON
TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator LEE.

I yield back to the Senator from Utah.

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

INVEST IN AMERICA ACT

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I appreciate my friend and colleague, the majority leader, for allowing me to finish my remarks this evening.

When we look at legislation like this, I hope we can pay attention to a few details—a few details—that focus on more than just our roads, bridges, wastewater projects, and other infrastructure matters.

Are they important? I hope we will ask specifically: Are they appropriately Federal? Could they be just as easily handled as some other level of government?

I hope that we will also ask: If they are appropriate for the Federal Government, are we spending appropriately there? And, are we doing it at the right time? Are we placing the dollars that we are going to spend on the right things?

I also hope that we will pay careful attention to something that my friend and my distinguished colleague from Arizona, Senator SINEMA, said. She pointed out throughout this process it was difficult and time consuming. I liked how she put it. She said: It is supposed to be that way.

Our Founding Fathers set up a system in which it would necessarily be difficult and time consuming to get there. She is absolutely right. It is not supposed to be easy to pass legislation because legislation, especially like this, impacts a lot of people—a lot of people who are not here. There are only 100 of us who have the privilege of serving in this body, and we have 330 million people in this country who will be affected by it, and they will be affected by it for a long time to come.

That is why it is supposed to be difficult and time consuming. There, again, I point back to the fact that it took this committee—this committee—or this group; they are not a committee—this group of 10 or so Senators 4 painstaking months to come up with this. And it is to their credit that they were able to get it done even in that amount of time.

Again, I don't agree with the conclusion that they reached. I can't vote for this bill as it is written. But that reality is remarkable that they were able to do it in that period of time.

The fact that they, as a small group, were able to do that in 4 months means that this body has no business passing this legislation in a matter of just a few days. Quite arguably, we should need more time than that, not less, to digest it. But for the sake of discussion, and for the sake of respecting what appears to be a widely held view in this body that we ought to act on this, we at least need a few weeks. We shouldn't be doing this in just a few days.

I also hope that we will keep in mind that every one of us in this body holds an election certificate, whether we participated in the drafting of this bill or not, and every one of us should have the opportunity to offer up amendments and to vote on those amendments to make improvements to the bill, whether we support it in its current form or not, whether we intend to vote for the finished package or not, every one of us deserves an opportunity to offer as many amendments as we may choose. And if we want them voted on, they should be voted on. We shouldn't be afraid of it.

Often it is through the amendment process that we discover the nooks and crannies, we discover the unintended consequences that we allow the public to have visibility and to what has been a process that most people don't have access to. So I hope that we will do that and that we will be respectful to each other's views in doing that.

Bad things happen when legislation—especially legislation spending as much money as this one does or anything close to it—is drafted in secret.

Look, there is no problem—I don't have a problem at all with the fact they have been meeting. Members have every prerogative to decide what they want to propose behind closed doors. That is how the deliberative process works that results in legislation. But once it is here, as it is now, we need to take into account the fact that this hasn't been through committee; this hasn't been aired in its current form. We have got to give it the adequate airing that it needs and that the American people deserve.

So I hope, I expect that in the coming days, what I hope will actually be the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity to review this in full, to share it with our constituents, to have it analyzed, to have it scored by the Congressional Budget Office—we have no business spending this kind of money without a CBO score—and then Members need to be able to offer amendments on it.

We live in difficult times, and we live in times where there is a lot of rancor and there is a lot of disagreement. I am glad that there has been a good feeling here tonight with people who have been able to come together.

Sometimes we can't pass legislation simply because it is bipartisan. We can't be expected to pass it just because some Democrats and some Republicans happen to agree with it. That is actually not all that uncommon.

From watching the news, sometimes you get the impression we can't stand each other and that there is such deep-rooted animus across party lines, that we can't talk to each other, we don't like each other, and that the problem with Congress is that we can't get anything done because there is partisan gridlock that stops everything.

Well, I would offer a different perspective to that. The fact that legislation like this occurs, bipartisanship; the fact that you don't get to be almost \$30 trillion in debt without a whole lot of bipartisanship. Every single time we add an enormous sum to our national debt, there is bipartisanship behind it. Just because something is bipartisan doesn't mean that it is taking into account the needs of poor and middle-class Americans, who increasingly, of late, are being robbed blind by those who, for short-term political gain and praising the media, will make things more expensive for the poor and middle class, enabling a small handful of wealthy and well-connected interests to benefit from it. The fact that it is bipartisan shouldn't obscure the problems with it. I hope we will have an opportunity to address those problems and that we will give this legislation the due consideration it deserves.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND
PROPOSED

SA 2130. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2131. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2132. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2133. Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2134. Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2135. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2136. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2137. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr.

CASSIDY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. ROMNEY)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3684, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2130. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ SENIOR CORPS DISTANCE VOLUNTEERING.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Senior Corps Distance Volunteering Act”.

(b) **ONLINE SERVICE PLATFORM.**—Title IV of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 421 (42 U.S.C. 5061) as section 401;

(2) by moving that section 401 so as to follow the title heading for title IV; and

(3) by inserting after section 420 (42 U.S.C. 5059) the following:

“SEC. 421. ONLINE SERVICE PLATFORM.

“(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term ‘COVID-19 public health emergency period’ means the period of the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID-19.

“(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Senior Corps Distance Volunteering Act, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation shall establish an online service platform to connect volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps with service projects, and enable the volunteers to carry out distance volunteering on an online network. The platform shall be linked to and placed prominently on the website of the Corporation. The Corporation may enter into a contract with a public entity to create the platform.

“(c) **INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE.**—

“(1) **INFORMATION.**—The Corporation shall provide information to regional offices of the Corporation about how to get volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps connected to the platform.

“(2) **GUIDANCE.**—The Corporation shall issue guidance for the regional offices about how to transfer the programs of the National Senior Service Corps to the platform.

“(d) **OUTREACH.**—The Corporation shall provide outreach services to promote the platform, including outreach to institutions of higher education, the Department of Veterans Affairs for mentorship projects, and State and local governments for community engagement projects.

“(e) **REPORT ON IMPACT OF ONLINE SERVICE PLATFORM.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

“(B) the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

“(D) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

“(2) **REPORT.**—

“(A) **PREPARATION.**—The Corporation shall prepare a report that—

“(i) describes the use of funds appropriated to carry out this section, concerning the online service platform described in subsection (b);

“(ii) describes the ways in which the platform has enabled volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps, many of whom are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19, to apply their skills, knowledge, and expertise to directly serve the community through distance volunteering by providing assistance during the COVID-19 public health emergency period;

“(iii) measures the number of volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps volunteers who do, and the number of such volunteers who do not, serve through the online service platform, during the COVID-19 public health emergency period; and

“(iv) assesses the impact of volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps who do, and the number of such volunteers who do not, serve through the online service platform, during the COVID-19 public health emergency period.

“(B) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 1 year after the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency period, the Corporation shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(f) **RECOMMENDATION.**—Not later than 6 months after the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency period, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation shall submit a recommendation to Congress regarding whether the Corporation should continue to use the platform as a main resource for connecting volunteers in the National Senior Service Corps with service projects and enabling the volunteers to carry out distance volunteering.”.

(c) **EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION.**—The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, namely:

**CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
OPERATING EXPENSES**

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, for necessary expenses for the Corporation for National and Community Service to carry out section 421 of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, \$5,000,000: *Provided*, That the amount appropriated under this heading is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

SA 2131. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1941, strike lines 7 through 11.

SA 2132. Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. 300 ____ INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE OF OPERATING COSTS FOR CERTAIN AREAS.

Section 5311(g)(2)(B) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “EXCEPTION” and inserting “EXCEPTIONS”;

(2) by striking “A State” and inserting the following:

“(i) STATES WITH NONTAXABLE INDIAN LANDS OR PUBLIC DOMAIN LANDS.—Subject to clause (ii), a State”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) AREAS WITH PARTICULAR NEEDS.—

“(I) **DEFINITION.**—In this clause, the term ‘area of persistent poverty’ means—

“(aa) any county in which not less than 20 percent of the population has lived in poverty during the most recent 30-year period, as measured by—

“(AA) the second and third most recent decennial censuses; and

“(BB) the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates of the Bureau of the Census for the most recent year for which the Estimates are available; or

“(bb) any census tract with a poverty rate of not less than 20 percent, as measured by most recent 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census.

“(II) **INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE.**—A grant made under this section for operating assistance to an operator of public transportation that serves an area that meets 1 or more of the criteria under subclause (III) shall be for 80 percent of the net operating costs of the project, as determined by the Secretary.

“(III) **CRITERIA.**—The criteria referred to in subclause (II) are that an area—

“(aa) is an area of persistent poverty;

“(bb) is a county in which not less than 25 percent of residents are age 65 or older, according to the most recent 5-year estimate of the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census;

“(cc) is a county that, or is a county that includes a site that—

“(AA) has been designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as a health professional shortage area under section 332(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)) on the basis of a primary care or mental health care shortage; and

“(BB) received a health professional shortage area score for the most recent program year, with respect to primary care or mental health care, that was not less than the lowest minimum score, as designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for that program year, necessary for the site to be eligible for the assignment of National Health Service Corps members providing primary care or mental health care, respectively, for fulfillment of obligated service under the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program; or

“(dd) is a county with a population density of not more than 20 persons per square mile of land area, based on the most recent decennial census.”.

SA 2133. Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3684, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following: