

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 78 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Ernst	Perdue
Barrasso	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Jones	Sullivan
Cornyn	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Cramer	Loeffler	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	McSally	Young
Daines	Moran	
Enzi	Murkowski	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Hassan	Sanders
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Harris	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—5

Gardner	Paul	Scott of Florida
Lee	Romney	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 46.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative upon reconsideration, the motion is rejected.

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 748, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 157, H.R. 748, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on high cost employer-sponsored health coverage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of our colleagues on both sides, as a result of this procedural obstruction, let me explain where we are.

By refusal to allow us to take this first step, which would have still given them plenty of time to negotiate, we have put the Senate in the following position: If any 1 of the 100 of us chooses to object, we can't deal with this until Friday or Saturday at the earliest. If any 1 of the 100 of us objects to some of the procedural hurdles we have to overcome as a result of this mindless obstruction—absolutely mindless obstruction going on on the other side, while the public is waiting for us to

act, while people are losing their jobs, losing their income, and shutting down the economy, which we have had to do to deal with this public health crisis, they are fiddling around with Senate procedure that could, if 1 Senator objected, take us all the way to the end of the week to solve this problem.

I am beginning to think our Democratic colleagues don't understand the procedure in the Senate. I am not sure you understand the position your leader has put you in. He loses nothing—nothing—in terms of negotiating leverage by letting us get through these procedural hoops sooner rather than later—sooner rather than later.

The American people have had enough of this nonsense. They wonder where we are. They are looking to us to solve this problem.

The Secretary of the Treasury keeps going into the Democratic leader's office, and the list keeps getting longer and longer and longer. The bazaar is apparently open on the other side. Never let a crisis go to waste, one former President's Chief of Staff famously said.

So, look, I hope my colleagues will come out here and express themselves in the course of the afternoon. The American people would like to hear from us. They would like to know what is going on here. So let's tell them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SASSE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are at an odd spot right now not just as a Senate but as a nation. We have millions of people who are gathered in their own homes, trying to figure out what is going to happen next, waiting for a virus to die down. We have people in a hospital who are afraid because there is no tested treatment yet. We have firefighters; we have law enforcement; we have hospital workers all with not enough personal protection equipment because they do not know who is a citizen without the virus and who is a citizen with the virus.

The most basic elements of decision making of how you take care of your neighbor have become a distraction across the country as Americans have become afraid of a stranger and of a friend. This is a huge shift in where we are as a country. What this demands is immediate action. Three weeks ago, the Senate and the House passed \$8.3 billion, and we did it with an overwhelming bipartisan support, to add additional funding for diagnostics, for testing, and for rapid work on a vaccine. All of that work is advancing quickly. We have human trials on a vaccine happening right now because

we came together, and there weren't extra things added to it. We focused in on the problem, which is the virus.

This body has a lot of things we disagree on, there is no question. There are lots of moments to debate the things we disagree on, but this is a time we need to focus in on what is the problem, and the problem is dealing with COVID-19. There was a bipartisan bill that was put together in the Senate.

A week ago today, Senator SCHUMER released a 10-page list of—here are the things the Democrats would like from the Senate. It was a 10-page, very detailed list. Twenty-eight of those items on that list are included in this bipartisan bill—28 items from it, of that 10-page list of items. So much of that list that was released a week ago is included in this bipartisan bill.

Republican chairmen and Democratic ranking members of the committees of jurisdiction met and talked about this. The chairman and the ranking member of Appropriations worked together on an appropriations package for a quarter of a trillion dollars on just that one section that they worked on together to get resolution. Put all of those items together, and let me tell you what I mean by that: \$250 billion dealing with things as distant to believe as things like getting Peace Corps volunteers back home, away from where they are now. We have to get them back home and away from harm's way. There is funding in there for that as well as \$88 billion for hospitals, trying to help them through this; help for nursing homes; help for individual firefighters and their departments; \$10 billion for community development block grants to help cities as they are rapidly trying to work through this process—\$250 billion allocated just to things like that to help people get testing, personal equipment, travel and additional expenses, teleworking capabilities that have to be done for cities and communities and Federal entities. All of those things were put together and agreed upon.

There is a lot of work on the medical side, rightfully so. Testing makes a world of difference on this. Getting access to a vaccine—there are billions of dollars in that particular area. All of that is included in this proposal.

In addition to that, there are direct payments that we had agreed upon to send out, literally, to every American. We had set up \$1,200 for every American to receive. That is a stopgap method to help folks who are having trouble with their utilities or whatever it may be, or extra expenses so they will have something.

It was not just that for the individuals. It was also unemployment insurance. This is something the Republicans and Democrats had worked on together, to do a plus-up of unemployment insurance because we have millions of people suddenly unemployed with no advanced warning at all.

There is a significant increase of unemployment insurance that is built