

**Senator Lamar Alexander**  
**CARES 2.0 Floor Remarks**  
**Safely Back to Work and Back to School Act**  
**July 27, 2020**

The way to get back to work and back to school is to put politics aside and work together as well and as fast as possible to get a result for the American people.

The part of the Safely Back to Work and Back to School Act that I am introducing today does four things:

1. If you are one of 43 million Americans with a student loan, it helps you manage your debt
  - If No Income: No monthly payment
  - When you do begin earning income, your monthly payment will never be more than 10 percent of your income AFTER deducting the necessities of life, such as rent or mortgage and food.
2. If you are a parent, it gives your child more choices of all schools
  - Provides scholarships so your child can return to the private school he or she attended before the pandemic
  - Gives other students a new opportunity to attend private school
3. If you are a working mom or dad, it helps you find child care so you can go back to work
  - Helps childcare providers stay open and provide safe environments to serve working parents of the 2/3 of children in the U.S. under age 6 who have parents in the workforce.
4. Improves the Strategic National Stockpile so the federal and state governments can maintain adequate supplies of masks, gloves, protective equipment as well as on shore manufacturing capacity for tests, treatments and vaccines—in our own country, not overseas—so the U.S. is better prepared for the next pandemic

This legislation is about children, jobs and health care. There are 100,000 public schools across our country serving 50 million students. There are another 35,000 private schools serving 5 million students.

I have worked with Senator Blunt to help the country's 135,000 schools and 6,000 colleges have the money they need to open with as many students physically present as is consistent with

safety. The Safely Back to Work and School Act proposes making \$70 billion available for schools and another \$30 billion for colleges.

That means up to \$1,200 per student for public and private schools across the country. One-third of that money will be distributed to all 135,000 schools; two-thirds of that money will go to schools that are opening with students physically present to help pay for the extra costs of providing that instruction in a safe environment.

There will also be more funding to help contain this sneaky, dangerous virus and give Americans more opportunity for access to health care during the pandemic, including:

- \$16 billion for testing
- \$15.5 billion for NIH
- \$6.7 billion for Community Health Centers
- \$26 billion for distribution, manufacturing and development of vaccines
- Extends access to telehealth services during the pandemic

This legislation reflects our nation's priorities, which are: safely back to school, back to child care, and back to work.

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