

DAINES TOOK CREDIT FOR SOMETHING HE VOTED AGAINST IN WASHINGTON, DC

Missoulian Column: It Was “Dishonest” For Daines Not To Tell Montanans That He “Voted Against Providing That Additional \$600 For Unemployed Montanans.”

“While it’s good news for Montanans who suddenly find themselves unemployed as the economy shuts down under the pressures of the coronavirus pandemic, it’s nothing but dishonest that Daines didn’t tell his constituents or the press that he actually voted against providing that additional \$600 for unemployed Montanans.”

[Missoulian, George Ochenski Column, [4/6/20](#)]

Havre Daily News: Editorial: Daines Needed To Start Being “Straightforward” With Montanans.

“Two of Montana’s federal lawmakers need to start being straightforward with their constituents. U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., and U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte, R-Mont., both have been telling constituents what assistance is being provided by federal COVID-19 aid bills, without telling them some of that aid was added when Democrats delayed passage of the bills containing it to add to the bills.”

[Havre Daily News, Editorial, [4/27/20](#)]

Huffington Post: Daines Told A TV Station That The Relief Package The Senate Passed Was “Significant” Because It Provided “\$600 A Week On Top Of The Montana Benefit If You’re Unemployed.”

“To that end, many members of Congress are pointing to expanded unemployment benefits they authorized last week as part of a massive coronavirus pandemic response bill, which will boost weekly benefits by \$600.

Among the lawmakers touting the additional \$600: Senate Republicans who voted against it. ‘This package that we passed will provide \$600 a week on top of the Montana benefit if you’re unemployed,’ Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) told a local TV station the day after the bill passed. ‘That’s very significant. It more than doubles what the state of Montana pays. That’s taking care of those Montanans who’ve lost their jobs.’” [Huffington Post, [4/2/20](#)]

Daines: “This Will Be About \$600 A More A Week Than They Would Normally Receive From The State of Montana. In Fact, It Would More Than Double Their Unemployment Check From Where It Currently Is At Today.”

ANCHOR: “Yeah I mean, you know it, we’re reaching the end of the month, your rent is going to be due in just several days. And so, we know that many of you are struggling right now. Now, if the rescue package makes its way through the House, it then will need the president’s signature, it then would create temporary benefits that normal unemployment checks don’t have.” DAINES: “This will be about \$600 more a week than they would normally receive from the state of Montana. In fact, it would more than double their unemployment check from where it currently is at today.” [Wake Up Montana, [3/27/20](#)]

([VIDEO](#)) 00:00:25

Daines Touted That The Coronavirus Relief Package Included \$250 Billion In Unemployment Insurance That Would “Provide Immediate Relief” To Montana

Workers Who Lost Their Jobs Because Of The Pandemic. ANCHOR: “We spoke to Senator Steve Daines who thinks that the government's 2-trillion- dollar stimulus package comes at the right time.” DAINES: “There's \$250 billion for unemployment insurance. As I mentioned earlier, we're seeing an unprecedented surge in our unemployment in Montana as we speak. This is to provide immediate relief to our workers who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic.” [Wake Up Montana, 3/27/20] ([VIDEO](#)) 00:00:01

Daines Claimed He “Fought To Secure” The Additional, Weekly \$600 For Unemployment Insurance. “After the amendment failed, Republicans joined Democrats in unanimously voting to pass the CARES Act with the \$600-a-week unemployment increase included. ‘Montana workers need relief immediately. I fought to secure an additional \$600 a week for folks on unemployment insurance on top of what they already would take home. We must get this important relief into the hands of Montana workers as soon as possible,’ Sen. Steve Daines, a Montana Republican, said in an email.” [Billings Gazette, [4/15/20](#)]

March 2020: Daines Voted In Favor Of An Amendment To A Coronavirus Emergency Relief Package That Would Prevent Individual Unemployment Compensation Benefits To Exceed That Individual’s Weekly Wages. On March 25, 2020, Daines voted for “Sasse, R-Neb., amendment no. 1577 to the bill that would prevent the total weekly unemployment compensation benefits provided to an individual under the bill's provisions from exceeding the individual's average weekly wages.” The measure was rejected by a vote of 48-48. [CQ, [3/25/20](#); Vote 79, S.Amdt. 1577 to S.Amdt. 1578 to H.R. 748, [3/25/20](#)]

Huffington Post: Daines Supported An Amendment That Would Have “Denied Some People The” Extra Benefits. “But Daines, like most of his other GOP colleagues, supported an amendment to the bill offered by Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) that would have capped unemployment benefits and denied some people the extra \$600. The Senate rejected the amendment before ultimately passing the bill last week.” [Huffington Post, [4/2/20](#)]

Huffington Post: Daines Spox: “The Senator Did Not Think That Unemployment Insurance Should Pay More Than The Job A Person Lost.” “A spokesperson for Daines said the senator ‘worked to include nearly full wage unemployment insurance in the coronavirus economic recovery bill. The senator did not think that unemployment insurance should pay more than the job a person lost.’” [Huffington Post, [4/2/20](#)]

All Republicans Except Sen. Gardner Voted For A Failed Amendment That Would Have Capped Some Unemployment Paycheck Levels. “The bump in unemployment wasn’t without political controversy in the Senate. Republicans, concerned that the extra \$600 would result in better compensation for some jobless individuals than their previous salaries, had voted for an amendment to cap the amount at paycheck levels. The amendment, which all Republicans supported, except for Sen. Cory, Gardner, of

Colorado, failed. Sen. Joe Manchin, of West Virginia was the only Democrat to support the amendment, which didn't change the outcome for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. After the amendment failed, Republicans joined Democrats in unanimously voting to pass the CARES Act with the \$600-a-week unemployment increase included." [Billings Gazette, [4/15/20](#)]

AS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC WAS SPREADING, DAINES VOTED AGAINST PAID LEAVE FOR REGULAR MONTANANS

Steve Daines Voted Against Amendment Requiring All Employers To Provide Additional Paid Leave During A Public Health Emergency And To Allow Employees To Accrue Paid Sick Leave. On March 18, 2020, Steve Daines voted against "Murray, D-Wash., amendment no. 1559 to the bill that would require all employers to provide additional paid leave to employees in the event of a public health emergency. Specifically, it would require employers to provide 14 days of emergency paid sick leave, and 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave at a rate of at least two-thirds an employee's regular rate of pay or minimum wage. It would separately require employers to allow employees to accrue at least 1 hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked, up to 56 hours of sick time annually. It would require the Treasury Department to reimburse employers for the full costs for providing such benefits through December 2021, after employers certify leave provided through the Labor Department. Under the provisions of the amendment, the other employer-provided leave provisions in the bill would have no force or effect.." The amendment was rejected by a vote of 47-51. [Vote 74, S.Amdt. 1559 to H.R. 6201, [3/18/20](#); CQ, [3/18/20](#)]

Roll Call: Murray Amendment Included "Enhanced Sick Leave And Medical Family Leave" Provisions, Including "Requir[ing] Employers To Provide Workers 14 Days Of Emergency Paid Sick Leave And 12 Weeks Of Paid Family And Medical Leave." "Murray was joined on the call by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., to say that enhanced sick leave and family medical leave would have to be part of future legislation to respond to COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. Murray, D-Wash., said she wants to include permanent mandates for up to seven paid sick days and paid family and medical leave...The Senate voted 47-51 to reject Murray's amendment that would require employers to provide workers 14 days of emergency paid sick leave and 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave. The Senate later cleared, 90-8, a bill that would appropriate about \$3.5 billion in supplemental funding and authorize additional funding to support the federal response to the spread and economic effects of COVID-19, including for paid sick leave, unemployment insurance, diagnostic testing and nutritional assistance. Lawmakers are already talking about a third, broader bill to respond to the pandemic." [Roll Call, [3/18/20](#)]

Daines Voted To Strike Federally Mandated Sick Pay And Paid Family Leave And Replace It With Financial Support Provided Through State Administered

Unemployment Insurance Systems. On March 18, Steve Daines voted for an amendment: “To strike Federally mandated sick pay and paid family leave and replace it with financial support provided through State administered unemployment insurance systems and funds. [United States Senate, S.Amdt. 1558 to H.R. 6201, Vote 75, [3/18/20](#)]

Roll Call: The Amendment Would “Strike Provisions From The House Bill Mandating Paid Leave” For People Impacted By The Pandemic. The Johnson amendment would strike provisions from the House bill mandating paid leave. It would replace those requirements with a new federally backed unemployment insurance fund for people impacted by the pandemic. Workers would be eligible for up to 14 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits, payable \$1,000 per week or two-thirds of average weekly earnings — whichever is lower. It would be retroactive to the beginning of March. According to the Wisconsin Republican's office, employers who offer paid leave could be reimbursed from the federal government, using the same formula.” [Roll Call, [3/18/20](#)]

The Hill: The Amendment Would “Strip The Paid Leave Language.” “The Senate also shot down two other amendments: One from Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) on paid sick leave and one from Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.) that would strip the paid leave language and replace it with expenses unemployment insurance.” [The Hill, [3/18/20](#)]

DAINES OPPOSED CRITICAL FUNDING FOR NURSES AND HOSPITALS

Havre Daily News: Daines “Said Democrats Should Stop Debating The Minor Details And Pass The Funding Because It Is Needed So Urgently.”

“Daines also criticized the Democrats for not working with Republicans to reload the Paycheck Protection Program which recently ran out of money, which he called, ‘upsetting’ and ‘ridiculous.’ ‘I’m very disappointed that Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi have continued to block funding that,’ he said. He said Democrats should stop debating the minor details and pass the funding because it is needed so urgently. ‘Let’s get this done now, because these employers and these workers need relief now,’ Daines said. Democrats have asked for data to make sure that the money already used is going to the businesses for which it is intended and have demanded that other funding be included, such as funding for hospitals and the Small Business Administration’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and to expand coronavirus testing. They have offered counterproposals to the Republican bill which have been denied by the Republicans.” [Havre Daily News, [4/20/20](#)]

Havre Daily News: Democrats Fought To Include More In The Bill To Replenish The Paycheck Protection Program While “Republicans, Including Daines, Kept Bashing Democrats For Blocking Its Passage, Saying The Bill Needed To Be Passed Immediately.” “Senate President Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, first introduced the bill to add \$25 billion to the Paycheck Protection Program, which was rapidly depleted as businesses swarmed to apply for it. Democrats kept blocking the bill, saying more

needed to be included. Republicans, including Daines, kept bashing the Democrats for blocking its passage, saying the bill needed to be passed immediately.” [Havre Daily News, [4/22/20](#)]

Daines Was “Very Disappointed” That Schumer And Pelosi Were Blocking Funding For The Paycheck Protection Program, Adding That Money Could Have Been Added The Week Before. DAINES: “I’m grateful for our small businesses that’s why we targeted the relief and the help to these small businesses. Unfortunately, we’ve run out of money in that fund. It moved very, very quickly and I’m very disappointed that Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi are continuing to block funding that. We could have put more money into that account a week ago but they are stopping us and I even have some of my colleagues in the Senate, democrats, we’ve got all the republicans pushing on this, we now have democrat senators saying, ‘Hey, it’s time to stop playing politics.’ Let’s immediately just refund that, I said refund, I say reload the fund for this Paycheck Protection Program because we have bipartisan support to do it, let’s just get that done now to help these struggling small businesses. And we can come back to debate the other policy items down the road but let’s get this done now because these workers, these employees and their employers need relief now.” [Steve Daines, Teletown Hall, 4/17/20] ([AUDIO](#)) 00:12:44

Daines Said It Was “Upsetting” And “Ridiculous” That Chuck Schumer Was Blocking Additional Funding For Small Business Loans, Called To Reload The Fund Before Discussing Other Policy Items. DAINES: “And that’s an example of the business being hurt right now by not getting more dollars put in into that fund. We literally have community banks that are writing up these additional loans and the money is gone. And we could put it in there, we could have had it in there days ago but Chuck Schumer is stopping it. And frankly, it’s upsetting, it’s ridiculous, and it’s time to, let’s reload that fund and then we can talk about debates on other policy items here as he sees fit.” [Steve Daines, Teletown Hall, 4/17/20] ([AUDIO](#)) 00:14:23

DEMOCRATS FOUGHT FOR FUNDING FOR HOSPITALS AND NURSES

Democrats Wanted Extra Funding For Hospitals And Local Governments Added To The PPP Funding. “House Democrats want \$100 billion added to the bill for hospitals. Another \$150 billion is sought for local governments. The funding needs of both have been on display in Montana during the past week. [Billings Gazette, [4/18/20](#)]

City Of Billings Has Furloughed Two Dozen Workers Because Of A Lack Of Funding. “The City of Billings has furloughed two dozen workers in the past couple of weeks.” [Billings Gazette, [4/18/20](#)]

Montana Hospital Association Lost Members And Funding During The Pandemic. “The Montana Hospital Association estimated conservatively that its 88 members had lost \$100 million to the pandemic as elective surgeries and other services have been cut back because of the pandemic.” [Billings Gazette, [4/18/20](#)]

DAINES VOTED FOR MITCH MCCONNELL'S CORONAVIRUS RELIEF BILL, "SLUSH FUND" FOR CORPORATIONS

3/23/20: Steve Daines Voted In Favor Of McConnell Motion To Proceed On Phase 3 Coronavirus Legislation. On March 23, 2020, Steve Daines voted in favor of "McConnell, R-Ky., motion to invoke cloture on the McConnell motion to proceed to the expected legislative vehicle for the third coronavirus stimulus and supplemental appropriations package, upon reconsideration." The motion was rejected by a vote of 49-46. [CQ, [3/23/20](#); Vote 78, H.R. 748, [3/23/20](#)]

3/22/20: Steve Daines Voted In Favor Of McConnell Motion To Proceed On Phase 3 Coronavirus Legislation. On March 22, 2020, Steve Daines voted in favor of "McConnell, R-Ky., motion to invoke cloture on the McConnell motion to proceed to the expected legislative vehicle for the third coronavirus stimulus and supplemental appropriations package." The motion was rejected by a vote of 47-47. [CQ, [3/22/20](#); Vote 77, H.R. 748, [3/22/20](#)]

The Hill: \$500 Billion Bailout Package Included "Weak Restrictions On Corporate Buybacks" For Companies That Received Bailout Funding, Which Could Be Waived By Treasury Secretary Mnuchin. "Democratic leaders are objecting to an ambitious Republican proposal to spend up to \$500 billion to leverage loans to a variety of industries, ranging from airlines and energy companies to car manufacturers, as part of a coronavirus stimulus package...They also are balking at the proposal's weak restrictions on restricting corporate buybacks, which Mnuchin can waive. U.S. airlines, for example, spent tens of billions of dollars in recent years on stock buybacks to boost their share prices. American Airlines alone spent \$12.4 billion on stock buybacks since 2014." [The Hill, [3/22/20](#)]

HEADLINE: "Dems Seize On 'Slush Fund' To Oppose Republican Rescue Package." [Politico, [3/23/20](#)]

Politico: Congress Passed A "\$500 Billion Corporate Bailout" In The Coronavirus Pandemic Response Legislation. "Most big companies that take advantage of the \$500 billion corporate bailout in last week's coronavirus relief bill are unlikely to face restrictions against firing workers or giving bonuses to executives, according to officials familiar with the program. Congressional Democrats have boasted about the strict conditions they negotiated to make sure the CARES Act's massive corporate-aid package benefits employees rather than their bosses. And the bipartisan legislation that President Trump signed Friday did attach tight strings to the \$46 billion the Treasury Department will dispense to airlines and firms it deems vital to national security." [Politico, [4/2/20](#)]

REPUBLICANS INCLUDED A "TAX CHANGE" INTO RELIEF PACKAGE THAT "BENEFITED THE WEALTHY"
Congress Tucked A Tax Change Into The Coronavirus Relief Package That

Benefited The Wealthy. “More than 80 percent of the benefits of a tax change tucked into the coronavirus relief package Congress passed last month will go to those who earn more than \$1 million annually, according to a report by a nonpartisan congressional body expected to be released Tuesday.” [Washington Post, [4/14/20](#)]

“Companies Would Be Required Only To Keep Workers On The Payroll ‘To The Extent Possible,’ Which Means If Businesses Wanted, They Could Take The Money, Then Fire Their Workers Anyway.” “There were also specific provisions in the administration proposal that set off alarms for Democrats. Mnuchin would be able to keep the identity of the companies receiving assistance secret for six months, and companies would be required only to keep workers on the payroll ‘to the extent possible,’ which means if businesses wanted, they could take the money, then fire their workers anyway.” [Paul Waldman, Washington Post, [3/23/20](#)]

Democrats Argued That \$500 Billion Fund Provision Urging Companies To Keep Employees On “To The Extent Possible” Could “Result In Mass Layoffs” After Companies Received Taxpayer Bailout. “Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who is pushing the massive infusion of cash to the Federal Reserve loan program, also attended the meeting in McConnell’s office. Democrats say the corporate bailout fund falls short on several counts. They argue that it doesn’t do enough to require companies to keep workers on payroll, urging them only to keep employees ‘to the extent possible,’ which could result in mass layoffs after companies accept billions of dollars in taxpayer-guaranteed loans.” [The Hill, [3/22/20](#)]