

We Need Help, Not Hype

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 3.18.21

Sen. Tillis voted against Pres. Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, joining our entire Republican congressional delegation in trying to sabotage \$2256 in federal aid for each North Carolinian (\$1400 cash plus \$856 per capita in state/local aid). Sen. Tillis even released an arrogant statement that he did it "on behalf of the people of North Carolina". Thanks, but no thanks.

First, he falsely claims that 91% of the plan goes to non-COVID spending. This is the same bogus complaint cribbed from GOP talking points. PolitiFact, citing the conservative Tax Foundation and American Enterprise Institute, judged it "wrong" because "the bill does aim to address the financial cost of the pandemic."

Next, Sen. Tillis bemoans the Senate's lack of bipartisanship. Boasting that last year, under Pres. Trump, both Democrats and Republicans voted overwhelmingly for COVID relief, he gripes that only Democrats voted for Pres. Biden's Plan. Nonsensically, he grumbles that this proves Democrats are partisan! He uses the word four times. To quote Inigo Montoya: "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means". It's a simple rule, Senator: if they vote for yours, but you don't vote for theirs, the partisan is YOU.

Finally, he whines that the plan is "divisive". Now he's just making stuff up. A Morning Consult/Politico poll found that 76% of voters, including 60% of Republicans, support it. By passing Pres. Biden's American Rescue Plan, Democrats are giving Americans what they badly want and need: help in crushing COVID and rebuilding America. By unanimously opposing it, Republican politicians have gone AWOL. Instead, they waste our time and betray our trust trying to divide us with voter suppression legislation and distract us with hyped up nonsense about Dr. Seuss and Mr. Potato Head.

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