

it will have on their life, the impact it will have on their behavior and on their families?

Veterans' service benefits would be delayed. Pay for our troops and their families would be delayed. And on the other side, you hear a lot of rhetoric about our troops and that we should pass this budget. But they don't talk about, they are not willing to cut any of the rich, or the millionaires and the billionaires. They want to protect the rich. They want to protect the oil companies. They want to protect the outsourcing of companies that go outside, but aren't willing to make the cuts that are necessary. I think everybody has got to have cuts.

It will also impact our Social Security claims that would go unprocessed. Federal vendors and contractors, their employees would go unpaid. Government housing assistance would be halted, and millions of tax refunds would go unspent.

In my home of San Bernardino County, a shutdown would mean no paychecks for 22,000 Federal employees and retirees. Think about the economic damage this loss of revenue would cause.

But instead of working on a compromise, I say instead of working on a compromise, because it takes two leaders and it takes other individuals, and HARRY REID is doing what is necessary in leading, it's the other side that has to compromise as well. It's not a one-sided team; it's a two-sided team. And when the chemistry is good on both sides, we should be able to come up with a compromise that is good for our Nation and our country.

But instead, Republicans have introduced a long-term budget that devastates our seniors and ends Medicare as we know it. The budget shouldn't be about flexing our political muscle. It should be about doing what is right for the American people, and this Republican budget makes all of the wrong choices.

The GOP plan increases suffering, I state, suffering for our seniors and young people while protecting tax breaks for the wealthy, while protecting tax breaks for the wealthy. The Republican budget eliminates guaranteed coverage for our seniors under Medicare which currently serves 48 million elderly Americans. It slashes Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes and Americans with disabilities. It increases college education costs for 10 million middle class students. And we need to invest in education. They are our future. If we don't invest in our students and their education, they cannot provide for us. We need to invest in them, not cut them. And, of course, it gives tax breaks to the big oil companies and companies that ship jobs overseas.

Seniors in my district live on a fixed income. Can you imagine living on a fixed income of \$1,900 a month or whatever income you have? It is very difficult to make your mortgage pay-

ments, put food on the table, and know how you are going to get by the next day. Or if you have any other emergencies.

We are a country; we are America. We are the greatest country in the world, and we should provide for every American that is here, regardless of who they are or where they come from. They can't afford to pay more health care or see cuts in Social Security benefits. We all agree, and it has been stated, we all agree that we must get our deficit under control.

But remember, Republicans had 12 years to do this and went out of control in their spending and didn't do anything when they had control.

CONTROLLING WASHINGTON SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind the American people why we're here. We're here today because of the failure of the 111th Congress to pass a budget for the first time in decades. You might think that for one party that controlled the White House and both Chambers of Congress, this would be a relatively easy thing to do, but you have to try. In an effort to protect a few powerful committee chairmen and other incumbents in their own party, they made a political decision not to pass a budget because it had a \$1.5 trillion deficit attached to it. You can't run and you can't hide from the American people.

Now, even after the people have spoken in November, they are continuing to protect the status quo, protecting out-of-control Washington spending, and offering no solutions of their own other than raising everyone's taxes and demagoging anyone who puts forward a plan. Again, I would like to see their plan.

I began running to represent Indiana's Eighth Congressional District in October of 2009, an endeavor I had never undertaken before. I was a practicing physician, cardiothoracic surgeon. I decided to seek public office because of our government's inability to control spending. Let's remind everyone where the status quo has led us. It has led us to historic unemployment and a mounting debt that is mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren.

But yesterday, our counterparts in the Senate and the White House showed different intentions. I can't stand before you today in good conscience not advocating for the men and women who have volunteered to wear the uniform of our great Nation. A notion that a bill to fund the troops for the remainder of the fiscal year is being threatened by a veto is preposterous.

This challenge to fix our government's spending habits is above politics and talking points. While I stand

here today in the people's House, individuals are playing petty politics while we offered a solution yesterday that pays our troops and avoids a government shutdown.

We passed H.R. 1 with a modest \$61 billion down payment on controlling Washington spending, and we have been criticized in the face of a \$1.5 trillion deficit. I implore the Senate and the White House to join with us here in the House and act to significantly reduce spending and avoid a government shutdown.

And I offer one last observation since I am new to Congress, a continuing frustration that I am finding here in Washington, D.C., and that is I am amazed by the resistance of some in Congress to tackling this problem, especially the fact that some continue to find excuses why we can't even consolidate programs and downsize government and make things more efficient here in Washington, D.C. at the very least. But I found this at a committee hearing the other day when the Democrats continued to make excuses after a Government Accountability Office report showed the excesses that we have here in Washington, D.C.

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This is a serious issue we face together as a Nation. I began this conversation when I began running for Congress almost 2 years ago, and it's a conversation I continue to have with my constituents. This is an adult conversation about facts and our future.

Until we come to a solution that will put hardworking Americans and Hoosiers back to work and our government begins to act in a responsible manner when it comes to our Nation's fiscal issues, I will continue to have this conversation with my constituents and with the American people.

A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS NOT ABOUT MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, there's a joke going around in Congress: the difference between a Boy Scout troop and the House of Representatives is that a Boy Scout troop has adult leadership.

Now, I predicted a shutdown of this place more than a month ago, not because I'm some kind of prophet but because I saw the movie of the Gingrich shutdown in 1996. The same elements are here today that were there then. I don't want a shutdown. I know what it does. I think it's silly and stupid and hard on the American people and a lot of people are going to suffer, but the elements are there.

First of all, a number of Members came in new, a lot of them, who were absolutely sure that they knew what was right. Secondly, they had no experience in governing. They didn't understand compromise. "Compromise" was

a dirty word. It meant you give up your principles.

If you operate on that principle, you can never negotiate a settlement in anything. What they don't understand is that there is a time when you take what you can get and come back tomorrow.

Everybody who has been here for more than one term knows that nobody gets 100 percent of what they want. I have been here in this place for 23 years, and I have gotten 60 percent and I figure I'm a big winner. Now, you come back the next year for the rest. We're doing that on the health care bill. We're doing that on a whole lot of things. You do not get it all now by saying, It's my way or the highway. No, every battle is not to the death.

The only hope I had for us was that our leadership on the Republican side had been here in 1996. They saw what happened. And 2 years later the Republicans lost seats, 2 years after that they lost seats, and the Speaker, Gingrich, was gone, he's history, on the basis of coming in here and saying, My way or the highway.

Now, if you think this is the big battle, let me give you the real facts:

In 5 weeks we're going to come to the debt limit. If you think people who believe that their way is the right way are going to fight over what's going on right now, what is it going to be like when we get to the debt limit, or by September when we get to the next budget resolution? We could have three shutdowns this year with no problem at all if the leadership on the other side allows their Members to drive them into this craziness. They have to stand up and tell them, Look, guys, there is a tomorrow; all right? We're hurting people and they're going to remember. People are not going to forget what happens here. They didn't forget in 1998, and they didn't forget in 2000. They kept whacking away at the people who were in charge.

Now, what's it all about here? It's not about money. H.R. 1 was \$101 billion. Okay. The President has come all the way to \$71 billion or \$73 billion. That's more than halfway. The Republicans won that issue. Take it. Take it.

No, no, they say, but we have to change social policy.

This is really about social policy. It's not about winning or cutting down the deficit or any of that stuff. It is just as it was in Wisconsin. It was not about the deficit in Wisconsin; it was about breaking unions. The judge said that. That's why he threw the law out, because, he said, you're taking away people's rights in unions; you're not here worrying about the deficit in Wisconsin.

Well, here the issue was NPR. Now, if we took NPR off the radio tomorrow morning, do you think the deficit would be one bit affected? Of course not. If we got rid of the EPA, would there be some effect on the deficit? No. In fact, the Senate, they took the EPA repeal off the table. They said, Look,

rich people breathe the air; rich people drink the same water as everybody else in the country. That's a stupid public policy change. So we're not going to take that one.

What was left? Family planning, abortion, poor women. Now, there's a bunch that can't fight back. Let's go get 'em. Let's hold out and we will finally get the poor women in this country.

That's what this is about. It is not about balancing the budget. It is not about anything else except getting poor people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

IT'S TIME TO STOP THE SPENDING INSANITY IN WASHINGTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, every evening across this great land, after homework is finished and the supper dishes are cleared and the children are put to bed, Mom and Dad sit down at the kitchen table, they sharpen their pencils, and they take out a pad of paper, and they struggle to make ends meet.

Whether their budgeting technique is different than the house next door, they know, without a doubt, that they cannot have their monthly bills exceed their monthly take-home pay. If the bills are higher than the monthly pay, they have to make changes.

So bill by bill they discuss what they have to pay. They discuss things like the power bill and the rent and the mortgage, the car loan, the credit card payments. Mom and Dad cut out the things that they can do without. Maybe it's the golf membership for Dad. Maybe it's the weekly pedicure for Mom. Whatever it is, they know they have to make tough and real decisions.

It's time to stop the spending insanity here in Washington, D.C.

America, your Nation is broke. We cannot continue to borrow 42 cents of every dollar we spend. We cannot continue to spend a trillion dollars more each year than we're bringing in; and we definitely cannot do that year after year, raking up over \$14 trillion in debt that our children must one day pay.

And your Congress is struggling with cutting a paltry \$61 billion from a \$3.8 trillion spending plan. It's like we're arguing over what station the radio is on while the car is going off the cliff.

In the American kitchen, Dad looks at Mom at this point, and he says, Honey, something's got to change.

Your House of Representatives, folks, they've passed a spending plan. The Senate has failed to act. They haven't even come across with even their best-case-scenario spending plan. Even if it's the status quo of spending a trillion and a half dollars more than we are bringing in this year, they haven't

brought anything across the aisle. So how do you negotiate if one body has brought their best plan and the other body hasn't done anything?

Yesterday, I was proud to vote to provide military pay for the guys and gals across this great land that are standing on the wall defending the liberties that we have. They deserve to be paid. They don't deserve to stand on that wall and wonder if back home Mom is wondering if the power is going to stay on, if she's going to be able to pay the rent, or if she's going to be able to put food on the table for her children. That's the American way, to take care of the military.

I was no prouder than to stand on the steps of the United States Senate yesterday and implore, encourage, ask, beg the majority leader in the Senate to get to work, to come to the table with a real solution, because I don't want to be with my colleagues many years from now dying in our beds waiting for one chance, hoping for one chance, to trade every day from this day to that for another chance to come back here and do what we should do as Americans, and that's fund our government, get our spending under control, and protect the future for our children.

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GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise not to debate the economic crisis. Our national debt recently reached \$14 trillion and our deficit continues to rise annually. So we know that we have a crisis, and that is really not the debate here today. However, I want to remind my colleagues that our economic deficit is dependent on our job deficit and our ever-growing education deficit.

While we must work to rein in spending, we must not indiscriminately cut funding in areas like education, health, and employment that will hamper our immediate and future economic growth. As we remain vigilant in cutting the debt and reducing deficits, we must remember that the most powerful driver of both is a growing economy, which includes an increase in revenue.

During this recession, unemployment has impeded economic growth. One of the challenges in addressing unemployment has been the rapid decline in certain occupations and industries and our labor market's inability to meet the demand of new occupations and industries.

More than two-thirds of workers in occupations and industries that are growing have at least some postsecondary education compared to one-third of the workers in occupations and industries that are declining. The demand for a post-secondary education, as well as the increase in baby boomer