

firsthand, the Affordable Care Act is neither affordable nor caring.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to put America first and pass a bipartisan spending plan to prevent a government shutdown.

As the daughter of a small business owner, I learned at an early age that it's impossible to succeed without smart planning and reliable funding. Let's keep this lesson in mind.

Millions of Americans will be left hanging if the government shuts down. Benefits for veterans could be delayed; approval of small business loans would be suspended; and the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control, which monitor disease, may be forced to scale back their services, leaving us vulnerable to a health crisis.

One of the last government shutdowns in this country cost taxpayers \$800 million, including \$400 million in lost revenue collected by the IRS. We can't afford to go through that again.

It is time to put an end to the partisan games. American citizens aren't chips to be gambled with. Our servicemen and -women, mom-and-pop business owners, and families who show up for America every day deserve a government that shows up for them.

Let's stop grandstanding and start standing up for the American people by passing a CR.

OBAMACARE HURTS AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is unaffordable, unsustainable, and unreliable. An overwhelming majority of the American people agree that this disastrous \$1.2 trillion law must be replaced with a system that protects the doctor-patient relationship, as has been repeatedly introduced by Congressman TOM PRICE of Georgia.

The South Carolina Department of Insurance has estimated that health insurance rates in the Federal exchanges will increase up to 70 percent for South Carolinians. A majority of other States will have premium increases that will skyrocket, destroying jobs.

House Republicans have the best interests of Americans at heart. We know that hardworking families should not be forced to pay higher health care costs in addition to the financial burdens of everyday life.

The Senate should act and adopt bipartisan legislation as the House did last week.

We join with the American people to keep the government's doors open,

defund ObamaCare, and control government spending.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LOOMS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, once again, crucial deadlines loom, and here we are circling the drain, days away from another Republican-manufactured government shutdown due to the irresponsible lack of governing. Instead of forging—or even attempting to forge—a bipartisan compromise, we have another manufactured crisis, putting America on another roller-coaster ride.

Unfortunately, we have been here before, with the other party playing politics and pandering to their Tea Party base rather than doing what we were sent here to do, and that is to govern. It's enough. The American public is fed up with this.

It's time to drop the foolishness and stop pursuing—through threatening means that threaten the economy—what you can't achieve at the ballot box or through legislation.

The implications of this shutdown are real: it will hurt the American economy, and it threatens direct benefits that our veterans and people with disabilities receive. There's just too much at stake.

Republicans should drop this charade and do the job that we were elected to do, and that is govern, pass a budget, and protect the rights of the American people.

WE NEED LEADERSHIP

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we sincerely need true leadership at this time—great problems, great challenges, great divisions—and yet our President's first call last Friday to House leadership clearly indicated, in his own words, that he would not negotiate. How can this be leadership?

Sixty-one percent of citizens polled recently want spending cuts tied to the debt ceiling bill. Bill, in my town hall meeting yesterday morning, said:

My wife is very sick. I pay \$900 a month for my health insurance. I need that. But I want you to go to Washington and end the spending. Move our country forward. Shut down ObamaCare.

Mr. President, you won't negotiate? You negotiated with Mr. Putin and Mr. Assad. You've negotiated with the U.N. on an arms treaty threatening our Second Amendment liberty. Why would you not negotiate with the people's House and the people who sent us to restore fiscal sanity, economic opportunity, and liberty?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The Chair will remind Mem-

bers that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

“GREAT YEAR FOR REPUBLICANS”

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. This week, a leading Nevada Republican said that the 2014 elections will be a “great year for Republicans” because a lot of minorities and a lot of younger people will not turn out. Well, while the GOP plan for 2014 is focused on voter suppression, I’m here to deliver a different message:

Minorities and women are going to be turning out in droves next year because they see what the Republican leadership is doing in Washington. They see the dysfunction the Republicans have created and are apparently so proud of. They see the Republican agenda that’s driven by an extremist ideology rather than what’s best for Americans.

In fact, voters of all types are seeing—and will see over the next few days—just how out of step their House Republicans truly are. They grapple not with the needs of Americans, but with the two wings of their own caucus: the far right and the further right. We need a new agenda.

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PASTOR SAEED ABEDINI

(Mr. PITTINGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a letter from Dr. Billy Graham to Iranian President Rouhani, calling for the release of an American citizen currently imprisoned in Iran due to his faith. I quote from Dr. Graham:

The announcement on Monday that your country has freed 80 political prisoners is very encouraging. I fear, however, that the current publicity surrounding the continued imprisonment of Pastor Saeed Abedini, an American citizen, may further harm the already fragile relationship that presently exists between our two nations.

Today, thousands will attend prayer vigils in more than 70 U.S. cities, calling on your country to release this husband, father, and servant of God. I join them by respectfully asking you to release Pastor Saeed Abedini from prison. Such an action would, I believe, have a positive impact in our Nation, and might well be perceived by our leadership as a significant step in reducing tensions.

Respectfully yours, Billy Graham.

Today, I also wrote President Obama, with other House Members, asking that he call on Iran to free this American citizen and humanitarian. I urge you to join me in this effort.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, it is time to put an end to the political stagecraft and the gridlock that's come to characterize this Chamber. It is time for a little common sense, some collaboration, and some compromise.

Two hundred and thirty-eight years ago, the Founders of our great Nation risked their lives to establish this government. Imagine their reaction today as this body contemplates actions that would shut it down.

I'm a business guy of 32 years. I've tried a lot of ways to fix problems over the years, but shutting down the store has never been one of them.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a game. This is real life to the kids on Head Start, to the National Guard and the men and women in our Armed Forces being furloughed, to the seniors, to the students, the families struggling to get by, and to the millions of hardworking public servants who go to work every day on our behalf.

Mr. Speaker, we need to put an end to this folly, pass a clean continuing resolution funding our government, and then get to work balancing our budget, ending the sequester, rebuilding America, rebuilding the middle class, and putting America back to work.

SHUTDOWN AND MILITARY PAY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, over 3 months ago, the House passed a Defense appropriations bill with overwhelming bipartisan support.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, I want to remind Senate Democrats and the President that our fighting men and women are counting on us. The leadership in the Senate failed to even bring a Defense funding measure to the floor this year.

Now, should they fail to work with the House to fund the government, pay for our soldiers, sailors, and airmen could be delayed. Cutbacks could reduce their readiness and delay the procurement of tools they need to defend our Nation and themselves.

At a time when fighting continues in Afghanistan and we face serious threats from terrorists, at a time when the President is threatening force in Syria, we cannot let our guard down. We should not use our military and wounded warriors as pawns in political partisanship.

The Senate needs to act without delay to pass funding and keep the government from shutting down. The safety of brave Americans around the world is at risk if we fail.

THE FARM BILL

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, the one thing I hear from my constituents when I talk to them out in southern Minnesota: Is it so much to ask you folks just to do your job? As the drama swirls and the brinkmanship goes and it's déjà vu all over again, certain things shouldn't be that difficult.

As we are doing this, my farmers and ranchers and millions of them across the country are going about their work, every day getting up before dawn, doing their work, feeding us, clothing us, and powering this country. They've asked us to pass a farm bill. Four months ago, the Senate did it. Four months ago, the House Ag Committee did it. That wasn't good enough. We came to the floor, we created drama, we tried to make being hungry a sin, and now you've got a monstrosity.

Do you know what? The Constitution makes it very clear: bring the two together, conference the bill, and pass something that's good for America.

I get it—you don't like the Senate bill. I get it—the Senate doesn't like this bill. But do you know what? Let's get together and get something we can both equally dislike, but at least it serves the people and moves something forward. The time is now. The farm bill is waiting. People are hungry and producers are going food. Pass the farm bill.

OBAMACARE

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in the House compromised and voted to fund everything in the entire Federal Government but ObamaCare. Yet the President refuses to compromise on anything, even just that one bill.

If you think most of the national media is not biased, just consider the fact that they are not calling on the President to compromise at all. The national media apparently believes that House Republicans should be the only ones required to compromise.

Then look, too, at the different treatment given Texas State Senator Wendy Davis' filibuster and the filibuster-like speech by Senator TED CRUZ. The elite national media made Senator Davis an overnight sensation and treated her as courageous and even heroic. But Senator CRUZ has been blasted in every way by the liberals who control most of the media—a double standard that is both very unfair and very harmful to the Nation.

If the Federal Government shuts down, it will be in large part because the national media for some reason feels the President has no obligation to compromise or moderate his views in any way.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. BERA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BERA of California. Five more days, Mr. Speaker. In just 5 days, this body threatens to shut down the government. The public and the American citizens are fed up with these shenanigans. They want us to do our job.

If the government shuts down, we are going to send our military to work, but we are not going to pay them. If the government shuts down, veterans who have been waiting months for benefits are going to wait longer. Let's do our job. This is totally unacceptable.

The people expect us to come together and put together a real budget. We passed "No Budget, No Pay," but yet, we don't have a budget. The House has passed one budget; the Senate has passed another. Let's come together in a conference, agree on a single number, and move forward and set our priorities.

Enough kicking the can down the road. Let's keep the government open. Let's pass a budget. Let's start rebuilding the middle class for America and one that works, and let's get back on the right track. We can do this. We've done it before.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN FAIRNESS ACT

(Mr. COLLINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor to speak in support of the Government Shutdown Fairness Act, which I introduced last Friday. This legislation would stop Members of Congress from receiving a salary in the event of a government shutdown.

As Members of Congress, it is our job to keep the government running, and it is wrong that we would continue to get paid while programs for veterans, seniors, and many others are adversely impacted and those in the military are not paid.

This legislation is consistent with the 27th Amendment and would hold Member salaries in escrow until the end of this Congress. Salary and job performance are often tied together, and it should be no different in the government.

The American people deserve more from their Congress. We must be willing to put ourselves at the back of the line and put our constituents first during a government shutdown.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, compromise is a way of life in public policy. My way or