

fringes, those on the extreme—those who are unbending—will accuse us of not standing by our ideals if we compromise; but the fact is that most, if not all, of the accomplishments in the history of this country that have been achieved by the United States Congress have been achieved through compromise.

Let's talk for a moment about one of the reasons I am happy to represent the State of Connecticut.

The Congress in which Mrs. BLACKBURN and I serve—the very structure and architecture of that Congress—was formed by something known as the Connecticut Compromise of 1787, when Roger Sherman and a group of people who disagreed on stunning issues of the day—and some of the people who were disagreeing were inviting foreign powers in to stand with them—came together and said, Do you know what? We will have a bicameral legislature—a Senate and a House—that will balance the big States and the small States.

And Roger Sherman's statue is here in the Capitol.

By the way, the capital is here because Madison and Jefferson and others of our Founding Fathers made a compromise in which they said the Federal Government will assume the remaining Revolutionary debt of the States in exchange for putting the capital in the Southern States. Compromise is how we get things done around here.

For those who might challenge my own credentials on compromise, I will point out that I was one of 38 Members of this body—less than 10 percent of the House of Representatives—who voted for the Simpson-Bowles' budget. Everyone else said, No, I am not going to compromise because that's too difficult.

So what about the crossroads at which we find ourselves today—the possibility of a government shutdown that would hurt our economy and certainly hurt an awful lot of Americans and the even more egregious possibility that we would not honor the full faith and credit of the United States Government for the very first time in our 240-year history?

Is this a great national battle between North and South? between Republicans and Democrats?

No, it is not. It is something far more unnecessary and uninspiring.

On one side of this debate, we have got, actually, the majority of Republicans and the majority of Democrats who say, Let's come together. Let's not bring an unnecessary crisis to our country—a manufactured, artificial crisis. Let's compromise. On the other side, you've got a handful of, maybe, three or four Senators and of maybe 30 or 40 Members of the House of Representatives who are so possessed of the Lord's wisdom—they so embody the tradition of our Founding Fathers—that they will listen to no one, and they will refuse to compromise.

But who are these people?

These are people who believe that the best way today to spur economic

growth is to put in place savage cuts that will fire teachers and firefighters and nurses, because that will help—despite all evidence to the contrary. These are people who believe that the storms and the tornadoes that have ravaged just about every State in this country have absolutely nothing to do with climate change—despite all evidence to the contrary. These are people who believe that ObamaCare today is doing great damage to this Nation—despite all evidence to the contrary. These are people who don't believe that the President of the United States was born in this country—despite all evidence to the contrary.

So much could get done—comprehensive immigration reform, a budget that looks a little something like the Simpson-Bowles' budget for which I voted. So many things could get done, Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Ohio would set aside this small rump group of dead-enders and say, We will govern. We will govern this Nation in the tradition of Roger Sherman, of James Madison, of Thomas Jefferson by listening to the other side, by shutting down the extremes and by thinking about the long-term interests of this great country.

A COMMON COURSE FOR COMMON GOALS

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, a crisis is not a good time for inflammatory rhetoric or ad hominem attacks. I believe that my colleague from Connecticut just missed the mark a moment ago when he threw out terms such as "dead-enders" and "extremists." I will simply say that, yesterday, the President missed an opportunity to bring both sides together. That responsibility now rests solely with us.

Nobody on the Republican side of the aisle wants to see a government shutdown or a credit default—let's make that clear—and I am confident that nobody on the Democratic side wants to see millions of Americans lose the health plans they were told they could keep or see their health care costs skyrocket or lose their jobs or work hours because of the unintended consequences of ObamaCare, but these events that nobody wants to see are now unfolding. They will do great damage to our Nation that nobody wants to see happen.

If we agree on these fundamental issues, our course should be clear, and it is only blocked by the kind of partisan division that we heard yesterday from the White House and a few moments ago. We can avert these calamities and redeem this institution if we can put aside the name-calling for a few days and get down to business.

The good news is we have a process of government that has evolved over centuries that is very good at resolving

differences of opinion between the two Houses of Congress and within the two Houses of Congress. In this case, there shouldn't even be much to resolve. All of us want to see the government stay open. All of us want to see the government's credit preserved. All of us want to see Americans protected from losing health plans that they want to keep or from being socked with crushing premium increases or from losing their jobs or from having their hours cut back.

□ 1030

If we're all agreed on these objectives, isn't the appropriate course self-evident? Senator MANCHIN seems to have laid it out very clearly the other day: a temporary continuing resolution to keep the government open, a temporary increase in the debt limit while we complete the normal appropriations process, and a temporary delay in ObamaCare until the unintended consequences of its mandates can be corrected.

Is that so unreasonable?

After all, this administration has already exempted big corporations and more than 1,000 politically connected groups from ObamaCare mandates. More revealingly, the administration has protected Members of Congress from its crushing costs. That ought to be the ultimate wake-up call. If Members of Congress can't afford to meet ObamaCare's costs, how do we expect the average American to do so? Why not give everybody the same relief by delaying these mandates until the law can be replaced with provisions that actually fulfill the promises made to the American people when it was enacted.

I don't like continuing resolutions at all. The Congress has a responsibility to superintend the Nation's finances, and it's developed an appropriations process that requires painstaking review of every expenditure of this government. That review involves countless hours of committee work, scores of hours of floor debate, and hundreds of individual amendments. Continuing resolutions cast aside this work and abandon Congress' responsibility over the Nation's finances. They shift enormous authority to the executive branch that the Founders never intended. I had hoped to be done with continuing resolutions.

Those who enacted ObamaCare no doubt hoped it would lower health care costs and help the economy. Sadly, events in this imperfect world can often disappoint and transfigure our fondest hopes. We've not completed the appropriations process. We need additional time to do so, and we need to correct the damage being done to existing health plan holders and employees of ObamaCare. If we could all agree on these objectives, then our course should be clear to all of us. We should fund the government long enough to complete the normal appropriations process, and we should delay

ObamaCare long enough to preserve the jobs, working hours, and existing health care policies of the millions of Americans who are now losing them.

So let's cool the rhetoric and do what this institution is designed to do: come together in support of the objectives upon which we all agree for the good of the Nation and the people who have entrusted us with its care.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, in 3 days, this body threatens to shut down the government.

A government shutdown is going to affect millions of Americans. A government shutdown is going to affect middle class families at a time when our economy is slowly recovering, at a time when people are just starting to feel a little bit better about their home values, at a time when my constituents in Sacramento County are just now starting to feel a little bit better.

Mr. Speaker, we can avoid this. Let's do what our history has shown us we can do. President Ronald Reagan was able to work with Speaker Tip O'Neill and get something done. That's what happens in divided government. President Bill Clinton was able to work with Speaker Newt Gingrich and get something done. That's what happens in divided government. You work together. You listen to each other. You don't play this blame game. You act like adults.

Let's start talking and let's start listening to one another. That's what the American public wants. They want Democrats and Republicans to bring their best ideas forward, put those ideas on the table, and put the people first. It's not that hard to do. That's what we teach our kids to do. That's what we do for those of us that have worked in the private sector. That's what American families do every day. They learn how to work together.

The House is controlled by Republicans, the Senate is controlled by Democrats, and President Obama was reelected as a Democratic President. This is divided government. Mr. Speaker, sit down with the President, sit down with the leadership, put the best ideas forward, and compromise. We can't operate in a my-way-or-the-highway mentality, a winner-take-all mentality because that's killing this country.

The public is watching. In these next 3 days, I hope this body acts like adults and we don't start playing the blame game and saying, Oh, it's the Republicans' fault; oh, it's the Democrats' fault. That's not going to get us anywhere.

Yesterday, the Senate passed a continuing resolution to keep the government funded for 2 months. That isn't a solution, but at least it gives us 2 months to act like adults and put to-

gether a real budget. At its core, that's what we need to do. The number one job for elected officials, for all of us in this body, is to put together a real budget that takes the best Democratic ideas and the best Republican ideas, puts them together and puts the American people first.

We can listen to all of the rhetoric that says the House has passed a budget and we did it on time, the Senate has passed a budget, the President has passed a budget. The sad fact is all three budgets are different. How do you operate a business like that? How do you manage your household like that? Let's act like adults, and let's go to conference. Let's take those three budgets, let's figure out a solution and a compromise and agree on one budget, and then bring that back to this body.

Yes, the Senate passed a continuing resolution. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring it to this body today. Give us a chance to vote up or down. If you don't like that resolution, then the Republicans who control the House will vote down on it. But give us a chance to vote up or down. That's how this should work.

The Senate has passed a farm bill that is important to this country and it's important to my constituents in California and Sacramento. Give us a chance to vote on that bill up or down. That's how government should work.

We've got to start coming together.

There is a group of us that are working together. I'm a leader of a group called "The Problem Solvers." It's now up to 83 Members. It's Democrats and Republicans. We don't agree on everything, but we listen to one another. We put our ideas forward. We want government to work. We want to fix problems, not fight. We want to actually take those ideas.

One of the first bills that I passed and I cosponsored was No Budget, No Pay, which says if we don't actually put a budget together, why should Members of Congress get paid? Nobody else in America gets paid if they don't do their job. This body is not doing its job. No Budget, No Pay, we passed it. The Senate passed it and the President signed it into law. Let's actually pass a budget. If we get 2 months, if we get 3 months in funding the government, let's use those 3 months wisely to pass a budget. The public is watching.

Here are three things that we could do: number one, go to a conference committee. The Senate has appointed folks to talk about their budget. The House has not appointed those folks. Let's get this done, and let's start moving America forward and relieving the debt burden on our kids and grandkids. We can do this. The public is watching. Three more days.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise first to thank my colleague and friend from California (Mr. BERA), for recognizing that in divided government, which we've had in the past, it's important that we sit down and resolve differences and we negotiate.

He correctly pointed out that President Reagan, in the 1980s, was willing to and quick to negotiate with then-Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill, and they accomplished great things. They reformed the Tax Code in 1982. In 1986, they reformed Social Security by working with Tip O'Neill and Senator Moynihan from New York. Twelve years later, President Clinton was willing to sit down and speak with then-Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and they performed important things for this country. They reformed welfare and balanced the budget. Those things weren't easy. Those things took resolution. It took resolve and willingness to sit down and talk with each other.

Here we are in the year 2013, and many of us on this side of the aisle are feeling like we don't have government that's willing to sit down and negotiate. As a matter of fact, this morning in The Hill it is reported in a headline that says: "Obama to Republicans: I will not negotiate." So here we are at the eleventh hour ready, willing to compromise, to negotiate with a Commander in Chief and Chief Executive that will not negotiate with us.

What you need in order to compromise many times is time and space, and I'm here today, Mr. Speaker, to express my support for delaying the Affordable Care Act by at least 1 year. Since the law's passage, time has shown that the Affordable Care Act is a misguided effort which has divided Americans on the common goal of affordable access to world-class health care, as opposed to bringing us together to rise to the challenges that we face as a country.

What has most of us deeply troubled is that not only will the law leave over 30 million Americans uninsured and forced to pay a tax, but it is forcing physicians to fundamentally question the nature of their profession and its pursuit.

The role of the doctor fundamentally changes under this law. As opposed to being healers, doctors are now bureaucrats. The law erodes the core of American medicine, defined by exceptional medical care practiced by highly trained experts who are driven to innovate and improve for the common good. Instead, this law leads to medicine by bureaucrat and checking off boxes.

As for the 30 million who will remain uninsured under the law's design, they will continue to be left outside the health care system. Compounding matters, the law also creates countless newly uninsured Americans, something the President told us would not happen. But it is happening in the Eighth Congressional District of Pennsylvania, with workplaces struggling to