

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

deal with the law's overreach and the law's burdens.

Additionally, former President Clinton has highlighted another 500,000 Americans who will become uninsured due to the President's health care law: children. He's referring to it as the "family glitch," where the law's complicated formula removes children from their parents' health insurance, leaving them without coverage. Furthermore, nearly one-third of those children will not qualify for Medicaid or for CHIP. Glitch? This is a catastrophe. Both the intended and the unintended consequences of the law are far-reaching and will not be fully understood until this week as Americans begin to live under this new system. As was said during the health care debate by the law's supporters, "We have to pass the law to find out what's in it." That is the prevailing attitude by people in the Beltway who have continued to put themselves between patients and doctors, workers and workplaces, students and teachers, and families and their faith time and time again.

One of the keys to our Nation's success is the manner we have adopted to solve problems. It is hardwired into our culture of freedom. Americans believe we can solve our own problems and are more apt to work together when we know the solutions lie in our hands, not in somebody else's. This is what makes America exceptional.

While many of us agree that there is some good in the law, there is no telling what else we're about to find out about the health care law and its impact on families, workplaces, and the economy. That's the problem, Mr. Speaker, in a nutshell. As Congress struggles to deal with the costs, and presumably, the unintended consequences of the health care law, Americans need answers and they need answers now. At a minimum, glaring deficiencies like these are reasons for pause. All policymakers, including the President, should take a step back and delay the law's implementation for at least a year to ensure that Americans are being helped and not hurt.

OBAMACARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I believe that Obama does, in fact, care, and that care is evidenced by the fact that we passed the most major piece of health legislation that we have done since the mid-1960s, since Medicare and Medicaid.

So it's amazing to me that I continue to hear colleagues in both the House and the Senate who are attempting to deny the existence of this legislation, legislation that was passed by both Houses of Congress, signed into law by the President of the United States of America, upheld by the Supreme Court, which says that it is indeed constitutional, and still there are colleagues

trying to deny the existence of this law. That is amazing.

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As a matter of fact, it's real. It's passed. It's been affirmed. And it's going to stay.

My county government, Cook County government, has already, with a waiver, signed up more than 100,000 people, just waiting to get enrolled into its county care program—100,000 people, none of whom will have to worry about preexisting conditions; 100,000 people in Cook County, none of whose children under 26 will have to worry about having health insurance coverage because they can have it on their parents' policies; 100,000 people, none of whom will have to worry about running out of benefits; 100,000 people in Cook County, one county, who will have their own primary care physician, who will be able to see a doctor and go to the clinic on a regular basis.

But that's nothing compared to the more than 30 million people in this country who, for the first time in their lives, will have health insurance coverage. I hear all of the discussions about the negative impact. Well, you ask a person in need of health care who has never been able to get it how much of a "negative impact" it's going to have on them.

I agree that the Senate has passed a continuing resolution which does not fund the government for the extended period of time that we'd like to see and need to see. But I can tell you, I would rather have that than to have people worrying and wondering whether they're going to be able to see a doctor when they need to see one or go to the hospital or take their child to a regular doctor rather than having to go to the emergency room.

So I would urge my colleagues, let's be in agreement with the Senate. And let's move right now, today—and if not today, tomorrow—to pass a continuing resolution that keeps our government funded.

DEFICIT DAY

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, Deficit Day is the symbolic day each calendar year when the Federal Government runs out of money and begins adding to the already enormous debt. Despite the \$2.7 trillion the government is estimated to collect this year from taxes, tariffs, fees, and other sources on a calendar-year basis, the money ran out this past Wednesday, September 25.

As the debt limit approaches in mid-October, the Federal Government continues to spend money it does not have on things that Americans do not want. Washington is projected to spend over \$10 billion per day; and from this point until December 31, every dollar that it spends from this point on adds to our

enormous national debt, which is already nearly \$17 trillion. In the last 4 years, Congress has raised the debt limit seven times; and, today, the debt for every man, woman, and child averages over \$53,000 per person.

Mr. Speaker, families and small businesses from across the United States are forced to live within their means. The Federal Government should be held to the same standard. If my friends back in my home State of Missouri can successfully balance their budgets each year, we should be capable of doing the right thing here in Washington, D.C. That is why I introduced an amendment to the Constitution to require the government to produce a balanced budget each and every year.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all my House and Senate colleagues to pass a budget, to balance a budget, and to reduce our national debt.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Sept. 24, 2013]

HAPPY DEFICIT DAY, UNCLE SAM

(By James R. Harrigan and Antony Davies)

"Deficit Day" is here again, marking the day the U.S. government runs out of money and begins adding to the nation's already-enormous debt. Despite the \$2.7 trillion the federal government collects every year from Americans in the form of income, payroll, corporate, estate and excise taxes, as well as tariffs, fees and other sources, on a calendar year basis the money runs out Sept. 25, at around 3 p.m.

Washington is spending at the rate of over \$10 billion per day and from this point until Dec. 31 every dollar it spends will add to the nation's debt—which is already nearly \$17 trillion. (This is a separate calculation from the overall federal debt limit, which will be reached in the next few weeks.)

The closer the government comes to balancing the budget, the further it pushes Deficit Day toward the end of the year. So it's good news that the federal government runs out of money 16 days later this year than last. But the underlying reality is much less rosy: Despite the repeal of the payroll-tax cut—a move that cost the average American family \$1,000 this year—there are still 97 days left in the year for which the federal government has no income.

Income, or no income, the government certainly won't stop spending.

This is not fiscal responsibility. Through the payroll tax, the government has simply raised tax revenues at the expense of people who are already overtaxed. Had the government simply held spending constant from last year, Deficit Day would have been shifted 30 days into the future, not 16. But a politician with more money in his hand is a politician who will soon be on a spending spree.

In the 54 years since 1960, the federal government has managed to achieve a unified budget surplus only six times. And what, you may ask, is a "unified budget?" It's when the government treats the \$33 billion that it will borrow from Social Security this year the same way it treats tax revenue, instead of the debt it is. Imagine borrowing from your IRA while you are still working and calling the borrowed money income. The government managed to get by without such a fudge only six times in half a century.

This year's Deficit Day of Sept. 25 is the fifth earliest we have had since 1960, which puts current spending in grim perspective. Since 2009, though, Deficit Day has actually