

ISN'T IT TIME TO END THE REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN?

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is day two of the Republican shutdown, holding America hostage. The stated objective of their fury is what they feel to be the "unconstitutional" Affordable Care Act that will wreck the economy and destroy health care in America.

They harbor these feelings and will not relent until the law is defunded, even if it means shutting down the government, denying people essential services, furloughing Federal employees, and raising the specter of default on our national debt. This is despite the fact that the health care bill passed 3 years ago. It was declared constitutional by the United States Supreme Court and was argued extensively in the 2012 elections, which the Republicans lost.

We've now seen the first day of the Affordable Care Act, already about 10 million visits to the Web site, phone lines jammed, hundreds of thousands of Americans—doctors, nurses, people in hospitals, insurance companies—involved in making the biggest advance in health care since Medicare 50 years ago.

Are the Republicans afraid that the program will succeed, that Americans will see that this effort to help 40 to 50 million Americans with low income or people with preexisting conditions will actually get help?

Republicans, in any event, should not pull the rug out from underneath the people who could benefit from the law or the hundreds of thousands of people who have made significant investments and are working to improve the delivery of health care in America at great effort and expense for themselves.

According to the independent Congressional Budget Office, this is going to provide more access at less cost and lead to a deficit reduction on the order of \$1 trillion over the next 20 years. In fact, the Republicans in the House of Representatives have taken \$500 billion of these savings from the Affordable Care Act and stuffed it in their budget to make it appear that it's more affordable.

If they were serious and not cynical, they would remove the money from their budget that's attributed to the bill they're working so hard to defund. While they're at it, if they're serious and not cynical, they would have a conference committee on the budget.

Wasn't it interesting, the 11th hour Hail Mary proposal late Saturday night to have a conference committee on the continuing resolution despite the fact that there was nothing to conference—it was defund ObamaCare or nothing.

But if House Republicans really think conference committees are such a good idea, why don't we have a conference committee on the budget? The

Senate has been waiting for the House Republican leadership for 6 months to approve conferees so we can see if we can reconcile some of these differences.

If my friends were serious and not cynical about saving money, they would bring their own spending bills to the floor. Remember, it's been over 2 months since they abruptly stopped the appropriations process with the Treasury-HUD bill still in limbo, just walked off the floor halfway through the debate. The remaining eight spending bills appear to be so bad under the Ryan budget, which uses those evil ObamaCare savings, that their own Members don't even seem to want to vote for them.

Finally, if they are serious and not cynical, they should absolutely take the debt ceiling blackmail off the table. There's no reason to threaten to destabilize not just our economy, but the global economy, by pretending for 1 minute that America won't pay its bills. We will. But to threaten we would do otherwise invites chaos.

This is day two of the Affordable Care Act. The sun came up in the East. No one was forced to go to the post office for their prostate exam. No women had to go to the airport screeners for a mammogram. No doctors have been arrested or hospitals shut down. What did happen is people are getting better insurance with more choices at more affordable rates. I even bet that the sun sets in the West tonight.

Isn't it time to end the Republican shutdown?

VA FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) for 1 minute.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, last night House Republicans once again showed up and took action to stop the bleeding of HARRY REID's government shutdown. President Obama has already bullied the House by threatening to veto these important bills to protect our Nation's veterans, keep D.C. schools and services open, and preserve and reopen our national parks.

By voting against these bills, House Democrats turned their backs on the Nation's veterans. It's reprehensible to sit back and watch our veterans suffer. The Honoring Our Promise to America's Veterans Act would ensure vital funding for disability compensation, pensions, the GI Bill, and other critical benefits that are threatened by HARRY REID's shutdown.

Today we will give the Democrats another chance to vote in favor of veterans. This is not a partisan issue, it's an American issue, and we must pass this legislation today. House Republicans are here. We're ready to negotiate. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the President should cancel his trip to Asia and come negotiate with us.

Simply put, in God we trust.

BIPARTISAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard that later today an immigration bill will be introduced in the House of Representatives in order to keep the issue moving forward.

I plan to sign on to that bill. As I understand it, it will combine elements of the Senate's bipartisan compromise bill with a bipartisan House border security bill. I am going to sign on because I want to stand with 200 of my Democratic colleagues and assert that the Democratic Party is ready to move forward on immigration reform. The bill that Democrats will put forward is not a perfect bill. It is the product of negotiations, compromise, and bipartisanship.

Having spent many long hours working with Ted Kennedy, JOHN MCCAIN, Jim Kolbe, and JEFF FLAKE on bipartisan bills in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007, I know that you never get everything you want when you engage in genuine bipartisan efforts; but these days, with our sharply divided politics, bipartisanship is the only way you get anything done. The American people are sick of the U.S. Congress because we are totally divided and can't seem to come together, even to keep our government open.

Yesterday, Puerto Rican Korea war veterans and Mississippi and Iowa veterans of World War II had to break down barricades to visit the monuments on The National Mall that celebrate their sacrifice and honor. It should have never had to come to this.

And on immigration, I still think we have a chance to work together and get something done. It's really rare that the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce agree on anything. But you know what? They came to agreement to move immigration reform forward. The largest growers actually worked out an agreement to move forward on immigration reform with the union founded by Cesar Chavez that's been fighting for them for 40 years.

The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal editorial pages represent different ends of the political spectrum, but their editorials calling for Congress to address immigration reform are so similar, they could practically be accused of plagiarism.

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And I've talked with many of my Republican colleagues. They too understand that our current legal immigration system is broken. Many of them understand that creating ways for people to come legally is necessary to spark our economy, reunite families and maintain our values in the United States.

They understand that the path to law and order is to have a functioning, legal immigration system that allows people to come with a visa and not a

smuggler. Many of my Republican colleagues understand that we cannot secure the border unless we secure and combine border security with a legal avenue for people to come here.

And they understand that we cannot establish law and order without getting the millions of people here into the system, on the books, paying taxes, and legitimize their stay in the United States, including citizenship for those who choose to embrace this country, just as every wave of previous immigrants have had that choice.

Many of my Republican colleagues realize that the best way, politically and practically, to achieve a full implementation of things like E-Verify and an entry/exit visa system, the only way to effectively enforce our law is to allow for legal immigration. We can and must do the legalization, the border security, and all of the enforcement together.

With the introduction of a bill, you will see the unity and commitment of my party, the Democratic Party. But I believe it is only after we emerge from this very dark tunnel of partisanship and budget bitterness that we can find a way for leaders in both parties to move forward, work together and get the Speaker to give us a vote.

But the clock is ticking. Two million people will have been deported by this administration, a Democratic administration, by President Barack Obama, sometime in October. Believe me, the deportation machine does not pause for a government shutdown.

This Saturday, October 5, in 163 cities there will be marches and demonstrations and activities to push this Congress, and especially the Republican leadership, to allow a vote on immigration reform.

I will march in Chicago, meet with evangelical leaders, and join canvassers fanning out across congressional districts on Saturday.

And then, on Tuesday, October 8, I invite all my colleagues to join the tens of thousands of Americans, immigrants, supporters, citizens, for a concert and a rally to make sure this Chamber knows the truth, and that is that the persistent and consistent pressure to pass an immigration bill in red States, blue States, purple States has not subsided and is stronger than ever.

I ask you all to come and join me and our immigrant community from across this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I will show you the faces of families who want this Congress to put aside our party differences and to act for the families of America, for the millions of American citizens that need a fair and just immigration system.

Come and join us in your city on October 5 and, if not, come and join us here in the Capitol of the United States on October 8. The people will be speaking.

CR VS. APPROPRIATIONS BILL VS. DOD

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is shut down, thereby damaging America's economy generally, and the Tennessee Valley's economy in particular, where thousands of defense and NASA and other Federal Government employees have been furloughed because the President, in his discretion, designated them non-essential.

I hope my remarks add clarity about the shutdown, its cause, and the efforts to fund the government.

City, county and State governments across America pass one bill, called a budget, that funds services for their fiscal years.

In contrast, Washington uses a three-step spending process. First, Washington should pass a bill that is called a budget, yet, does not, in fact, spend a dime. Rather, in Washington, the word budget is more like a game plan. It is much like a football coach's playbook. It lists the team's plays but does not, in and of itself, gain a single yard.

Second, Washington should pass authorization bills that describe the programs the Federal Government is to operate. For example, the NASA authorization bill authorizes NASA to work on the Space Launch System so that America can have a human space flight program. Like budgets, authorization bills spend no money.

Third, Washington must pass appropriation bills to actually spend money on the programs authorized. If Congress fails to pass appropriation bills, then Congress uses continuing resolutions as crutches for our failure.

There are 12 appropriation bills that, collectively, fund the Federal Government. So far this year, the House, months ago, passed appropriation bills for national defense, energy and water, homeland security, military construction, and veterans affairs.

If the Senate passes these appropriation bills, then each of these Federal programs are fully funded and exempt from the Federal Government shutdown. That's correct: exempt from the shutdown.

Unfortunately, the Senate inexplicably refuses to vote on any of the 12 appropriation bills. Senate intransigence is why we are here today debating a continuing resolution to temporarily fund the Federal Government.

For emphasis, continuing resolutions are the worst way to fund the Federal Government. By definition, continuing resolutions are for a short period. Speaker BOEHNER's CR is for 2½ months. Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID's CR is for even less, 1½ months.

Each CR kicks the can down the road and forces America to quickly face yet another shutdown risk. Each CR means Federal agencies cannot plan long-term, and contracting officers are re-

stricted in their ability to let contracts for services and goods provided by the private sector to the Federal Government and American citizens.

Generally speaking, continuing resolutions fund at prior-year spending levels, which means spending does not change to reflect changing priorities, circumstances and challenges.

In sum, continuing resolutions are inherently inefficient, waste tax dollars, and retard proper Federal government operation.

Hence, I have historically voted against less-than-year-end continuing resolutions in hopes of forcing Congress to do the compromising necessary to pass authorization and appropriations bills. This work will not be done so long as the continuing resolution crutch protects Congress from failure.

Which brings us to today. The Senate, White House and Congress agree on roughly 99 percent of the appropriation bills. Let me emphasize that. The Senate, White House and Congress agree on roughly 99 percent of the appropriation bills.

The solution, therefore, to our impasse is simple. Congress and the White House should fully fund the 99 percent we agree on, end the government shutdown, and work out our differences on the remaining 1 percent.

Instead, the Senate and White House use a Federal Government shutdown to coerce the House of Representatives into spending money America does not have on a socialized medicine program that does not work and that a majority of Americans do not want.

Yesterday, I spoke with House leadership, and I urged them to pass bills that, one at a time, fund the 99 percent of the Federal Government that we agree on. I thank the House leadership for doing exactly that yesterday and today. Each bill we pass exempts yet another part of the Federal government from the shutdown.

I urge my friends across the aisle to stop using the 99 percent as a hostage, to stop punishing citizens across America in their effort to coerce the House of Representatives into funding the 1 percent we have a legitimate disagreement on.

I urge my friends across the aisle to join us, to join America, to compromise, yes, to compromise, and pass as many funding bills as we can to minimize and eliminate the harmful effects of a Federal Government shutdown.

THE TIME HAS COME FOR REASON

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for reason. No longer can we afford to allow a small segment of this Congress to drive the debate. It's not just the tail wagging the dog, it is the tip of the dog's tail wagging the entire body politic.