

I will always fight for our veterans. I am proud to serve them in my work on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. The first piece of legislation I passed this year will help our veterans who are stuck in the VA backlog.

And I will always stand up for our national parks. I am grateful to live near the Grand Canyon, a national treasure. My district has many of these wonderful destinations. I recently introduced a bill that will protect and expand the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in southern Arizona.

So my support for these issues is clear. But the real way to support our veterans and support our parks is to reopen the government. And if piecemeal is their solution, then what about making sure Social Security offices are open to help our seniors?

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What about making sure programs to help women and children are up and running? What about our Indian health services, which serves the 12 tribes in my district?

We need to restart everything and protect our economy. Taking a piecemeal approach to the shutdown is like driving down a dead-end street. The House GOP knows this, and yet they refuse to allow a vote on a clean CR.

We are wasting precious time. Every ounce of energy and urgency in Congress should be directed toward reopening the government and protecting our economy. Our local economies in Arizona are taking a direct hit.

Yesterday, on day one of the shutdown in my district, busloads of tourists and hundreds of visitors were turned away from the Grand Canyon National Park. These folks waited a year or more for their turn to go on a river rafting trip in the canyon. There were even folks whose weddings, planned long ago, had to be scrapped today.

The Grand Canyon National Park generates more than \$1.2 million a day in visitor spending. That spending, like the government, is now shut down.

I represent several other national park attractions, including the Petrified Forest National Park, the Grand Canyon Ruins National Monument, and the Montezuma Castle National Monument. These are some of Arizona's most important economic drivers. We can't afford to hang a "closed" sign out in front of these destinations. This shutdown will devastate the small communities in my district.

I call on my House colleagues to stop the games and get to work to restart government.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I have a heavy heart about this issue, as I know many of my colleagues do. In fact, I haven't bumped into one of the 432 of

us who is enthusiastic about the situation that we are in.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, one of the things that is most troubling to me is the decision to define success as passing a CR that the Senate is dictating. I don't say that because it is the Senate. My constituency back home doesn't care about CRs. A CR is a continuing resolution, as you know, Mr. Speaker.

The only time—the only time—a continuing resolution comes to the floor of this House is when the House has already failed to do the job it was supposed to do. That is passing appropriations bills, Mr. Speaker. That is appropriating through 12 different bills, one step at a time, making those decisions about spending priorities for the Nation.

It is fascinating to me, Mr. Speaker, because it has been years—years—since this House has gone through that process not through any fault of this House, but because we have absolutely no activity on the Senate side. Again, it somehow is getting defined today as if you do things "piecemeal" that you are somehow doing something wrong. Again, that is regular order. Doing things one bill at a time is normal. That is what is supposed to happen. You are supposed to make individual decisions on individual bills.

Last year, the House passed seven different appropriations bills, Mr. Speaker, one step at a time the way the government is supposed to be funded. The Senate passed one and, thus, the process broke down. No appropriations bills were passed. We have been funding the government through these continuing resolutions. Well, here we are again: this year, Mr. Speaker, the House has worked on five appropriations bills; the Senate has passed zero—zero.

So we are here where we are today because the Senate hasn't been able to move anything at all. It is with a heavy heart that I hear my colleagues say we could reopen services for veterans, but we are not going to do it because we have a better plan that we ought to do everything at once. If we can't help everybody, we don't want to help anybody.

I don't believe that is actually the sentiment of my friends on the other side of the aisle. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in June of this year, we came together—we came together—in this House, only four votes against a Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. Four votes in this entire House of Representatives voted "no." Everyone else voted "yes." That bill, which fully funds all of our veterans services, in fact, pluses up the funding for our veterans services not for 3 months, not for 3 weeks, but for the entire fiscal year. We passed that in June, Mr. Speaker, and it sits in the Senate dusty today having received no attention since June.

I don't know about your constituents, Mr. Speaker, but my constituents want us to get something done. They

understand there are things that we disagree about, but isn't there more that unites us than divides us? I tell you that there is. I am absolutely certain that there is. If the only way we can find it is to move one small piece of legislation at a time, that may not be the most efficient way to do it, but if that gets the job done, let's get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of excuses and I am tired of the blame. The Rules Committee is going to report out a rule today that is going to bring these provisions back to the House for an opportunity to open up those parks that my colleague was talking about just a few minutes ago, an opportunity to serve our veterans, an opportunity to deal with the important research at NIH, and on and on.

Let's find those things we agree on. Let's get something done. We can do it, Mr. Speaker.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, this Republican shutdown is an outrageous abdication of Congress' responsibility. It didn't need to be this way.

In fact, if the House leadership were to call up a clean continuing resolution appropriations bill today it would pass. There are a sufficient number of votes from both sides of the political aisle to pass the measure. So far, however, the House Republican leadership has refused to do so, afraid of extremists within its own caucus—the so-called TED CRUZ Tea Party faction—whose demand is to shut down the government until the Affordable Care Act is either repealed or delayed.

So the American people's government has shut down. Ninety percent of the employees of the Environmental Protection Agency have been furloughed. Eighty-four percent of the employees of the Department of Interior all over the country, but mostly in the Western States, have all been furloughed. Seventy percent of the employees of our essential intelligence agencies have now been furloughed. Recipients of the Women, Infants, and Children program, the most vulnerable mothers and children, have had their livelihoods jeopardized. The National Institutes of Health have had to turn away 30 children with cancer from clinical trials.

We in this House must end this shutdown. This debate isn't even about the budget. The President and the Senate have already agreed to trillions of dollars of cuts set by the so-called Ryan Republican budget even though this draconian budget will endanger basic government operations, it will disinvest in our children's future, and it will trigger even more Federal employee furloughs and possible RIFs.

Rather, this shutdown is about a measure that strengthens insurance

coverage for the roughly 260 million Americans who have insurance. It will also eliminate preexisting conditions and lifetime limits and makes health insurance available and affordable to roughly 40 million uninsured Americans through State exchanges where insurance companies compete to provide coverage, and through expansion of the Medicaid program.

The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It has been affirmed as constitutional by the Republican-dominated Supreme Court and by a 5 million vote majority of the American people with the defeat of the Presidential candidate who promised to repeal it less than a year ago.

Regardless of where one may stand on the issue of the Affordable Care Act—aka ObamaCare—our Democratic process for enacting laws and setting policy should not be held hostage to the threat of a government shutdown. It sets a terrible precedent for the future.

My Republican colleagues continue to demand concessions with serious long-term consequences in exchange for funding a spending bill for just a relatively few more days, another 45 days or so. They want long-term concessions at their preferred inadequate spending levels.

What unreasonable demands will be made when this latest CR expires in 2 months or 1 month? These attempts to overturn the democratic results of the last election by threat-making and hostage-taking must end now. We should do our job, fund the government, and we should remove the looming threat to the global economy in the form of the expiration of the debt ceiling, which will occur in just a couple of weeks.

Not content with the economic destruction and hardship brought by their government shutdown and their refusal to let the Federal Government play its historic role to stimulate a strong economic recovery, House Republicans continue to threaten the full faith and credit of the United States.

As President Obama noted, if the tables were turned and you had a Republican President and a Democratic Speaker, as you did during the Reagan administration, neither Speaker O'Neill nor the American people would tolerate what is going on today.

In fact, that is the situation that we have today—a broken Congress, a situation where the American people's voices aren't heard or represented. It is time for us to heed the American people, to let the majority of this Congress determine public policy.

Let's stop the extremism. Let's be responsible. Let's pass this continuing resolution clean and go on with the business of the government.

10TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I know that the American people are watching what is happening in Washington these days with a little more than a passing interest. I am sure they wonder sometimes about where is the truth because they hear folks on one side of the aisle saying one thing and folks on the other side of the aisle saying another thing.

When I talk to people at home, I do my best to explain the situation in Washington right now. I try to point out the fact that we have deep philosophical differences in this body and in the Senate. We do have two parts of our legislative branch of government—the House and the Senate. The philosophical differences are pretty strong in both bodies.

They really stem from the beginning of the country. Our Founders felt very strongly—the majority of them, though—that the Federal Government should be weak. We, obviously, had just come off of getting our independence from Britain and we wanted to not have a king and we wanted not to have a strong central Government.

I think the Founders were right. The Founders in the Constitution outlined the duties of our respective branches of government. They enumerated them. People will talk about enumerated powers. They made those powers very few for the Federal Government. They emphasized that with the 10th Amendment. It said: If we didn't tell the Federal Government to do this in the Constitution, then we don't want the Federal Government to do it. We leave those responsibilities to the States and to the individuals. We have gotten along very well, we did get along very well, following the Constitution for a long time in this country.

Then we came about in the 1930s with an era of great involvement by the Federal Government—in my opinion and in the opinion of many of my colleagues—overstepping its bounds by getting involved in things that are not mentioned in the Constitution.

Bring us forward to the 1960s, a period of great activism in this country when many more programs were begun, but in the opinion of many of us, again, had absolutely no place in the Federal Government. We should not be doing things like running the education of this country out of the Federal Government or running health care out of the Federal Government.

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So what we have here is the result of these deep philosophical differences, and I want to say that that's what is playing out here. Those of us who are opposed to the Federal Government's running health care in this country do so not out of pettiness, not out of meanness, not out of a lack of concern for our fellow citizens, but because we want to diminish the role of the Federal Government in our lives. We believe that, once you turn health care

over to the Federal Government, you've basically turned the lives of citizens over to the Federal Government, and that is not a good place to be.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle also act as though no act of Congress has ever been repealed. My goodness, we spend a good part of our days here repealing bad legislation that somehow or another got passed before. So what we are doing and what we have been doing for the last few days is making every effort we can to repeal or to delay what is called the Affordable Health Care Act, which we are finding out is absolutely not affordable. That's what we have been doing, but we have been unsuccessful. So we are trying to keep the government open. We have passed bill after bill after bill out of the House to keep the Federal Government open. We have failed in doing that in a large way, so we are working at doing it in minor ways, by passing individual bills. That's what we are here to do today.

I just came out of the Rules Committee. We had these bills on the floor yesterday—three of the five that we are going to vote on today. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted against paying our National Guard even though the President sort of quietly, Saturday night, signed a bill to continue to pay our troops. That was a bill the President said he'd never sign and that he wouldn't compromise, that he wouldn't negotiate. Yet, he did that. Now we want to keep our national parks open; we want to pay our National Guard and Reserve people; we want to provide local funding for the District of Columbia; and we want to keep our promises to America's veterans.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this institution after spending 6 years in the New York State Legislature. It was a very meaningful experience for me, notwithstanding the fact that the legislature in New York is sometimes derided as one of the more dysfunctional bodies in the country; but after witnessing the last few days here in the House of Representatives, it is clear to me that there is no more dysfunctional place in this country than the House of Representatives under the current majority control.

This is a manufactured crisis that has unnecessarily plunged us into a painful government shutdown, a shutdown that will harm the American people. The House majority has placed children in jeopardy—tens of thousands shut out of the Head Start program. The House majority has placed seniors in jeopardy—unable to benefit from the Meals on Wheels program, partially funded by the Federal Government. The House majority with this government shutdown has placed expectant