

we need guidance. We don't want to shut this government down, and certainly we don't want to play politics—at least many of us—with our constituents' services.

Sadly, we've seen too many pictures of that in recent days with the memorials and monuments being chained off. That's wrong.

This morning, my staff and I came across a document from the executive office of the President's Office of Management and Budget with a Q&A dealing with planning for agency operations during a potential lapse of appropriations:

Question: What if the cost of shutting down a Web site exceeds the cost of maintaining services?

Answer: The determination of which services continue during an appropriations lapse is not affected by whether the costs of shutdown exceed the costs of maintaining services.

Mr. Speaker, that gives me concern. Indeed, the sites that we've checked on like the National Park Service, NASA, E-Verify, and the Department of Agriculture have been shut down for political purposes. That needs to stop.

PUT POLITICS ASIDE

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

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, 43,000 El Pasoans are Federal employees. This is the fifth highest concentration of Federal employees in the Nation. Many of them work at Fort Bliss. Others are Border Patrol agents or customs officers at the busiest ports of entry in the country. All of them are facing uncertainty because they're being furloughed or working without pay.

I have spoken to many of them over the past week, including Army officers who are worried about what this shutdown is doing to the morale of the soldiers they command and veterans employed at William Beaumont Army Medical Center who cannot go to work to care for our wounded warriors.

A woman whose husband must go to work, but doesn't know when he will get paid provided this advice to us:

Do your job, just as my husband has to do his.

Mr. Speaker, the solution to this crisis is right before us. Bring the Senate-passed government funding bill to the floor. It will pass this House, and the government will be open tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, please put politics aside and do what is right.

REMOVE THE EXEMPTION FOR CONGRESS

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I've been wondering exactly why on Tuesday morning the Senate and the President let the government shut down, started barricading monuments from our

World War II veterans, and stopped the treatment of children of cancer at the NIH, all because they rejected our offer to fund the government and end the special congressional exemption under ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, late yesterday afternoon, I got the answer. We all got an email about the President's decision on how this exemption is going to work.

Mr. Speaker, we all have to go and get the gold policy. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Not the bronze, not the silver, but the gold policy from the exchange. That's the only one we can get. You see, bronze and silver is only good enough for everyone else in the country. For Members of Congress and Members of the Senate and their staff, it's gold or nothing. That's why this fight has been for a clean CR. No one wants to remove that exemption.

Mr. Speaker, remove the exemption for Congress and their staff.

VOTE ON THE CLEAN CR

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, you win. You shut down the Federal Government. But now what? Do you know why you did it? You started with defunding ObamaCare. Then it went to delaying funding for a year and conscience clause added in, and then you went to repealing the medical device tax, and then it went to delaying the individual mandate for a year and making sure government does not contribute to our staffs' medical insurance. By the way, you did that twice. Now there's no mention of ObamaCare and its cherry-picking what parts of government will open.

I ask you again, why did you do this? I am confused, Mr. Speaker. But what about the people whose lives you have been playing with? You can't tell them why you're doing this.

End this brinksmanship and show leadership. Allow the House to vote on the clean CR.

PROTECTING RIGHTS OF AMERICANS

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the real issue here today is about the rights of the American people. Individual American citizens should have the same rights to the same exemptions as powerful corporations have been given, and Members of Congress should comply with the same laws as everyone else, whether it be ObamaCare or any other law of this country. And that, Mr. Speaker, is all that we've asked for.

If the President would simply agree to give the people of this country the same relief that he has given powerful corporations, we wouldn't be shut down right now.

House Republicans will continue our efforts to pass bills that reflect the American people's priorities and their rights, and keep the government running. We hope that President Obama and HARRY REID will negotiate in good faith and join Republicans in our efforts to keep the government funded and protect the rights of the American citizens.

REMEMBERING DR. MACK KING CARTER

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

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy because of the death of one of my dearest friends in Florida, Dr. Mack King Carter, the pastor emeritus of Mount Olive Baptist Church. He was an extraordinary theologian, teacher, missionary, and an exemplary servant of God. His wife, Pat, and the family know that heaven has been "deliciously" improved.

Mack was a preacher's preacher. I mourn with his many relatives and friends and the Mount Olive family.

One of his favorite words was "delicious." Our lives have been deliciously enhanced because of the profound Christian teachings of a son of Ocala, Florida, Dr. Mack King Carter. We talked politics a lot, and he would remind me always of the admonitions of Leviticus and Ecclesiastics.

I would remind this "shutdown" place that we have a responsibility to the least of us in this society.

COME TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE

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

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased that the House has acted once again to fund critical operations of the Federal Government.

Last night, we adopted legislation that would provide funding for the National Institutes of Health and for reopening monuments like our World War II Memorial. The NIH provides critical funding for work ranging from the treatment of traumatic brain injuries suffered by our soldiers to cancer therapy for our children. NIH is the largest source of Federal research funding for the important work in these areas at the University of Virginia, located in Virginia's Fifth District.

This critical funding should not lapse because the Senate majority leader refuses to come to the conference table to work out a reasonable spending agreement for the Federal Government.

This critical funding should not lapse because the Senate majority leader insists on protecting health care waivers for Washington special interests while leaving Virginia families in the cold.

The critical funding should not lapse because the Senate majority leader insists on protecting special health care

subsidies for Members of Congress while leaving Virginia families to pay the price.

I urge the Senate to come to the conference table today. Let's get this done.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE LOSING

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say to my Republican friends, the issue is not whether you are winning or losing this debate. The American people are losing.

This is day three. We ask you again to be reasonable. Let's reopen the government and then get our leadership from both parties and both Chambers into a room and not come out until they have a bipartisan agreement to fund the government in a responsible manner.

Remember, Democrats, for the purpose of opening this government, have agreed to the Republican level of discretionary spending of \$986 billion. That's the Republican proposal; and Democrats, including the President, have agreed to this level of funding through November 15.

The votes are on this floor right now to pass the \$986 billion CR right now. Prove that I'm wrong.

Speaker BOEHNER, leadership requires that you say "no" to those who want to obstruct and shut down the government. You must say "no" to them and let us vote, up or down, a clean continuing resolution.

REASONS TO GET RID OF OBAMACARE

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

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, at 12:01 a.m. this past Tuesday morning, I attempted to sign up for ObamaCare.

It's now been 60 hours, and I have still not been able to successfully navigate the online marketplace. Error message after error message, failed security standards, and 60 hours on Web site hold for just this one Kansan, and it is clear ObamaCare is failing—and embarrassingly so—particularly for the former Kansas Governor who is now in charge of ObamaCare but, of course, refuses to live under it herself.

My office recently spoke with one of the insurers in Kansas who told us that not one of the 365,000 uninsured Kansans successfully signed up for insurance under the ObamaCare exchanges the first day.

Although Senator HARRY REID and all the Senate Democrats, Kathleen Sebelius, and the President himself refuse to live under ObamaCare, the rest of America doesn't have that privilege.

This is yet another example of why we need to get rid of ObamaCare. It's

unpopular, unaffordable, and unworkable.

□ 1230

OPPOSING THE CR THAT DELAYS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, at the time that President Obama was first inaugurated, it was clear to most Americans that we had a crisis in the health care system: the cost of premiums was skyrocketing every year, millions of American families did not have health insurance, and many of the health insurance plans that existed were inadequate, providing coverage that was essentially useless when someone had a serious health problem or a preexisting condition. Our seniors enrolled in Medicare were, in many instances, paying hundreds of dollars each month for drugs.

Now the Affordable Care Act in immediate effect addresses this crisis. Already, the Affordable Care Act has permitted millions of Americans to visit a primary care physician without copayments, prohibits insurance companies from discriminating against people with preexisting conditions, and now parents are keeping their children on their health insurance plans until they're 26 years of age.

As of Tuesday, across our great Nation, people without health insurance at long last have the ability to enroll in health care exchanges. The Affordable Care Act, it's the law of the land.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

(Mrs. ELLMERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, we are granted the power of the purse strings here in Congress, so we are right and reasonable by using that power.

Yesterday, the House led and acted responsibly by providing yet another plan to get parts of this government back open again:

We provided funding to the NIH, which provides essential lifesaving treatments and research to families who have received the worst news possible—that their family member, their child, may have pediatric cancer that needs a cure. And I urge the Senate and the majority leader, HARRY REID, to bring this up for a vote in the Senate immediately.

We provided funding to the District of Columbia, which is part of our stewardship.

Today, we will once again vote to keep the promises to our veterans, and we will vote for the funding for National Guard and Reservists. These are

all issues that we all agree on, depending on where you are sitting, Republican or Democrat.

The right thing in this situation is to provide funding and reopen the government. It's time for us to act.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, because some in Washington insist on putting ideology ahead of common sense, we are in the midst of a government shutdown that will hurt real people in my State of New Hampshire. Shutting down our government hurts our economy; it hurts job creation; it hurts our veterans; it hurts small businesses; and it hurts middle class families.

We owe our constituents much, much better than this, like Joe, who called my office this morning from Afghanistan. The line was a bit crackly, but this is Joe's message to me today:

Support access to affordable health care for all Americans and open our government.

Joe said to me this morning:

I am over here working hard for my family and my country. Please, I'm asking you to do the same.

So Joe, today we owe it to you. Let's gather together and pass a responsible bill that will fund the government and then refocus our attention on the needs of our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

PASS THE NATIONAL GUARD AND AIR FORCE RESERVE FUNDING BILL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Rolando Aguilar was already in the cockpit of his F-16 at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas. He was a member of the Texas Air National Guard.

He was in his cockpit when he heard the sound of scrambling horns alerting him to fly a mission. He and his wingman took off and they headed east, and they intercepted Air Force 1 over the Gulf of Mexico and protected the former guardsmen from their unit from any possible attack. They stayed guarding him and flying next to Air Force 1 until they were relieved. Yes, it was President Bush.

According to them, the Texas Air National Guard was the first to be in the air on September 11. The members of the Guard and Air Force Reserve—and, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the Reserve at the same time President Bush was a guardsman, at the same base at Ellington Field—kept them flying, have served and are serving our Nation