

to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### POLITICS: THE "ART OF COMPROMISE"

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Senate leader HARRY REID has been the most ardent proponent of his party's no-compromise, no-negotiation stance. The leader has even been unwilling to discuss a compromise to prevent a prolonged government shutdown.

We are moving into the second week of this shutdown. In an effort to avoid being labeled as an "obstructionist," the Senate leader has ordered a stance—at least rhetorically—and now claims there has already been compromise.

I would say to the Senate leader that there has been some compromise, but not in the Senate Chamber. The compromise has come from 57 Democrats who joined with the majority in the House to pass targeted appropriations bills that will fund key departments and programs.

Mr. Speaker, politics is often referred to as the "art of compromise." It is essential to the legislative process and surely vital to a functioning democracy. I commend my 57 Democratic colleagues in the House who understand this, and I encourage more to join them as we continue to pass targeted appropriations this week.

Unfortunately, not until both Chambers start compromising will we be able to end this shutdown.

#### END THE REPUBLICAN SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATELY

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call once again for this House to end this shutdown now by passing the Senate-passed bill that the President will sign to reopen the government.

Speaker JOHN BOEHNER refuses to bring up this bill. This weekend, he claimed it doesn't have the votes to pass. While I am no mathematician, basic math shows that the Senate-passed bill to end the shutdown would pass the House; 217 votes are needed for a bill to pass.

Look at these numbers. With the votes of 198 Democrats and the 23 Republicans who have said publicly that they would support the bill, the bill would pass with 221 votes.

Mr. Speaker, bring up the bill to end the Republican shutdown immediately.

#### DEBT CEILING

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad truth that our jaw-dropping \$16.7 trillion national debt pales in comparison to the totality of future spending obligations the Congressional Budget Office forecasts. A change in spending habits and a reform to mandatory spending obligations isn't just advisable in this moment; it is absolutely essential for America's long-term financial health.

But meaningful reform is impossible without leadership from the White House. Is President Obama willing to lead and enact reforms to make our country stronger? It appears not.

The President has made it no secret that he is loathe to engage in bipartisan negotiations regardless of what is at stake—whether it be reopening the Federal Government for the American people, or containing our debt crisis so our children and grandchildren aren't left to pay for previous generations' irresponsibility.

Refusing to negotiate on the debt ceiling is code for refusing to make any changes to reduce future debt.

Mr. Speaker, as this body knows, it is foolish to take aim at the symptom without also treating the disease.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I received an email from a woman who runs a small business in my district. I will read it to you now:

Morgan, As you know, I'm a small business with 36 employees, have been paying 75 percent of my employees' health care for over 20 years.

Get a call from health care provider agent that although my renewal date is March 1, the companies are offering to renew on December 1 this year with a 9.8 percent increase. This is to beat what is anticipated as a 30 to 60 percent increase after all the effects of ObamaCare.

Needless to say, this has reignited my frustration with the so-called Affordable Health Care Act. Please stick to your principles, continue the fight. Let me know what, if anything, I can do.

Yes, ma'am, I will.

#### WE NEED A BALANCED BUDGET

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in the last few days, this House has actually come together on two different measures here that would seek to ease a lot of the pain from the government slowdown. The sad thing is we can agree on everything the Republicans have been trying to pass out of here. The only thing we don't really agree on is what we are going to do with that portion of ObamaCare. We have even moved towards you in that we are going to limit it to simply giving the rest of the

American people a 1-year delay in the mandate as the President has called for Big Business and has been given waivers to certain individuals.

We can agree on this. We can get this thing done on what we agree on right away. It is imperative what we do, because we've got three things going on that the American people don't like: they don't like this government slowdown; they don't like what they are seeing with ObamaCare; and they don't like the impending things we are going to have to do with the debt ceiling. All these things work together—the cost of ObamaCare, the government regulatory system that is killing jobs, and the inability for us to get things done around here.

The debt ceiling is a conversation we are going to hear a lot about in the very near future. If we are not doing the things to work on a truly balanced budget, then there is no reason the debt ceiling doesn't keep going up year after year after year.

We need to balance our budget, folks. We need to get the job done for fiscal responsibility. I am not seeing that plan come from the White House or from the Senate.

#### LET'S DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, tonight I had a wonderful tele-townhall meeting with my constituents from across the 10th District of western North Carolina.

We had a lot of discussions tonight about the government shutdown and about the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare. My constituents gave me great feedback. They said, Keep fighting because we want to see a repeal of ObamaCare. But they said, We want the President to come to the table and negotiate; we want Washington to work.

I also asked my constituents if they had seen their health insurance rates go up as a result of ObamaCare. Fifty-eight percent said they had seen rates go up; 9 percent said they had seen them go down; and the balance said they had seen no change.

Clearly, it is harming families with increased health insurance rates. My constituents want a repeal, but they want Washington to work. So I call on the President, and I ask our friends over in the Senate to come to the table with House Republicans and try to come to consensus so we can move our Nation forward and do what's right for the people.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus comes to the floor now entering the second week of the House Republican-led government shutdown. Instead of allowing a simple “yes” or “no” vote on a bill that funds the government, Republicans continue to play irresponsible games that are hurting our country. The shutdown’s impact on our already fragile economy, as previously predicted, is already beginning to take shape and is negatively affecting millions of Americans.

There is a simple solution to this, however, and that is to bring a clean continuing resolution to the House floor for a vote. The Senate has passed it; and if Speaker BOEHNER scheduled a vote, it would pass the House as well. But the House GOP is more concerned with catering to a fringe group of their caucus than leading for the American people.

There are serious costs to that inaction for my constituents and constituents throughout our country. In Nevada, an estimated 11,000 Nevadans may be furloughed or directly impacted by the furloughs. At one of our Air Force bases in my congressional district, 1,100 Nevadans are affected by furloughs, processing of claims at the VA and Social Security have slowed for new applicants, and the Head Start program is feeling the pinch of the shutdown.

Tonight, we come to this floor to raise these issues and others to call on our colleagues on the other side and the Speaker to allow a clean continuing resolution to be brought to the floor.

At this time, I yield to the gentlelady from Ohio, Congresswoman FUDGE, the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, a leader who has been fighting for equality and fairness for all Americans.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank my colleague for yielding, and I thank you, as always, for continuing to lead this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could stand on this House floor today and say that Republicans are playing with fire when they refuse to fund the government, but I can’t do that because what they are doing is much worse. They are playing with people’s very lives. They have made it abundantly clear that they care more about scoring political points and embarrassing this administration than addressing the needs of the American people.

□ 1930

A government shutdown has had an immediate impact on many people

across this Nation: furloughing more than 800,000 Federal workers; stopping nutritional and clinical support for women, infants and children; and delaying lifesaving research at NIH.

My office continues to receive calls from distressed constituents about the status of Medicaid, Social Security, and SNAP. While we can reassure them that such programs will continue to operate, their concern and anxiety demonstrates the price every day Americans must pay when Congress fails.

Over the past few years, no issue has consumed more of the public’s attention than health care reform; but, unfortunately for the American people, much of what has been said bears no relation to reality.

Republicans have tried to make the case that health care reform will raise health care costs catastrophically and drive up the cost of Medicare or increase the deficit. These claims are simply not true. The truth is the Affordable Care Act will slow overall health care spending, decrease Medicare spending, and decrease our deficit. All this will be accomplished while expanding health care coverage, cutting costs for seniors, and eliminating health disparities for communities of color.

Unfortunately, Republicans are so focused on preventing the expansion of health care that they are willing to hurt individuals in communities that are still struggling to rebound from our economic downturn. Already, as many as 19,000 children in 11 States have been left out of Head Start programs because grant money ran out on September 30. Several large defense contractors have started placing workers on notice that they may be furloughed. The 9 million mothers and children who rely on the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, better known as WIC, are facing the possibility that they may lose their benefits. And our local Federal courts may be crippled by furloughs as soon as next week.

The growing economic impact of this shutdown is extremely difficult to measure. The human and social impacts like the loss of money for food, housing, or educational opportunities are impossible to quantify. The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land, passed by both Chambers of Congress, signed by the President, and confirmed as constitutional by the Supreme Court. Until Republicans accept this fact, the government will be shut down and the American people will have been let down by the majority party of this body.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), the vice chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HORSFORD for yielding me this time, and I thank him for all the work he does here in the House of Rep-

resentatives and say he represents his district well.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor tonight, quite frankly, very frustrated. I am frustrated as I stand here right now. Our Federal Government is shut down. This is the seventh day of a shutdown that did not have to happen. This is political theater at its best—or at its worst. And who’s paying the price? It’s the American people who are feeling the pain.

This shutdown has been engineered and manufactured by House Republicans. Anyone paying close attention to what’s happening here in the House will come to the quick conclusion that it is not the Democrats who have manufactured this crisis; it is the Republican majority that has done so.

There are votes on the floor tonight that could pass a continuing resolution to get this behind us. I can tell you that most, if not all, Democrats will vote for a clean CR, and many, many of my Republican friends would do the same. I dare not call my Republican friends by name, but there are many of them. I had two visit with me tonight on the House floor to say they are willing to do it.

Yet Republicans feel that somehow they can use the budget crisis as a means for defunding the Affordable Care Act. It will not happen. It is the law of the land. It is fully implemented. It has been approved by Congress, signed by the President, tested by the U.S. Supreme Court, and it is now fully operational as of October 1.

Open season for the health insurance marketplace began several days ago, and nearly 3 million people have visited healthcare.gov on the first day alone. Americans who before lived with the constant fear of financial ruin if they got sick because they never had health insurance flooded the Web site in huge numbers to sign up for coverage.

Right now, there are more than 600,000 Americans living in a household forced to file bankruptcy because of unpaid medical bills. More than 60 percent of all bankruptcies filed last year were because of medical bills that could not be paid. Many people forced to file for bankruptcy because of medical expenses actually had insurance but were hung out to dry by insurance companies that dropped them from coverage simply because they had that power. ObamaCare makes that a thing of the past.

Beginning on January 1 of next year, Americans can no longer be denied coverage or dropped from coverage for having a preexisting condition. All plans must include coverage for outpatient and emergency services and maternity and newborn care, mental health, and prescription drugs. I am very proud of this plan. There will no longer be a yearly or lifetime limit on how much insurance companies will pay out for care.

That the House Republicans would hold the Federal Government and its

more than 4 million employees hostage over a law that, on all counts, seems to provide a great benefit to Americans defies logic.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a game, though my Republican colleagues seem to think that it is. They are not working with any sense of urgency and don't seem to comprehend the seriousness of the Nation's fiscal crisis.

Just yesterday, on national television, the Secretary of the Treasury, Jack Lew, warned us of what the consequences could be. This isn't about who wins or loses. We aren't keeping score, but the American people are keeping score, and they can't figure out Republicans' outright obsession with ObamaCare while the Federal Government isn't open for business. It makes no sense.

Democrats have come to the floor for the past week asking and begging for House Republicans to permit a vote on the Senate's clean continuing resolution. I will repeat for the last time: It would pass this House tonight if the Speaker of the House, Mr. BOEHNER, will put it up for votes. The votes are here right now to pass the Senate version of the continuing resolution.

I urge the Speaker of the House, who is a decent individual whom I have gotten to know over the years since I've been here, I hope that he will finally say to the extreme right in his caucus that he has done all that he could to lift up the issues that they care about, but now it's the future of the country that we must all care about. Speaker BOEHNER, this week, sir, please bring the continuing resolution to the floor and see if the votes are here. They will be here, and we can reopen the government, and then we can sit down and reconcile our differences.

I thank all who are standing strong in this debate.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the vice chairman, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for his constructive remarks and calling once again for the Speaker to bring a clean resolution to the floor. We know that the votes are here to pass a clean continuing resolution, one that would reopen government, one that would be supported by Republicans and Democrats; and so the Congressional Black Caucus comes to this floor at this hour to ask the Speaker of this House to do the will of the people and the will of this body.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), a civil rights icon, a man who speaks truth to power.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend and my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is a shame and a disgrace. Furthermore, it is really, really sad that the government of the most powerful country in the world is closed. It is closed. It is unbelievable. It is unreal. It is downright embarrassing.

I wonder—I wonder what the rest of the world thinks of us. We go all around the world preaching democ-

racy—one person, one vote—and we will not even give the Members, all of the Members of the House of Representatives, an opportunity to vote on a clean effort, a continuing resolution, to end the shutdown.

Give the Members—please, give the Members, all of the Members, Democrats and Republicans—an opportunity to cast a vote, a free and open vote. That's what our Founding Fathers struggled for. People died for the right to participate. And in the House of Representatives, in this House, the people's House, we will not be provided an opportunity for all of the people to vote.

We must end the shutdown and put our people back to work and keep our economy growing and moving. We don't want to go back, my friends, or stand still. We want to go forward. Let's come together, all of us, Democrats and Republicans, come together and end this shutdown for good. We can do it. We made hard and tough decisions before and we can do it again, and we must do it because it's the right thing to do.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman very much for his comments and for pricking the conscience of this body for doing what's right at a time when the country expects that of our elected leadership.

I would like to yield, at this time, to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nevada for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end this shutdown. The absurdity of it begins with the fact that we are now going to pay people for not working. We need to bring them back to work to provide the services and do the work that they are being paid to do.

Mr. Speaker, this shutdown is really not based on reality. Some have said, some apparently believe, if they just stay the course and keep the government shut down, they will be able to repeal or substantially undermine ObamaCare. That's not going to happen, and so we are not based in reality.

Now they are blaming Democrats for not negotiating, but there's nothing to negotiate. We are talking about the budget. The Republicans came in with one number; the Democrats had a higher number. The Senate decided not to negotiate but, rather, accept the Republican number, so we're in agreement. There's nothing to negotiate.

Now, in the 1990s when they had a disagreement on the budget, there were profound differences on spending levels and tax and revenue levels. They couldn't agree on the budget. But we, at this point, at least for a short-term, 6-week continuing resolution, to keep the government open for at least 6 more weeks while we can negotiate, we have already agreed on the number.

Now, the problem we're in right now is we just cannot reward people who have a tantrum and say we voted 40

times to repeal ObamaCare and we haven't done it, so we're just going to shut the government down. You cannot reward that behavior because it will become an expectation that every time it's the end of the fiscal year and you need a continuing resolution or the debt ceiling, there will be an expectation of reward. No, this is not the end of the process. This is just the beginning. We are just talking about a 6-week continuing resolution. Two weeks from now, we'll have the debt ceiling. Four weeks after that, we'll be at the end of the 6-week period if we can reopen the government. They will be asking for things.

Now, the fact is, the problem that we have, as stated in a recent article in *Nation* magazine, they revealed the strategy of the Republicans. They made a list of the kinds of things they will be looking for in the continuing resolution, the debt ceiling, every time there's an opportunity to shut down the government, and here's the list:

They want to undermine ObamaCare, Keystone pipeline, offshore drilling, corporate tax cuts, business-oriented tort reform, sabotage Social Security and Medicare, undermine clean air EPA regulations, cut back on consumer protections, and end net neutrality on the Internet.

Now, I suppose that after they've gotten their list, they'll say: We'll be reasonable. We'll negotiate. We will only take half of the things that we don't have the votes to pass. We'll just take half.

No. If you get to the point where there is an expectation of reward, then we will be in that. Suppose Democrats had thrown in maybe gun safety, marriage equality, immigration reform, and a jobs bill, and we're sitting up here trying to do the budget and have to do all of that and all of those and think we're ever going to come to a resolution. We have to have a clean CR so we can reopen the government without all those complications.

□ 1945

Back to ObamaCare, which seems to be provoking this problem. The fact is our health care system was in trouble. The rates were skyrocketing year after year after year. The problems with our health care system were not caused by ObamaCare; ObamaCare is trying to cure the problems.

We had a gentleman earlier today who said people have looked at the rates and some are paying a little more, some are paying a little less, and some about the same. If that's the case, that is a miracle, because after the last 50 years, rates have been skyrocketing and going up much faster than inflation. If they had been anywhere close to even, that would have been a lot less than it would have been had we not had ObamaCare.

Now we have the situation where it's affordable, it treats those with pre-existing conditions, people under 26 can stay on their parents' policies, insurance reforms, preventive care provided

without copays and deductibles, the doughnut hole. It goes on and on. This is a good deal. It will be better than before.

Another gentleman earlier today said just eliminate the individual mandate. The individual mandate is in every policy because if you're going to cover preexisting conditions, you cannot allow people to wait until they get sick before they buy insurance. If that's the case, everybody will wait until they get sick to buy insurance. Everybody with insurance would be sick, and the average rates would go through the roof. If you look at what happened in New York and the rates there, you can reasonably estimate that if you provided that exemption, the cost of insurance would double on the spot. We can't have that. So we need to just proceed.

If you want to improve ObamaCare, let's talk about improving it. In the meanwhile, it is not going to be repealed. It's not going to be undermined. This idea that you can keep the government open piecemeal by funding one agency at a time is absolutely absurd. Passing those bills would only serve one purpose, and that is to perpetuate and extend the shutdown.

The fact is that they don't have the votes to repeal ObamaCare. They don't even have the votes to keep the government shut. If they called a vote, we'd reopen the government. We just want an up-or-down vote on reopening government. We've had several procedural votes so far where we could have reopened the government. At least have an up-or-down vote on reopening government. And as the gentlelady from New York pointed out, there are enough Republicans who are on public record saying they would vote "yes" to give a clear indication that more than a majority of the House would be voting in favor.

I want to thank the gentleman from Nevada for bringing us together. ObamaCare is a very important advance in health care. It will cure all of the problems they're talking about. We don't need to reward anyone for shutting down the government or threatening the debt ceiling or shutting down the government in 4 weeks. We need to just reopen the government, and then we can have intelligent discussions about what to do about the budget.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman from Virginia for his comments and for bringing up a number of key points. The main one that, I think, gets lost is the fact that the President and Democrats in both the House and the Senate have compromised. They've compromised on the lower budget number to get to a 6-week agreement on funding the budget in order for us to have a longer term negotiation for the budget in subsequent years. That is a major point that I think the Speaker and those on the other side tend to forget. That was a number that the Speaker himself offered up in July and

said that he would bring a clean continuing resolution to the floor in July at the very number that Democrats are prepared to say "yes" to.

What we're here to say, Mr. Speaker, and Members on the other side, is take "yes" for an answer. We're ready. There are 195 Democrats who are ready in this House, some 20 Republicans who publicly said that they're ready to support a clean continuing resolution, and there are probably more that would vote for it once it's brought to the floor.

I now yield to the gentlelady from Maryland, Congresswoman EDWARDS.

Ms. EDWARDS. I thank the gentleman from Nevada for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to echo what my colleagues have said: it is time for us to bring a clean funding resolution to the floor of the House that would get a majority of Democratic support, and it would get strong Republican support to reopen the government. Not to reopen it in pieces, but to reopen all of government for all Americans. It's time for us to do that now.

We've had several funding bills that have come to the floor to fund bits and snippets of the Federal Government, but that's really not the way to do it. In fact, as the gentleman knows, the government was shut down by Republicans, and it wasn't shut down piecemeal. So it should not be reopened piecemeal; it should be opened in full.

I represent a district in Maryland that has a lot of Federal workers, workers who work at virtually every agency of the Federal Government. And I would note that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have brought forward piecemeal funding bills that fund a handful of agencies. There are 486 Federal agencies, and we haven't brought 486 funding bills to this floor. So it's rather silly to propose funding the government in these little snippets.

These three workers were in my office. One of them works for the Environmental Protection Agency. The other works for the Department of Health and Human Services and, in fact, at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services, and the other one works at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. As I talked to the workers, I cannot even begin to explain to you how devastated they felt being tagged nonessential, knowing that their work is vital, but not really feeling validated as workers. That was kind of one thing.

The other thing is that they're doing their jobs because they believe in their jobs. They believe in the work that they're doing for the government. They believe in the work that they're doing for taxpayers.

Lastly, they're worried about all of the work that goes undone. They're worried at EPA about letting the public know that inspections about conditions of water and other things in the environment in communities across this country are not happening because the EPA is not in business.

The worker who was in my office, Julia, who works at the Department of Health and Human Services, Mr. Speaker, is worried because in the work that she does, her specific job is to train Medicare providers so that they indicate the right codes when they submit for payment so that there's not fraud. The other part of her job is that she's supposed to look through those claims and make sure that if there is any indication of a problem or fraud, that it gets referred to the inspector general and gets referred to the Department of Justice. At a time when we're both implementing health care, but also when Medicare is being used, it's really important that Julia's job actually saves taxpayers money, and yet she's at home.

The worker who came to my office today, Emma, from NASA, is very concerned because part of her job is working on systems that would help deliver us our next generation of weather satellites because we have a gap in our satellite coverage. The farther we get behind in developing that new weather satellite, it means that it puts all of us in jeopardy in terms of receiving the information that we need. Mr. Speaker, as Americans know, we don't get our weather from The Weather Channel; we get our weather from the National Weather Service, from the folks at NOAA, from the people at NASA, and yet they are at home.

The other thing that these workers explained to me is the great personal cost to them. Seconda, who works at the Environmental Protection Agency, told me today that she takes care of her mother, in addition to herself and other family members, on her salary, and that she has been worried and up nights and unable to sleep because she's not really clear how she's going to be able to meet those expenses.

Julia, who works at CMS and HHS, has an 11-year-old child who had brain damage when he was born, and he's a special-needs child. Aiden has a wonderful smile and a beautiful face and voice, and he needs his mom, but they've also been able to take care of services for him with the salary that she makes at HHS.

Emma at NASA said to me that her 12-year-old and 14-year-old really don't understand why she's at home instead of going to work.

These workers aren't just a faceless bureaucracy. They have lives and they have responsibilities. With the Federal Government shut down, we're not enabling them to meet those responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that they said to me is if you open up the government piecemeal, it doesn't really help them out. Take the example of Julia at HHS. If her job is to make referrals to the Department of Justice and to the Office of the Inspector General, and she's at her job, if by some fortuitous chance our Republican colleagues decide to restart HHS, what that means is that she doesn't have

anybody to refer that fraud to because they're not on the job at the Department of Justice. If NASA is working and NOAA is not, then that joint work that takes place between agencies can't.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, what we do know is that every week that the Federal Government is shut down, it costs taxpayers \$10 billion. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has been shut down now for a week. Chalk up \$10 billion to the taxpayers. So you can see that the entire purpose of the strategy to shut down government is, in fact, costing taxpayers money.

Finally, I will share with you what I read in the paper today, Mr. Speaker. Three scientists and researchers won the Nobel Prize for medicine. They won the prize for developing a way to track cell traffic so that it could make determinations about when appropriate packages of cells in the body are being delivered for certain purposes. In doing that, it would help us make discoveries for immunological diseases, for neurological diseases, for things like diabetes. Some of these scientists had been working under a grant from the National Institutes of Health for about the last 30 years. It made me think that if we are not funding the National Institutes of Health and other government agencies that do research right now, that the work that they've been doing for the last 30 years is work, if you think forward 30 years, we're going to be missing because we've failed to fund the kind of research that we need. So there are ripple effects to the cost of shutting down the Federal Government.

Finally, in my district, I plan every year to have a college fair for the students in my district. Usually about 2,500 to 3,000 students show up. Our college fair is supposed to come up this weekend. We usually get assistance from NASA. They bring all kinds of projects and experiments to the science fair to get young people engaged in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields so that we can get them invested in tackling these jobs for the 21st century. We usually get assistance from the Department of Education to educate young people about loan and grant opportunities that might be available to them as they decide to make their college selections.

I just got an email, even as I was sitting here on the floor, that none of these agencies will be able to participate in a college fair for our young people who are preparing to go to college next year, and they're going to miss out on those opportunities about learning of what's available to them and the challenges that they face because the Federal Government has shut down.

This is a really sad commentary, Mr. Speaker, on the impact of the shutdown and the ripple effect that that has both throughout our economy and in our local communities. So I will close by urging Speaker BOEHNER, Mr. Speaker, to please bring a clean fund-

ing bill to the floor of the House of Representatives, let it come up for a vote. You know what? If it fails, it does. But I know that in this body Republicans and Democrats like me will support that bill, and we'll do it, even though I don't agree with the number, I never supported the number. But I know that even though it is a Republican number, I'm going to agree with it because it will restart government. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for us to open up all of the Federal Government for all Americans.

□ 2000

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentle lady for her remarks and for bringing the real-life names and stories about who this furlough impacts and how government shutdown is really affecting them. Those are the individuals, the public servants who provide critical services each and every day, who deserve to go back to work.

Again, we're asking that the Speaker bring a clean continuing resolution to the floor so the government can be reopened; and like the gentlewoman from Maryland, I, myself, have heard from my constituents who are affected by this. Many have sent emails and called my office. There is one by the name of Alex, a Department of Defense employee, who got married a week before the shutdown and was furloughed a week ago today. Now, is that the Republican Party's idea of a honeymoon gift? This has to end, and it has to end now.

I got some letters today from a fifth grade class of students from Sandy Miller Elementary School in Nevada. They wrote to me because they're planning a trip to the Grand Canyon, but now it looks like that trip may be in jeopardy because the government shutdown is threatening access to the Grand Canyon. They wrote to provide me with some advice on how to solve these problems and to suggest that if Congress could start acting a little more like fifth graders, maybe we could get something done around here.

I would like to share some of the remarks from the letters that they wrote. Stefany writes:

You should be respectful of each other. Be communicators. But most of all, be balanced and open-minded.

Rossie said:

You should be reflective about how you are affecting other people, not just yourselves. If my class can compromise and get along, you and your colleagues in Congress should too.

George wrote:

Congress should start cooperating and working as a team, like we do here in school.

"The message is pretty clear," as one of the writers, Bailen, put it, "if fifth graders can get along, you can too."

Well, I sure hope that's the case, Mr. Speaker. Because if we can't work together to do the people's business, then we shouldn't be here; and maybe we should turn the gavel over to them.

I yield the floor to my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. I would like to thank the gentleman from Nevada for chairing this hour tonight.

And just as I reflect, Mr. Speaker, on the comments made by those fifth graders, well, I'm glad I'm in tune with them because, you see, through this whole ordeal, I have spoken about people who have narrow agendas, where they're only thinking of themselves and not the totality of the common good in the United States. Because, you see, it's disingenuous and hypocritical to one day vote for a shutdown of the government and the next day show up at the World War II Memorial and stand with the veterans saying this is horrendous what has happened. You can't have it both ways.

I did not vote for a shutdown of the government, so maybe I should have been there at the World War II Memorial, saying the things that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been saying as they voted to shut down the memorial.

I want to share a story with you from a young lady in my district just a day or two ago. She's a young mother in Newark, New Jersey. I represent the people of that town. She went to the young fathers program at Rutgers University with her 2-year-old daughter. Due to the government shutdown, this young mother no longer is receiving her WIC benefits. And in desperation, she is reaching out to anyone and everyone for help, as her child literally starves from lack of nutrition assistance. She doesn't know where to go or who to turn to. She feels totally alone. She doesn't know how she'll feed her child or how she'll make ends meet.

This story breaks my heart, and, unfortunately, she is not alone. There are millions of pregnant women and new mothers just like her across the country who don't know how they'll feed their child. And what breaks my heart even more is knowing that Congress has the power to open this government tonight. The votes are here, Mr. Speaker. Let's pass a clean CR.

Make no mistake, this is a Republican government shutdown. The extreme faction got exactly what they wanted. Well, I ask you, did the American people get exactly what they wanted? The people I represent didn't. Families across New Jersey's Tenth Congressional District who won't get the Hurricane Sandy relief that they were counting on didn't. Veterans who put their lives on the line for this country didn't. Low-income children kicked off of Head Start didn't. The 31,000 furloughed Federal workers in New Jersey didn't. The 9 million women, infants, and youngsters who rely on the WIC program certainly didn't.

So I ask, Who are my Republican colleagues listening to? Whose interests are they representing? Instead of reopening the entire government for everyone, House Republicans hold the country hostage with their piecemeal approach, picking winners and losers,

choosing which parts of the government are worthy of opening. We must open the entire government and do what we can to do it today.

Mr. Speaker, 200 Democrats have signed a petition to bring a bill to the floor that would open the government today, and more than 20 Republicans have said they would also vote for the bill. So we have the votes. The question is, why won't Speaker BOEHNER bring the bill to the floor, one that he knows will pass, one that would reopen the government today? Because it's not too much to ask Members of Congress to do their job. It's not too much to ask to reopen the government and pay our bills on time. The people I represent have to do their jobs and pay their bills on time every single day. Why can't the leaders of this Nation do the same?

With every day that goes by, the more we drive up the costs for the American people, the more we threaten the stability of our Nation's economy. We cannot keep the government closed, and we cannot default on our debt. So I strongly urge my Republican colleagues to stand up for the American people, bring a bill to the floor that would reopen the government today, and let's start doing the job expected of us and continue to move our country forward, not punish the American people by moving it backwards.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman.

May I inquire as to the time I have remaining, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Nevada has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this time, I yield to my good friend from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. I thank the gentleman from Nevada for recognizing me to talk about something that is very important, and that is what is going on with America's future as it relates to this Republican government shutdown, the Affordable Care Act, and jobs.

While Republicans refuse to bring a clean CR to a vote on the House floor to end this Republican shutdown, our Nation, our cities, our States continue to suffer. Every single day, we are losing millions of dollars, wasting time and resources by furloughing government workers and limiting the public's access to government. And as we approach day eight of this reprehensible Republican shutdown, Republicans continue to bring bills to the House floor that will only fund pieces of the Federal Government.

This cynical effort to make headlines and cover themselves for causing such shameful dysfunction is resulting in a historical loss of confidence in Congress and causing undue economic uncertainty for families and businesses all across our country.

To my Republican friends, please understand this is not a game. These political gimmicks are not a responsible

approach to governing. Each problem resulting from the Republican government shutdown can be taken care of if we simply pass the Senate's clean continuing resolution.

In north Texas, in the area that I represent, the 33rd Congressional District, families may miss out on over 300,000 meals because the USDA may have to cancel food truck shipments to the North Texas Food Bank. It's ridiculous. And millions of Americans may be affected by the flu this year due to the closing of the CDC's flu tracking program. These are only two examples of the widespread direct effects of the Republican shutdown.

And here's what Republicans need to know: they should go in their districts and talk to people, talk to workers who work in the defense industry, that work at our military bases, that are government employees. Talk to people that have been furloughed. Talk to the people that, because of the sequester problems that we've been unable to solve here because of the lack of Republican leadership, have already been laid off, including the over 400 at Bell Helicopter in Tarrant County in Fort Worth.

And if they talk to people and they go into their districts and speak with everyday common people that are out there working hard every day, what they'll find out is that it hurts to lose your job. And when you lose that job—particularly at this time of the year, as we get closer and closer to the Christmas season—and when you lose that job, then something happens to your car, some medical emergency pops up that ends up costing you a lot of money, then you really start to struggle as a family, and it really starts to hurt. That is what is so shameful about this Republican government shutdown. It doesn't take into consideration the real people that are out there struggling every day.

Speaker BOEHNER claims there aren't enough votes to reopen the government, but we know that's not true: 200 Democrats, including myself, have signed a letter to Speaker BOEHNER, making it clear that there are enough votes to pass the bill and reopen our government now.

Republicans claim they started this shutdown to defund, delay, and deny health care insurance to millions of Americans. Such a move would work to deny health care coverage in my home State of Texas to 6 million uninsured residents. We have the highest uninsured rate in the Union. In the district that I represent, alone, over 265,000 are uninsured. That's over a third in the 33rd Congressional District, in Dallas and in Fort Worth.

To Members wishing to deny health coverage through the Affordable Care Act, I want them to explain to those constituents in the district that I represent and in their own districts. It's a myth that it is only happening in our districts. They have people in their districts that are uninsured also, and they need to start representing them.

The most ridiculous reality of this political stunt is that the ACA is the law of the land, which means that this shutdown will be fruitless in repealing the law. And in the end, Republicans will have to behave like adults and stop simply saying "no" and come to the table with solutions for matters we can address in good faith.

□ 2015

Until then, House Democrats have a clear message: We demand a vote to reopen our government so Americans can move on with their lives, get back to work, provide for their families.

I ask my Republican colleagues to let reason overtake ideology, and let's get our government open again. Let's get it running. Enough is enough. Let's do the right thing. Let's stop with these games, stop the obstruction, and let's get back to work. These families are depending on us.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY) for his very constructive remarks. And as he said, the fact that some on the other side want to close down government and keep it closed and now potentially threaten our ability to meet our obligations on October 17 with the debt ceiling over the Affordable Care Act, something that is now the law of the land that's been passed by this Congress, signed by the President, upheld by the Supreme Court, and that's simply not going to happen, it's time for them to come to the table to negotiate without holding the Affordable Care Act as a precondition. And that is what we are here to say, to ask the Speaker to bring to the floor a clean funding bill that's supported by an overwhelming number of Democrats and Republicans, to reopen government and to allow our American workers to go back to work.

I'd like to now yield to the cochair of this Special Order hour, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), my good friend.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from the Silver State, my good friend, Representative HORSFORD, for his tremendous leadership for anchoring this CBC Special Order. And it's my honor and my privilege to join him today, during this Congressional Black Caucus Hour of Power, where, for 60 minutes we have the opportunity to speak directly to the American people. It's always an honor and a privilege to do so, but it's tragic and sad that we're here today under such circumstances. This is a manufactured crisis, a government shutdown engineered as a result of mean-spirited, reckless, and unreasonable behavior by our friends from the other side of the aisle.

And in order to mask the obstructionism and the behavior that has resulted in more than 800,000 hard-working civil servants being kicked out of their jobs temporarily—we hope—there's been a series of myths, of factual misrepresentations that have

been brought to the American people from our good friends on the other side of the aisle. I just want to spend a minute or two exploring some of the most significant ones courtesy of the House GOP.

The first thing that led us down this road is this idea that the Affordable Care Act is a train wreck, repeated over and over and over again. The Affordable Care Act is a train wreck.

It's not a train wreck. The train hasn't even left the station. Enrollment just began a few days ago on October 1. The coverage period for the American people doesn't even begin until January 1 of 2014. How can it be a train wreck when the train hasn't even left the station?

This is behavior that is designed to create an accident because of some obsession that folks have on the other side of the aisle with providing tens of millions of Americans who are otherwise uninsured with health care coverage. It's an obsession that, quite frankly, I can't understand.

What are you so angry about? Are you upset about the fact that the Affordable Care Act prohibits preexisting conditions from denying health care coverage to Americans, including children?

Do you dislike the fact that young people going out into a very difficult job market can now stay on the insurance of their parents until the age of 26?

Does it really bother you that small businesses will be eligible for a tax credit up to 35 percent to help provide health insurance coverage for their employees in a manner that will allow these small businesses to grow and prosper?

Enough with this myth the Affordable Care Act is a train wreck. But that was the basis of the shutdown and the ransom notes that were sent over to the Senate majority that courageously stamped each one: Rejected; return to sender.

Defund, delay, destroy the Affordable Care Act, that was the genesis of this conflict. And then we shifted, once it was clear that that strategy was not going to work, into the second great myth of this debacle that we find ourselves in. The second myth: Democrats refuse to negotiate.

Negotiate over what? Negotiate over a law that my colleagues have clearly indicated is the law of the land, passed by a duly-elected Congress in 2010, signed by the President, declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States of America in a decision issued by Chief Justice John Roberts, a Bush appointee, and then affirmed by the reelection of President Barack Obama in the electoral college landslide? Why do you want us to negotiate over settled law?

There are three ways in the American democratic system for you to change law, Mr. Speaker:

The first is through the legislative process. In 2010, you lost. Forty-three

or 44 additional times subsequent to that, you've lost, unable to do it legislatively.

You can try and change the law in America through our democratic system jurisprudentially, through the court system. In 2012, the Supreme Court rejected that. You lost.

Then you can try and change things as a result of an election, and you lost with the reelection of the President by more than 5 million votes in 2012.

Those are the three legitimate ways—legislative, jurisprudential, electoral—that you change laws in American democracy. You do not extort concessions and threaten to shut down the government.

So this notion that we've refused to compromise is a great myth, particularly when, as my good friend from Nevada pointed out, the fact is that we've already compromised as it relates to the underlying number connected to funding the government.

The Democrats believe the appropriate number is \$1.058 trillion. That number is right here. The Republicans believe the appropriate number is \$986 billion. That number is right here. We've agreed to drop our number all the way down to \$986 billion, representing a \$70 billion compromise, yet you continue to put forth this myth, as if we're the ones behaving unreasonably. The American people see through this factual misrepresentation.

Lastly, let me just say, we had another great myth put forth this week-end by none other than the Speaker of the House of Representatives. No, not the junior Senator from Texas; the other one from Ohio. He said there are not the votes in the House to pass a clean CR. Not the votes? I'm no mathematician, Mr. Speaker, but it's clear, 198 Democrats have indicated they're willing to reopen the government if you put the bill on the floor. And if you add that to the 23 Republicans who have gone on record back at home in their districts, that gets us to 221, the magic number being 217 to reopen the government.

Stop peddling factual misrepresentations to the American people to cover your legislative malpractice. Let's get back to doing the business of the American people.

Mr. HORSFORD. I thank the gentleman from New York.

I know we are coming down to the end of our time. I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Thank you very much. Let me first thank you both for continuing to sound the alarm and to really conduct these Special Orders so the American people can know the truth about what's really going on here in Washington, D.C. So thank you, Mr. HORSFORD, thank you, Mr. JEFFRIES, for your remarkable leadership and for what you're doing tonight once again.

As I'm listening to what we've been talking about, there are two things that I want to drive home.

One is many of us did not want to and will continue to oppose sequester. What sequester has done is really gutted many of our safety net programs, such as Head Start, where 21,000 young people cannot have access now to Head Start in many of our districts. Senior citizens, Meals on Wheels, they won't be able to really get their Meals on Wheels, which is what they need to have a nutritious diet.

We see over and over again the impacts of sequester in people's daily lives, and it's wrong; and, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, the subcommittee that really works on all of our domestic programs, we've been fighting so hard to end the sequester so that people do not have to live through this pain, given what they're going through now as a result of sequester. So for us to support a bill that would open the government up at that level causes us a lot of pain and grief.

And what we're hoping is that, by our support of that \$986 billion bill to open the government up, we can open the government up so that people can get back to work, so that we have a functioning government, and so that we can begin to negotiate what makes sense for the American people in terms of the type of programs and the type of resources and services they need until we can get the Republican Tea Party Members of this House to understand that we need to create jobs and support a jobs bill. But until we do that, we have to minimally ensure that the Federal Government provides for the basics for the American people, and so many of us would support that level of funding just to get the government open.

I think, and as you said, the Speaker, I think they know that they have enough votes to put up with our Democratic votes to open the government up; and so, for the life of me, I don't know why they don't just bring that bill to the floor. Let's see. Let's have an up-or-down vote. I think the American people deserve that.

A government shutdown is wrong. People deserve to have health care. Millions of people now are accessing the Affordable Care Act. They didn't have health insurance before. Now they'll be covered.

So, once again, we have to see why in the world, or ask the question: Why in the world would people who need health care, why would they be held hostage to people who want to work in a government shutdown?

So I hope that more people are listening, more people understand that we know how to open the government up and we know how to begin to negotiate on a real budget that makes sense for not only our domestic programs, but for the Pentagon and for our foreign assistance, State Department, all of those necessary programs that make for a functioning government.

So thank you again for your leadership, and thank you for giving me the time tonight to speak.

Mr. Speaker, here we are day seven of the hurtful devastating Republican government shutdown.

We all know that Tea Party extremists came to Congress—not to govern—but to achieve the goal of shutting down the government.

Well, congratulations to them for achieving a dream come true.

Now, millions of families, children, seniors, federal employees and our economy are paying the price.

In my congressional district, and throughout the state of California, families are already feeling the impact of the Republican government shutdown.

The California Women Infant and Children program is on the brink of turning away low-income pregnant women and new moms if this shutdown continues.

And schools throughout the state of California are cancelling field trips to national parks and monuments which are closed to visitors due to this Republican shutdown.

Across the country our vital national interests are also taking the hit.

The shutdown threatens to derail the already unacceptable Veterans Administration disability backlog.

There are no new business loans or assistance for small businesses or for our farmers.

Without the CDC conducting disease surveillance and taking calls about infectious diseases—our public health is at serious risk.

If the Republican shutdown continues—13 million children will lose access to school breakfast and 31 million will lose access to school lunches.

8.7 million women and their young children will not receive nutrition assistance through the WIC program.

And 47.5 million people who rely on SNAP will go hungry.

Yes, the Tea Party is getting exactly what they wanted—and millions of children and families will go hungry because of it.

To add insult to injury, Republicans have shut down the government because they are obsessed—obsessed mind you—with destroying the Affordable Care Act.

The vast majority of Americans—who, by the way, continue to blame Republicans for the shutdown—see how senseless it is to shutdown the government because you want to deny health care to millions of Americans.

Despite the Republican government shutdown, health care exchanges established under the Affordable Care Act have successfully opened for enrollment.

Now millions of uninsured Americans are less than just three months away from having the health care coverage they so desperately need.

For the nearly 7 million uninsured African Americans, October 1st marked the opportunity to have fewer health inequities, and increased access to quality and affordable health care and preventive medicine.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, 500,000 young, African American adults have already gained coverage from a parent's health care plan.

And for the 7.3 million African Americans who have private insurance and the 4.5 million who have Medicare coverage, the Affordable Care Act now means access to key preventive health services, including vital screenings, at no extra cost.

With health disparities continuing to have a huge financial burden on the health care sys-

tem, these key changes as provided through the Affordable Care Act will not only save money—but they will save lives.

California—the first state to commit to establishing its own exchange—launched the Covered California exchange.

In my Congressional District alone there are nearly 100,000 uninsured constituents and the opening of the exchanges means they are one step closer to health care coverage that can literally mean the difference between life and death.

“MAKING GOOD HEALTH MY REALITY” TOUR

Mr. Speaker, this summer I, and many of my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, co-hosted the “Making Good Health MY Reality” tour health care town halls to help educate our constituents about the Affordable Care Act.

Two hundred constituents attended my town hall, and while there were many many questions, people were undeniably excited and looked forward to the open enrollment period.

There were many who already had private insurance, but attended in order to learn more so that they could tell their friends and family members about the Affordable Care Act.

Some attended just to speak about the good health care reform has already done in their lives, like the mother whose daughter became very ill while away at college and had to rely on her health insurance to seek treatment.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, her daughter was able to stay in college, graduate, and now has her own health care insurance.

But that isn't enough for Tea Party Republicans.

It isn't enough that websites across the country are crashing because of the interest millions of Americans have in getting affordable health care coverage.

As one constituent, after working for 3 hours to successfully enroll in a health care plan, put it: “Do I now have doubts about the Affordable Care Act? Absolutely not.”

I would go through much more to get affordable health insurance. I experience more stress every day worrying about getting . . . a disease like cancer and having to face a hospital bill I can't afford on my own.” (Janice Worthen wrote of her experience in *The Alamedan*)

That is what is driving Americans to the health care exchanges. That is what the Tea Party Republicans are holding this country hostage for.

Mr. Speaker, while all of us believe it is important to keep the government functioning, hostage taking is no way to run federal departments and agencies.

Members of Congress are elected to make sure our government functions.

Yet, instead of working together to do our jobs, Republicans continue to double down on the tea-party plan to destroy and decimate our government.

Instead of working on a serious option to reopen the government, Republicans latest strategy is to exploit our veterans, cancer patients, pregnant women, and young children, by voting on piecemeal bills that will not end impacts of a shut down that extend across our country.

WIC

It is simply outrageous to sit here and play politics with pregnant mothers, their babies, and their young children.

In the past year alone the WIC program has been cut by \$500 million—simply unaccept-

able to the more than 21,000 WIC participants in my congressional district alone.

As a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I witnessed Republicans vote over and over and over again to cut funding to this vital program.

Despite committee Democrats' best efforts to stand against these ridiculous attacks and to convince them of the importance of this program, they have refused to listen to reason and insisted on massive cuts.

HEAD START

And that's not all.

Because of the Tea Party imposed sequestration, more than 57,000 at-risk students have lost their Head Start slots, and my district alone lost \$1.5 million in federal contributions to the Head Start program.

Yet there is now a Republican proposal circulating to restore funding to Head Start.

The hypocrisy is truly appalling.

VA

We saw them do the same for the Veterans Affairs department.

Even if we do fund the VA, their employees still need to work with their counterparts at the Department of Defense and the Social Security Administration in order to process claims.

Mr. Speaker, of course we support our veterans, of course we support our national parks, and of course we support full funding for the NIH, the WIC program, and the Head Start program.

Yet, some people in this chamber who have been leading the charge to cut these very same programs are taking their fundamental responsibility and holding it hostage, hoping that by doing so they will get their way.

If my colleagues would really like to help our nation's most vulnerable, the people who will suffer the most due to their intransigence—rather than trying to score political points—they need to not only fund the entire federal government, they also need to roll back sequestration and other cuts to vital programs that they've made over the last three years.

But they aren't going to do that.

Instead they will continue to posture, to attempt to score political points, and in the end push to achieve the goal they set years ago: to dismantle this government.

Mr. Speaker, this is not what the American people deserve.

This anarchy must end.

We must bring a clean CR to the Floor, and we must pass it.

Mr. HORSFORD. Thank you to the gentledady from California.

I will just conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that we demand a vote. We demand a vote on a clean funding resolution, one that's supported by 198 Democrats, 23 Republicans, 221 Members. A majority of the Members of this body are prepared to vote on a clean resolution, and we're asking—demanding—the Speaker bring that clean resolution to the floor so that we can reopen government and allow all of our American workers, those in government and those in the private sector, to get back to work and to meet our obligations as a country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Patient Protection and Affordable



Care Act which has already significantly improved health care for Americans. The six month enrollment period for Americans to sign up for affordable health care coverage in the state-based Health Insurance Marketplaces has begun. Important decisions on government finding and the debt ceiling await votes while politics take center stage and the soundness of our economy remains in question.

House Republicans have caused a government shutdown in order to advance a delusional political agenda spearheaded by disdain for the Affordable Care Act. In a demonstration of hollow leadership, politics are being placed before people. Instead of approving the Senate-passed funding bill, House Republicans have cast yet another vote to undermine the Affordable Care Act for the forty-third time since its passage.

However, the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land and many have already benefited from its implementation. In Texas, families have saved \$46.3 million in insurance company refunds. Medicare beneficiaries in the "donut hole" have saved \$420.7 million in prescription drugs. More than 40,000 Americans and 17 million American children with pre-existing conditions gained insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act. The Congressional Budget Office released a study showing that the Affordable Care Act will provide coverage for an additional 32 million people while reducing overall health care costs.

The new health care law will only grow stronger and expand access to quality coverage with the state-based Health Insurance Marketplaces for those who cannot receive coverage through an employer. The Affordable Care Act not only provides increased access to quality care but it marks the beginning of fewer health disparities across the nation and more investment in preventative health care. I am proud to stand with the President and my colleagues in support of the Affordable Care Act.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and October 8 on account of a family illness.

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending to family acute medical care and hospitalization.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3241. A letter from the Director, Division of Coal Mine Workers' Compensation, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulations Implementing the Byrd Amendments to the Black Lung Benefits Act: Determining Coal Miners' and Survivors' Entitlement to Benefits (RIN: 1240-AA04) received September 25, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3242. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Massachusetts; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2013-0028; A-1-FRL-9797-3] received September 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3243. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Maintenance Plan for Fort Collins [EPA-R08-OAR-2011-0708; FRL-9900-86-Region 8] received September 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3244. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; West Virginia; West Virginia's Redesignation for the Parkersburg-Marietta, WV-OH 1997 Annual Fine Particulate Matter Nonattainment Area to Attainment and Approval of the Associated Maintenance Plan [EPA-R03-OAR-2012-0386; FRL-9900-71-Region 3] received September 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3245. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Procedures for Stringency Determinations and Minor Permit Revisions for Federal Operating Permits [EPA-R06-OAR-2010-0355; FRL-9900-82-Region 6] received September 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3246. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Determination of Attainment for the Chico Nonattainment Area for the 2006 Fine Particle Standard; California; Determination Regarding Applicability of Clean Air Act Requirements [EPA-R09-OAR-2012-0800; FRL-9900-69-Region 9] received September 5, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3247. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Interim Rule to List the Southern White Rhino as Threatened [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2013-0055] (RIN: 1018-AY76) received September 26, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3248. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Estab-

lishment of Class E Airspace; Wagner, SD [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0004; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-11] received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3249. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Walker, MN [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0266; Airspace Docket No. 13-AGL-11] received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3250. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Brigham City, UT [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0414; Airspace Docket No. 13-ANM-14] received September 9, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Supplemental report on H.R. 1804. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress semi-annual reports on the cost of foreign travel made by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (Rept. 113-227, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 3271. A bill making continuing appropriations for the compensation of Federal employee and certain military personnel in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3272. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain tax incentives for investment in the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 3271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United