

challenges, and we need real solutions. If critics of the law spent as much energy on developing legitimate solutions as they do on perpetuating falsehoods about the ACA, we might make some progress. Let's stop the fear-mongering, come together and have a real conversation about improving our health care system.

END HUNGER IN AMERICA NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, here we are, 10 days into the Republican government shutdown and just a few days away from hitting the debt ceiling, and the Republican leadership continues to spin its wheels. The American people are rightly blaming congressional Republicans for this shutdown, and they will blame Republicans for a default too.

Every day seems to bring a new Republican strategy: repeal ObamaCare, defund ObamaCare, delay ObamaCare, stage a non-filibuster filibuster, ask for the entire Romney economic platform in order to raise the debt ceiling, yell at park rangers, fund this part of the government, fund that part of the government, pay furloughed employees, pay essential employees, hold a conference meeting, hold a press conference.

Meanwhile, as the Republican Conference tries to get its act together, Americans across this country are feeling the impact of the shutdown, and that impact grows every day. Last month USDA released the annual figures on food security in America. These are the statistics of the number of people who don't know where their next meal will come from, essentially the number of hungry people in this country; and once again we see the effects of the Great Recession showing up in these food security numbers.

According to USDA, over 49 million people are food insecure. That means they are hungry. Seventeen million are children. These figures are virtually unchanged from previous years. It means hunger is not getting better in America. It is not getting worse, but that is no consolation.

While these figures are bad enough, House Republicans apparently thought they should be worse and decided to pass legislation cutting \$39 billion from SNAP, our Nation's best, most efficient and effective anti-hunger program. Those cuts would cause hunger to get worse; 170,000 unemployed veterans would lose access to SNAP. Two million kids would be kicked off the free school meal program. Overall, around 4 million people would lose access to SNAP because of these terrible cuts.

Now, that is pretty bad, especially considering that hunger is still a problem in America; but it is still not bad enough for the Republicans, so they shut the government down. Now, I

know this shutdown isn't about hunger; it is about irrational demands by a few Republicans. But like the bill cutting SNAP by \$39 billion, the impact of the shutdown is beginning to make hunger worst in America.

Look at Nevada, where 362,000 food stamp recipients will see their benefits halt on November 1—not reduced, halted; 425,000 women, infants, and children would see their food benefits provided under WIC halted as well. That is right, nearly 800,000 hungry low-income Nevadans would lose access to food because of this Republican shutdown.

But it is not just Nevada. North Carolina announced on Tuesday that it had discontinued issuing food and nutrition benefits through WIC to women, infants, and children specifically because Federal funding for the program has dried up. Eighty percent of those Carolinians eligible have already received their October benefits, but that means 20 percent of the 264,000 enrolled low-income women, infants, and children will not get the help they qualify for to buy the food they need including formula, fruits, and vegetables.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are going to continue hearing stories like this as the Republican shutdown continues. More and more low-income families will see the food they rely on taken away from them simply because Republicans in Washington will not open the government.

This is not the way to end hunger now, Mr. Speaker. We will only end hunger now if we finally come together and decide that ending hunger is a priority, that it is something we believe we can do, and that we commit ourselves to accomplishing it.

Mr. Speaker, we can stop hunger from getting worse by reopening the government. We can stop hunger from getting worse by preventing \$39 billion in SNAP cuts from being enacted. We can stop hunger from getting worse by preventing the automatic cut to SNAP already scheduled to take effect on November 1 from taking place.

We need to end this Republican shutdown today. Republicans should not let poor Americans go hungry simply because they can't agree on a political strategy in Washington. That is not right. That is not how we should treat our fellow Americans. It is wrong, and they know it. We should be working to end hunger now, not to make hunger worse. We can eliminate it. This is a fight we can win if we just find the political will and courage to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying once again to my Republican colleagues, bring a clean continuing resolution to this House floor so we can have an up-or-down vote so that we can reopen this government and so we can prevent hunger from getting worse in this country.

HUMAN CONSEQUENCES OF IRRESPONSIBLE AND IRRATIONAL SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue speaking out about the human consequences of this irresponsible and irrational government shutdown. We are now 10 days into this ridiculousness, and what I have been doing is spending time on the phone each day with the people from my region who tell me their stories about suffering due to the needless and increasingly maddening shutdown.

I recently spoke with the family of Jeremiah Johnson. They are from a town called Prophetstown, Illinois. It is a small town of about 2,000 people in Whiteside County, right in the heart of my congressional district.

Jeremiah is a disabled combat veteran who served his country bravely in Iraq. He now is also a Federal law enforcement employee who happens to be working without any pay; and while he is receiving no paycheck, he is also worried about the disability benefits being delayed because of the shutdown. So absolutely a double whammy for this father and husband.

In fact, he and his wife, Pam, just celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary on Monday; and rather than go out and celebrate like many couples do to mark their joyous occasion, they ate at home because they don't know when to expect their next paycheck. So Pam made a pie for her husband and Jeremiah gave his wife an anniversary card, very simple and very sweet. On top of that, their 12-year-old daughter, Carissa, actually offered her parents her entire savings in case they need it. When Pam told me this story, she got a little emotional about it and spoke over and over about just what a good daughter they have.

So in spite of their seventh grader's loving offer and Pam and Jeremiah removing any extravagance from their wedding anniversary plans, of course they remain worried about the lack of a paycheck and really their own ability to be able to pay their car payment and their house payment. This is absolutely an unacceptable way that we would ever as a Nation treat our disabled veterans like Jeremiah.

We have the votes right now to open up our government and put Jeremiah and his family at ease; but there is one way to do this, and it is only if Democrats and Republicans come together. That is our path. It is that simple. It is commonsense, it is reasonable, and it is absolutely the right thing to do.

TRIBUTE IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF MARVIN DANIEL PRICE

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr.

Marvin Daniel Price, who passed away July 21 at the age of 81. Mr. PRICE came to my attention because he is the youngest known person ever to play professional baseball in the United States of America. At the age of 14, Marvin played with the Chicago American Giants in 1946.

One might wonder how this happened. Well, his sister, Ms. Gloria Price Simpson, tells the story that one day Marvin couldn't come out to play because he was sick. The other kids looked up to him, so they spotted him in the window and asked him if he would call the balls, and so he called out, safe, foul ball, fair ball.

He always imagined that baseball would play a major role in his life, and in fact it did. At the age of 14, professional baseball soon became a reality for Marvin when he was spotted playing baseball in Washington Park by the legendary Chicago Giants outfielder Jimmy Crutchfield. A tryout was soon arranged with then-owner J.B. Martin at Comiskey Park where manager Quincy Troupe originally thought he was the new bat boy.

It didn't take long for him to show that he wasn't there just to distribute the equipment. Marvin put on such a show that the Chicago American Giants decided to take him on a barnstorming trip to the South where he could play without jeopardizing his amateur status back in Chicago. Playing against hardened black baseball veterans in the South, Marvin displayed an awesome hitting performance.

After a week he returned home to Englewood High School, where he graduated and went on to play professionally with the Cleveland Buckeyes, New Orleans Eagles, and Chicago American Giants where he batted .390. Just as it looked as though Marvin was headed for baseball stardom, he enlisted in the military and spent 4 years in the United States Coast Guard.

After his stint in the military, he continued to play semi-professionally; and over the next 30 years, he worked as a supervisor with the Chicago post office while working part-time with the Chicago Park District teaching young people not only about the game of baseball, but the game of life.

On Friday, October 11, at U.S. Cellular Field, formerly known as Comiskey Park, there will be a memorial ceremony in Price's honor. Family members, friends and supporters, members of the White Sox and others are invited to come and celebrate his rich life and history. He was indeed a legend before his time, and so we salute you, Mr. Marvin Daniel Price, the youngest known professional baseball player in the United States of America.

VERY REAL AND DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, some of my colleagues would have us believe that our current Federal shutdown has no real consequences. I have heard some even suggest that this period of suspended government should be thought of merely as a slowdown or a slimdown. There is talk that the shutdown is causing no real pain. The most extreme anti-government politicians even express the hope that such a cut-back in government programs and services should be made permanent, and too many others are content to hang back and let those with extreme views have their way for the time being.

But I stand here today to remind my colleagues and the public that cuts in government funding and government programs have consequences, sometimes deadly. It is a lesson we learned in 2006 when annual coal mining deaths soared to 45, a 10-year high, reversing an 80-year trend of steadily falling fatalities, a trend attributed in part to years of underfunding the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

It is a lesson we should heed now. This year, as of September 4, 14 coal miners had died on the job in our country; and this past weekend alone, three coal miners lost their lives at work over 3 consecutive days, including one miner in West Virginia. Think about that. In the first 9 months of the year, 14 coal miners perished on the job. In the first 9 days of the government shutdown, three coal miners have perished.

Mr. Speaker, even one death is one too many. Now, no one has linked these recent deaths directly to the government shutdown, but the inability of this Congress to pass a simple bill to fund all the operations of our government has resulted in cutbacks of routine inspections that are essential to the complex system of safety oversight of this complex industry.

Miners and operators know that MSHA's multi-layered inspection and enforcement system has been hampered. Assistant Secretary Joe Main has said:

Three miners killed on 3 consecutive days is extremely troubling. The fact that this occurred over a weekend when there may have been a greater expectation that an MSHA inspector would not be present is a red flag.

I hope that everyone in the coal industry, from the CEOs to the office staff, to security guards, to the coal miners themselves, will redouble their vigilance and take every possible step to ensure health and safety; and I urge my colleagues in this body to abandon this ridiculous political showdown that is undercutting the safety in our mines, our industrial facilities, our food chain, and so much more.

This is not a slowdown. It is not a slimdown. This is a politically driven shutdown, and it has real and dangerous consequences for the people who put their faith in us to provide them with basic services to ensure their

well-being, to protect their lives, and to simply do the job that we have been elected to do: to lead.

PAIN OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS TOO GREAT

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

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, as this shutdown drags on—and I concur with the comments of my colleague from West Virginia—it is serious and having serious consequences. The American people are left to wonder why.

Back here in Washington, D.C., you have all kinds of talking points and spin, and it circles around and can easily get very confusing as everyone seems to focus on the wrong things as to what caused this. And, really, it is very simple; and I think understanding it and getting Democrats and Republicans to stop talking past each other is the first step to getting out of this.

We have to understand that basically when you pass a budget to fund the government, the first thing you argue about is how much money is spent on it; and we had that argument and, believe me, there are deep disagreements between the Republican House, the Democratic Senate, and the White House on that.

But an agreement was reached between Speaker JOHN BOEHNER and HARRY REID on the level of funding; and that level of funding, frankly, is vastly lower than Democrats want, and we were going to go forward with that until the Speaker changed his mind and decided that he wanted something else. So if you are wondering why HARRY REID, the Senator, the Majority Leader in the Senate, is upset about this situation, it is in part because he had a deal and the Republicans went back on that deal.

But it gets worse than that. So instead of simply agreeing to the amount of money that would fund the government, Republicans are now saying, no, they want policy changes within the budget in order to fund the government, in order to just simply keep it open and in order to raise the debt ceiling so that we can pay our bills.

Now, policy changes do occasionally happen within appropriations bills, but only when they are agreed upon between the House, the Senate, and the White House. And the problem that the Republicans have and what they have had for 3 years is they simply do not have the votes to pass the policy changes that they want because they didn't win the election last time. President Obama won the election, Democrats control the Senate, and, ironically, Democrats actually won 52 percent of the vote for Congress, but because of gerrymandering, Republicans wound up with more seats.

But however we got here, they do not have the votes to advance the agenda that they want to advance, and they