

This is an issue that is very personal to me. Nine years ago, my cousin, Dr. Robin Lynn Mitchell, my namesake, was murdered in her sleep by her husband in an act of domestic violence. A few months later, a campaign volunteer of mine, Velton Lacefield, was shot and killed by her husband in a similar crime.

Their stories, however heart-breaking, are, unfortunately, not unique. These tragedies play out over and over every day in our communities across America. The National Network to End Domestic Violence estimates that three women are killed each day as a result of domestic violence. It touches just about every home, no matter your ZIP code or your income bracket. Nearly three-quarters of Americans know a victim of domestic violence.

But that is just the human toll. Domestic violence also costs the U.S. economy over \$8 billion annually in emergency room visits, mental health services, and lost productivity.

So as we observe Domestic Violence Awareness Month, let's commit ourselves to working to put an end to these tragedies, for Robin, for Velton, for all of us.

THE OFFER STILL STANDS

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, on September 30, after two previous attempts to keep the government fully funded, House Republicans adopted a measure that fully funded the government, fully funded ObamaCare, but simply delayed the individual mandate for a year. Now, this proposal was summarily rejected by House and Senate Democrats, and the government shut down.

Now, I can understand why they might take that position. They actually thought the exchanges would work, but they haven't worked. They have been a complete and unmitigated disaster. And after more than 3 years and \$600 million of development costs, they are far, far from being ready.

So, with this new experience, what is so unreasonable about delaying the mandate for a year while these problems are addressed?

This should be a win-win for everyone—reopen the government and give the Democrats' signature program 1 year's reprieve from complete collapse. That is what Republicans offered on September 30, and that offer still stands.

HOW THE GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN IS HARMING THE PEOPLE OF HOUSTON

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my-

self with the remarks of my colleague and classmate from South Carolina on how we will miss Chairman YOUNG. He has been a great statesman in serving our House.

But today I am here to talk about how we are 10 days into the Republican shutdown of the government services. Every week the shutdown continues cuts 0.3 percent of our gross domestic product, and the stock market has dropped 900 points in the last 2 weeks. Now they want to hold the full faith and credit of our country hostage.

This is how it is hurting our Houston area economy:

Over 3,100 NASA employees at Johnson Space Center in Houston have been furloughed as a result of the House majority's refusal to keep the government open;

The Small Business Administration has closed its Houston office and is unable to issue grants and loans and services to small business owners;

Houston's regional VA center is closed. The government shutdown has forced VA to furlough 9,000 employees, delaying processing of the VA benefits.

If the shutdown continues into late October, payments for more than 3.8 million veterans will stop. We owe it to our Nation's veterans to make good on our commitments to them, and we can't do this with closed facilities.

OBAMACARE? NO, THANK YOU.

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

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to get my hands wrapped around this ObamaCare thing.

The policy is: the IRS is going to tax Americans unless they purchase a government-sanctioned product, which they may not want, off a government-run Web site, which costs \$634 million to create and does not work.

And what do they have to expect for that, once they go through that process and put their personal information there?

One disclaimer in one State's exchange goes as follows:

Any or all uses of this system and all files on this system may be intercepted, monitored, recorded, copied, audited, inspected, and disclosed to authorized State government and law enforcement personnel, as well as authorized officials of other agencies, both domestic and foreign.

Mr. Speaker, no, thank you.

IT IS TIME TO DO OUR JOBS

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, last night, I spoke with a woman in Madison, a Federal employee who works as an air traffic controller and helps ensure the safety of thousands every day, and she asked me why should she be working

when she doesn't even know if or when she will get paid—and I didn't have a reasonable answer for her.

I received a letter from a woman in Baraboo who relies on Federal contracts to run her small business. She asked me how she is going to be able to make payroll this month if the government doesn't pay its bills—and I didn't have a reasonable answer for her.

I don't have a reasonable answer for why the Wisconsin National Guard can't conduct its training, why local small businesses can't grow their business and have loans through the Small Business Administration, and why 113,000 infants, children, and pregnant women can't receive nutrition assistance from the WIC program.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the GOP House leadership starts acting like responsible Representatives. Let's reopen government; let's prevent our country from defaulting; and then let's sit down and negotiate our budget, as Democrats have been requesting for the last 6 months. It is time to do our jobs.

NEW ENTITLEMENT SPENDING

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today just to ask this simple question to my colleagues here in the House and to our counterparts in the Senate, and that is simply this: Does it make sense for us to speed ahead with \$1.3 trillion in new entitlement spending when our country is in the middle of a debt crisis and Medicare and Social Security are on the brink of bankruptcy?

If the answer is "yes," then you can go home and explain that to your constituents. If the answer is "no," maybe we could explain why we are doing it.

STOP HURTING THE PEOPLE WE CAME HERE TO HELP

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I received this letter from Lori Sywensky. She wrote:

As a Commissioner of the Northampton County, Pennsylvania, Housing Authority, I wanted to make you aware that the County's Housing Authority issued layoff notices today to over half of its staff members because of financial uncertainty created by the government shutdown.

The next pay period would be payable on November 1, 2013, and since we cannot assure that there will be sufficient funds to honor that payroll, it has been determined that there is no legal choice other than to shut down operations of the Housing Choice Voucher Program and effect a temporary layoff beginning on Monday, October 14, 2013.

If not resolved soon, over 500 landlords will next be notified by the Housing Authority that rent payments will not be issued, resulting in lost income for them and potential eviction for 637 families.

That is what she wrote.

Mr. Speaker, isn't it time we stopped hurting the people we came here to help?

OBAMACARE

(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, today is day 10 of ObamaCare exchanges being up, or supposedly being up. We now know the problems with the exchanges are not just due to high traffic; rather, technology experts have reported the real problems are with the actual structure and shoddy software used for the exchanges.

The Hill reported on October 8, from one expert, James Turner, software engineer, "It's probably the most broken release that I have ever seen."

I am hearing firsthand the frustrations from my constituents. One constituent said:

The program freezes up when you try to enter your tax filing status. You can't get past it. Same thing happens when I try to apply over the phone. I've called every day since October 1, all different times of the day, and have gotten nothing but the run-around, one excuse after the other, that their system is down.

I've called during peak time. I've called during off-peak time, but apparently there are no on-peak hours. If I can't get qualified for a subsidy before January 1, we will have to let our insurance lapse.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I say, this is a defective exchange, and it is only part of the problem.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN THREATENS THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SOUTHERN ARIZO- NANS

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, the safety and security of Southern Arizona is my first priority. I represent 83 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border, and the people who live near it are very seriously affected by criminal activities along that border.

Since the shutdown, our Border Patrol agents have faced uncertainty about their pay and the future of their mission. These brave men and women are our first line of defense in securing the homeland. They deserve our respect and support.

Last week, an agent's wife called my office about a decision her husband was forced to make, the decision between missing a loved one's funeral or attending it on furlough, putting his paycheck and his family at risk.

This reckless shutdown hurts the families of our agents who put their lives on the line every single day. This is wrong, Mr. Speaker, and we must end this irresponsible shutdown now and restore certainty to the Border Patrol for the safety and security of Southern Arizona and our entire country.

PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, as we all are well aware, a lot of emotion is in this Chamber and in this body at this time, and maybe that is the way it should be.

We remember back to the first Constitutional Convention that it almost shut down as well, until Benjamin Franklin stood up and said, We need to go to prayer, asking for the wisdom of the Almighty. Maybe that is what we need as well.

Mr. Speaker, above your rostrum there are words etched into stone from DANIEL WEBSTER, who said:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also, in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we need to be doing. And so, as today, thankfully, the President and leadership in the House are meeting in negotiations, I call for our citizens, as well as us, to be in prayer, asking for wisdom for the President, for our leaders to come to a conclusion that will move this country forward.

TELL THE SPEAKER TO PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK

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

Mr. ENYART. Mr. Speaker, my wife had a call last night from one of her best friends. She was angry, disappointed, and frightened. Her husband is a civilian worker at Scott Air Force Base. His paycheck was one-half what it usually is. Their son is a community college student who just got laid off. Their daughter is disabled. They are my voters. They are my friends.

What do I tell them?

What do I tell the veterans whose disability claims aren't being processed?

What do I tell the laid-off prison guards in southern Illinois who will lose their food stamps?

What do I tell the retired mine workers who have lost their pensions in bankruptcy and now have to worry about their Social Security checks?

I can't tell them to call their Congressman. They already have.

I tell them, Call 202-225-6205, and tell the Speaker to put America and its government back to work.

□ 1230

CAN WE TALK

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

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Mr. President, can we talk?

I am pleased to hear that President Obama, 10 days into a government shutdown, is finally willing to talk with a contingent of House Republicans at the White House this afternoon. After all, there is plenty to discuss.

Everybody in this room, Democrat or Republican, knows that too many of our youth are underemployed or unemployed. Mr. President, our youth want to work.

Everybody in this room knows that we need tax reform to make our businesses competitive in the world and bring American jobs back to America.

Everybody in this room knows that Social Security and Medicare are on a pathway to insolvency and have to be shored up so that we can make our promises good to our seniors.

Thank you, Mr. President, at long last for sitting down to talk. Maybe if we could spend more time talking and less time posturing, we might be able to deal with some of these very significant problems.

Let's all pray that these talks are fruitful and improve the lives of all Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

LET'S VOTE AND KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, across the country, Americans are asking a simple question: When will their government open?

Every day, more Americans are denied services they need. Children who rely on Head Start are being turned away. New mothers and their infants are being denied nutritional assistance from WIC. Small businesses are losing demand for their services or are having trouble accessing loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration, costing jobs we cannot afford to lose and at a time when our economy continues to struggle.

While this is happening, what have our colleagues on the other side of the aisle done? They waste precious time with incremental bills that have no chance of enactment. That is not responsible governing. It is an excuse to put out a press release. The American people do not want more press releases. They want action.

Every day that the government stays closed is a lost opportunity for our economy and our communities. Let's vote and keep this government open.

THROWBACK THURSDAY

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