

(15) An estimate of the date on which no Federal offenders will remain under the Commission's jurisdiction.

(16) The Commission's annual expenditures for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction.

(17) The annual expenditures of the Commission, including travel expenses and the annual salaries of the members and staff of the Commission.

(b) SUCCEEDING FISCAL YEARS.—For each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018, not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the items in paragraphs (1) through (17) of subsection (a), for the fiscal year.

(c) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAROLE FAILURE RATE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Parole Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the following:

(1) The parole failure rate for the District of Columbia for the last full fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report.

(2) The factors that cause that parole failure rate.

(3) Remedial measures that might be undertaken to reduce that parole failure rate.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DO NO HARM

(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, prior to being elected to Congress, I worked 28 years as a health care provider. Through working to provide patients with the best possible care, one of the earliest lessons I learned was the principle of Do No Harm. The Nation would benefit greatly if those elected to public service followed this same principle. Unfortunately, this principle has been seriously violated throughout the government funding debate.

Mr. Speaker, the American people were harmed when President Obama failed to come to the negotiating table until 11 days after the shutdown occurred. The American people were harmed when the administration purposely sought to "win" the shutdown by causing as much pain as possible before seeking to reopen the government.

"It's a cheap way to deal with the situation. We've been told to make life as difficult for people as we can. It's disgusting," stated an angry Park Service ranger in Washington, according to The Washington Times.

This is not public service; this is a public injustice. It is time to do no more harm. It is time to end the politics and start solving problems. The American people deserve as much.

SHUTDOWN'S RIPPLING EFFECT

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

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, the devastating effect of the shutdown is now rippling beyond the Federal workforce.

Last week it was learned that scientists at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratory who work as Federal contractors will be furloughed this week. This is the largest employer in the 15th Congressional District, and their job is to uphold the national security mission of the United States, maintain our nuclear weapons stockpile, and provide energy security.

I flew home yesterday to hold a town hall meeting for Sandia and Livermore employees, and the room was filled with fear and anxiety about how they would meet their bills and obligations and what they would do next.

Enough is enough. The responsible thing to do is to end the government shutdown and put back to work our Federal workforce and our government contractors.

I have sent a letter to Secretary Ernie Moniz of the Department of Energy asking that we guarantee back pay for the furloughed workers at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratory.

This ripple will continue as long as this shutdown goes on. The responsible thing to do is to end this shutdown, make sure that the cause of science is advanced at Lawrence Livermore and Sandia, and we put back to work these hardworking individuals who are serving the national mission.

ODD COINCIDENCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I received the following email from a constituent who forwarded me comments from a former government worker:

As a former government employee, I have worked for the government for over 40 years. During that time I became familiar with requisitions, bidding, and awarding contracts. It is time-consuming with bean counters and pencil neck bureaucrats. A request takes months, not days or even hours. In less than 8 hours of the shutdown, miraculously professionally printed 3x4 signs—with logos—appeared all over the country in the 1000s saying: "This park facility closed due to government shutdown."

There has not been a government shutdown in 17 years. Signs had to be designed, requisitioned, and bids had to go out, approved and contracts signed; then the signs were made and distributed. Either this is the most efficient thing the Federal Government has ever done, or this quick shutdown was planned and determined months ago.

Mr. Speaker, if the writer is accurate, this is an interesting and odd coincidence, don't you think?

And that's just the way it is.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from

Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Tonight the country is facing great challenges—the challenges of ObamaCare, of runaway spending here in Washington, and of our fiscal crisis that is increasing our debt over and over again. Now is the time for solutions, and now is the opportunity that we have to get things right and to turn things around. I am looking forward tonight to visiting with my colleagues about the challenges we have before us as well as the opportunities.

You know, this situation that we are in today kind of reminds me of a story that I heard a few years ago. I think it is very fitting to this time in history. This is a true story. There was a man who went hunting with his dog many years ago; and as he walked through the great outdoors and came back from his hunting trip, he noticed that his pants were covered with something that in Missouri we call cockleburs. If you are not from Missouri or that part of the country, it is basically a weed, and it leaves very prickly seed pods that are about the size of a dime. And they will stick to anything from your clothes to your pet's fur, or anything else that happens to brush against it as it passes by the weed.

So this man got to looking at all of these cockleburs on his pants and his dog when he got back, and he was trying to pull them off and clean them off. And then he stopped a minute and got to look at that cocklebur and he got to thinking: What is it that causes this cocklebur to stick so well? And he wondered, is there a way we could use that same format to help provide some solutions.

He thought about some friends who had arthritis, that had trouble buttoning up their shirt or zipping things. He thought about young children, and they have trouble fastening things together. And he thought, I wonder if we could take this challenge of this cocklebur and make an opportunity out of it.

□ 1930

Do you know what he did? He invented something we all use every day called "Velcro." He laid the groundwork for what I think we need to do here in Washington: take the challenges before us and use them as an opportunity in this point in history to create a better health care system that addresses Americans' needs, that gets spending under control, makes government more efficient and more effective, and it also addresses our long-term debt and reverses course so that we will get out of debt as a Nation and balance the budget. This is the opportunity that we have before us.

Before my colleagues share their thoughts on this, I want to talk just a minute about the challenges that we have in ObamaCare. There are so many reasons that at this time in history we

have been taking a stand here in the House and saying: it is time to reverse this onerous policy, because the American people don't want it and it is hurting them.

I wanted to share at least seven things that are challenging about this law:

The first thing is that ObamaCare is causing an increase in premiums. I got last week an email from a constituent who sells insurance back home. They were very distraught because they had a customer come in who wanted to renew their health insurance. After they figured out what it would mean through ObamaCare, they discovered this customer was going to have to pay \$1,500 a month. That isn't even the full premium. Their employer would pay some others. So when you added it all up, this family—she had to tell them—was going to have to pay \$18,000 a year for their health care. This makes a difference in that family whether they can send a child to college or not. It is wrong. We need to have some solutions here.

Something else I heard today: I was visiting with a constituent who told me that they went on the exchanges to see what ObamaCare would do to their health care premiums. What she found out is that her insurance next year is going to cost \$200 more a month than she is paying right now, plus she is going to have to have a larger deductible and her coverage is going to decrease. So she was obviously very upset. ObamaCare is increasing premiums and increasing costs on Americans. That is wrong. It is time for solutions.

Number two, ObamaCare is killing jobs. Despite what others on the other side of the aisle say, it is killing jobs. One in five small businesses report that they are letting employees go due to the new law. Others are deciding not to expand their business due to the new law. The Gallup survey this year found a staggering 41 percent of small business owners are holding off hiring new employees due to ObamaCare, and 38 percent have pulled back on plans to grow their business.

I have an example I wanted to share with you from my own district. I was visiting with a small business owner the other day. They are doing pretty well. They have a small business that has been growing. The exciting thing is, they said: Representative HARTZLER, we want to open up a second location, we want to hire some new workers, we are very excited about it. But they looked at ObamaCare and the requirements involved and they said: We cannot afford it. If we open up the second location and hire new workers, we are not going to be able to keep going. So they decided not to expand their business.

Now, the thing that makes this extra tragic is, in this town there has been a manufacturing plant closed down over the last few years. There are hundreds of people in my district looking for

work who would love to have that job, but because of ObamaCare they are not going to be able to do it. This business owner wants to expand, but they can't. That is wrong. ObamaCare is killing jobs. That is why it is time for solutions.

Number three, ObamaCare is reducing the take-home pay. It has been many years since many Americans have got a raise. They are "making do," but if anybody goes to the store like I do every weekend and buys groceries and other things for your family, you know that things are costing more and more. So we have a real problem here. Americans aren't getting pay increases and yet the cost of living is going up.

There are many businesses that are cutting back on their employees' hours because of ObamaCare to get them under the 30-hour requirement. In fact, a U.S. Chamber of Commerce Small Business Outlook Study showed that 27 percent of businesses have and will cut hours to reduce from full-time employees to part-time. So we are becoming "part-time America" because of this law.

Just today, I got an email from a large business owner in Missouri, and here is what they said. It validates this very point. It says:

As one of the largest out of state employers in Missouri, we are not expanding or hiring. Our health insurance costs will increase by an estimated \$800,000 in 2014 due to ObamaCare, despite significant reductions in coverage for our employees and reducing hours to less than 30 hours per week where we can. Our taxes have gone up, regulations are overwhelming, and there is no end in sight.

It is happening.

Number four, ObamaCare is jeopardizing our personal security and our privacy. How would you like to have your Social Security number made available to everybody? According to an August 7 *Forbes* magazine article:

In order for ObamaCare to work, the government will need to know a lot about your financial, medical, and employment situation.

And this could very well—ObamaCare's exchanges—end up illegally exposing American's private records to hackers and criminals.

Just last week, when ObamaCare went online, McAfee, which is one of the Nation's premier Internet security companies, they tweeted out that ObamaCare is a "hacker's dream." This is very, very concerning. It is clearly time for solutions.

Five, ObamaCare is simply not working. I am sure many of you have heard the news reports. This is just a 4-page outline of all the different headlines from around the country about how this is not working.

Florida:

The glitches in the new electronic health care sign-up system began almost immediately, and they never let up.

Missouri:

But in Kansas and Missouri, it was more fizzle than bang.

North Dakota:

North Dakota Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm said he and his staff were monitoring the Federal Web site Tuesday but were unable to access it.

West Virginia:

Ten hours later—after two attempts at signing up and one 45-minute call with a consumer service agent—technical glitches have prevented the 60-year-old grandfather from purchasing a plan.

It goes on and on. There are real problems there.

Six, ObamaCare is unfair. President Obama has exempted Big Business from having to comply with ObamaCare for a year, and he has granted over 1,300 waivers, yet he hasn't given a waiver to the hardworking American public who deserves it. That is not fair.

And lastly, something that a lot of people don't know, but a lot of people should care about, is that ObamaCare uses tax dollars to pay for abortions for the first time, and it hides the fact that people will be paying for abortions in their monthly bill.

Here is how it works. The law says that at least one policy in every exchange has to cover abortion. But it also says—the law says—that they can only disclose that as part of the huge summary of benefits in all the fine print that is there at only the time of initial sign-up. So many people right now are going online, and they have got these policies that come up and there is all this fine print. They don't even know that that policy includes abortion.

ObamaCare is going to have subsidies to help people pay for their premium. That subsidy comes from our tax dollars. Many Americans do not want their hard-earned tax dollars to go and pay for abortion, yet it will. Sadly, the people many times will not even know if their policy has abortion or not. There are many Americans who support life, and when they go to buy it directly, they will not know.

Inside the bill, not only does it cover abortion, but ObamaCare has what is called a "secrecy clause" in it that specifically says that that charge for the abortion fee cannot be listed in their monthly bill. So many pro-life Americans who value life unknowingly will buy an insurance policy that is covering abortion, and every month they will be paying their own hard-earned dollars to go towards abortion. It is just wrong.

So clearly, clearly we need some solutions. Republicans do have solutions. We are putting forth a health care bill that replaces and is better than ObamaCare. It allows for increased access and lower costs. You are going to be hearing more about it in the days to come. We call it the "American Health Care Reform Act." There are better solutions. We have got a lot of challenges with ObamaCare, but this is our opportunity to make it better for the American people, and that is what we are going to do.

We also have a challenge of a huge debt crisis at this time in history. I

know many of my colleagues here are going to share about that. We have got to quit spending money we don't have. People at home are tightening their belt. It is time for Washington to do that too.

This is where we are at tonight—Monday night, October 14, 2013. How this is going to play out, we don't know. But I know I am going to continue to fight for positive solutions that are good for the American people. I am going to be looking for opportunities to take the cockleburrs of life and look at them and say: Is there a way to turn this around and make something good out of it?

I believe that is where we are right now. We can make something good of this situation. It has been hard on Americans, it is hard on families, there is a lot of uncertainty. It has been hard on us as Members of Congress.

But we can make something better than has ever happened before from this country. We can produce a health care bill that the American people deserve. We can rein in this runaway spending and get it right, make government more efficient and more effective, and we can address our debt crisis. We can do it. That is our challenge, that is our opportunity, that is why we are fighting, that is why we are here tonight.

I want to thank my colleagues who stayed tonight to share their thoughts on this important time in history, this Monday night that we are at.

I would like to yield to my friend from Utah, CHRIS STEWART.

Mr. STEWART. I would like to thank the gentlewoman, Representative HARTZLER, for sharing the floor with myself and other colleagues tonight. It is an honor, especially on a topic that all of us know and recognize that is so very, very important.

Dean Acheson once said that "Negotiation in the classic diplomatic sense assumes parties are more anxious to agree than to disagree."

For the past 2 weeks, President Obama and Senator HARRY REID have made it very, very clear that they are much more anxious to disagree than they are to agree with Republicans—a situation that has very honestly prevented sincere negotiations. It is impossible to work out a deal when one party just sits on the sidelines and won't talk, like we have experienced over the last few weeks with the President. Now, we heard rumors this afternoon that the President has finally begun to negotiate with Republicans. I hope that that is true because our Founding Fathers established a system that was intended to be deliberative.

Whether you agree or disagree with the President, this much we know: he has been willing to push our Nation toward an economic crisis all for the sake of a political agenda. When this happens, every American loses. It doesn't have to be this way. It shouldn't be this way.

For 14 years, I was an Air Force pilot—which was, by the way, the

coolest job in the world. I loved doing that. At one point, I was selected to be a member of the START verification team—Strategic Arms Reduction Team. Of course, we were working with the Russians during this time. They would come to my base to verify that we had complied with elements of the START treaty.

During the 1990s, the Russians were not our friends. By the way, Mr. Speaker, I would cautiously add that today the Russians are not our friends either. These were in some cases tense and very carefully orchestrated events, but we did them. We extended a hand of trust and fellowship between two nations that had very little in common and had much to lose if they did not develop a working relationship.

Mr. Speaker, if we could do it then between the Russian and the U.S. militaries, surely we, with the Republicans and the President, could do the same thing now. The President is the leader of this Nation. He has a responsibility to lead. But part of leadership is being willing to sit down and in a sincere way be willing to listen to the other side. The President has failed in this responsibility and the Nation has paid a price.

Before being elected to Congress, I was the president and owner of a small company. Being part of a small business means developing relationships that are built upon trust. With the disastrous rollout of ObamaCare, the President has clearly broken the trust of the American people.

\$634 million—\$634 million—that is how much it cost to develop the ObamaCare Web site.

□ 1945

Facebook operated for 6 years on less money than that. Twitter was launched and operated for less than half the cost. Instagram, LinkedIn, Spotify all were designed, implemented, and operational at a fraction of the price of the ObamaCare Web page. And yet, in one of the most embarrassing moments in ObamaCare history, and I believe this will be a history that will be rife with embarrassing moments, news organizations had to search high and low throughout the country to find one person who could be verified that they had actually signed up on the ObamaCare Web page. And, of course, days later we had born the legend of Chad, something many people are very familiar with.

Harkening back to my military days, if I had been given a mission and had so utterly failed to accomplish that mission, I would have been held accountable. So I ask, Mr. Speaker, when will Kathleen Sebelius be held accountable for this disaster? After more than 3 years and after more than \$630 million and a failure to launch such as this, why does she still have her job?

But let's remember this: at the end of the day, we are not talking about ObamaCare, and we are not really talking about a Web page or a sequester or

a continuing resolution. What we are really talking about at the end of the day is our Nation's crushing national debt. Our national debt is now approaching \$17 trillion. Now, President Obama congratulates himself on having reduced the debt by half; but listen, when you run up a debt after 1 year in office of \$1.2 trillion or \$1.3 trillion, when you have nearly 4 years in a row of a greater than a trillion-dollar annual deficit, and then you congratulate yourself because you cut it \$6 or \$7 billion, that is not something to celebrate.

Now is the time to work together towards a balanced budget and actually beginning to pay down that debt. Yes, this is a tough decision, but we were elected to make tough decisions. My plea to the Senate and to the President is: Please, come to the table. Let's start the conversation now about how we can put our fiscal house in order. Time is running out.

With that, once again, Mrs. HARTZLER, thank you for yielding to me.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, CHRIS. I really appreciate your perspective. As a former Air Force pilot, I think what you said about leadership is very true. It is time for the President to show some leadership and for us to get together and to talk about this. That is why it is time for solutions. Thanks for sharing those things.

Now I would like to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), who is chairman of the Republican Study Committee and a real leader here in this House, and I certainly appreciate you sharing tonight.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for her leadership as the chair of the RSC Communications Committee for leading this effort to talk about real solutions. Of course, today we are in day 14 of a government shutdown, a shutdown that has seen Republicans bring proposal after proposal after proposal to fund government. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out, there are more than 20 bills now that have been passed by the House of Representatives to fund all or parts of the Federal Government—20 bills. This chart chronicles the timeline, going back to September 20, well in advance of the midnight hour where, today, on day 14, by the way, President Obama has still yet to even engage in conversations.

In fact, we went to the White House Thursday to meet with the President, sat in a room with him for an hour and a half. The simple offer was: Mr. President, we will increase the debt ceiling. All we are asking is for you to start talking, just to agree to have conversations; and, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we left that meeting without the President even being willing to start talking.

And so we are 14 days into a government shutdown that the President is decrying and calling people names. You have got people in the White House literally calling people suicide bombers,

terrorists, and all kinds of other things that are so unbecoming of the Office of the President of the United States—again, a President who said he was going to change the tone in Washington allowing people in his White House to call people on the opposition terrorists and suicide bombers—and yet he refuses to even sit at the table and negotiate our differences while we have passed 20 different bills to fund all or parts of government.

What are some of those parts of government? A bill to fund veterans affairs. Mr. Speaker, for all the areas of disagreement we have in Washington—and clearly, with a divided Nation with a divided government, there are areas where we have disagreement, but we should all be able to come to the table and say we ought to fund our veterans while we are negotiating our differences on the things we disagree upon.

And yet we sent the bill over to the Senate to fund our veterans, and HARRY REID tabled that bill, Mr. Speaker. We sent a bill to say that disaster aid shouldn't be something that we disagree over. We passed a bill with bipartisan votes and sent it over to the Senate. In fact, we saw one of the most disgraceful acts by a Commander in Chief, Mr. Speaker, where for days we saw this administration refusing to give death benefits to our fallen heroes, a moment I don't think we have seen in our Nation's history.

And we passed a bill to say don't hold our veterans hostage, and yet you still see barricades—I call them "Obamacades"—up in front of the World War II Memorial, an open-air memorial where, in normal days, there is nobody there being paid to guard or block this memorial. It is an open-air memorial built to honor our World War II heroes. And yet when our World War II heroes come from all around the country, some in their nineties, come to see their memorial, they are greeted by barricades by this administration. This is the kind of embarrassing leadership that we are getting out of the White House when all we are saying is let's negotiate our differences like has always been done.

When Ronald Reagan was President, Tip O'Neill was the Speaker, and you had divided government. There were 12 different shutdowns during that time in our Nation's history. What Ronald Reagan did as a leader, as a great leader, one that we surely miss today, Ronald Reagan started having regular meetings with Tip O'Neill. They actually built a relationship, started getting things done. And we saw one of the greatest revolutions, economic expansion in our Nation's history because you had a real leadership in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have sent 20 different bills over to the Senate, all chronicled, many of which had large Democrat votes out of the House. Still to this day, not one word from the President over whether he would agree

to start talking. Of course, he wants to make it all about ObamaCare. Clearly, there are big areas where we have disagreement, but it is not just a partisan issue. It is not just Republicans who have issues with ObamaCare. Let's start with the occupant of the Oval Office.

Barack Obama has problems with ObamaCare. He has issued over 1,200 waivers to his signature law, as the gentlelady from Missouri pointed out. I have yet to find one small business in my district who got one of those waivers, by the way. It was handed out to a lot of special-interest friends who could get access to the White House. Is that the way the government is supposed to run? In fact, he even worked out a deal to give Members of Congress an exemption from his signature health care law.

So what we are saying, Mr. Speaker, is why don't we start with the basic premise of fairness. If this law is so good, make it apply to everybody. If it is not that good, if it is so bad you need to issue 1,200 waivers to your friends, Mr. Speaker, then why not give that same waiver to all Americans until this thing is ready to work, which clearly it is not. As somebody once said, the failures of this law, October 1 was a date that for 3 years they knew was coming, where these exchanges had to be up and running, and now we are hearing debacle after debacle, people registering 12, 14 times without being able to get through. Somebody said it is like Flowers.com not being prepared for Valentine's Day.

So as we stand here today talking about getting our economy back on track and talking about the 20 different proposals we have sent over to the Senate to get government up and running, most of which have not been given even a minute's consideration, literally tabled on party-line votes by Senator REID, what we are saying is: How about just fairness? Let's start with fairness and make ObamaCare apply to everybody. If it is that good, why don't we make it apply to everybody? Get rid of all these special waivers, all these special backroom deals to everybody from the President's friends to Members of Congress. Let's make it apply to everybody. Let's get the government back open, and let's start tackling our long-term spending problems that are causing programs like Medicare and Social Security to face bankruptcy where we have put good plans on the table to save those programs from bankruptcy and, frankly, Mr. Speaker, to save our country from bankruptcy so we can hand off to our kids and grandkids the same opportunity that we enjoy today in the greatest country in the history of the world, a country that is facing serious problems, a country, unfortunately, facing a lack of leadership from the President who, 14 days into a government shutdown, still to this day has not even agreed to start talking with people from the other party to work out those differences.

I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for creating this forum to talk about solutions, and my other colleagues in the Republican Study Committee who have been bringing forward solution after solution to get our economy moving again and restore the greatness that this country knows is there, that beacon of light that we are all fighting for here tonight on the House floor.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank you, Mr. SCALISE, talking about the leadership that we have been providing here in the House.

I think it is very important that people know, we proactively worked to make sure that government stayed open. We passed these bills way before October 1. Unfortunately, we haven't had leadership from the White House or from the Senate willing to come together. Thank you for bringing that up.

In fact, something that a lot of people don't know is that, at this point in the House of Representatives, we have already passed one-third of all appropriations bills in the continuing resolution. We have been passing bill after bill to keep this government open, to fund it and make sure it keeps going and working for the American people. The Senate has not passed them. They haven't taken them up. So it is not us that has shut down the government or is responsible for this lapse in funding, and it is certainly not us that is keeping it shut. Thank you very much for sharing that.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER). I am glad to have you here tonight and appreciate what you have to share.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, it is good to be here.

Mr. Speaker, since 1978, the debt ceiling has been raised 53 times, and 27 of these increases have been used as a negotiating tool both by Congress and the President. So why not now, Mr. President? Can we not negotiate now? And to borrow a somewhat trite phrase from days gone by, yes, we can.

Sadly, today we have a President who does not want to make any concessions with House Republicans. You know, Thomas Jefferson once said, "Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold." Has pride gotten in the way, clouding the judgment of our President, do you think, Mr. Speaker? Has this President chosen party politics and his unworkable health care law over working with House Republicans toward fair solutions that would help hardworking Americans keep more money in their pockets?

Mr. Speaker, think with me here for a second. During the debt ceiling debate in March 2006, then-Senator Obama said:

The fact that we are here today to debate raising America's debt limit is a sign of leadership failure. It is a sign that the U.S. Government cannot pay its own bills. It is a sign that we now depend on ongoing financial assistance from foreign countries to finance

our government's reckless fiscal policies. Increasing America's debt weakens us domestically and internationally. Leadership means that "the buck stops here." Instead, Washington is shifting the burden of bad choices today onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. America has a debt problem and a failure of leadership. Americans deserve better.

Yet, here we are, 7 years later, and we are debating the exact same thing. Why is that okay, now, I would ask him, Mr. Speaker. Why is that okay, now, Mr. President? Do we have a failure of leadership? Can we admit that? Yes, we can.

It is a failure of leadership also for spewing such venomous rhetoric when the governing process doesn't go your way, calling Republicans names. It is a failure of not listening to the American people. Can we call this a failure of leadership? Yes, we can.

□ 2000

The American people want the government reopened. They want to make their own health care decisions. The shutdown the American people want is the out-of-control government spending, the \$17 trillion debt that has been amassed that the President in his own words said "is a failure of leadership," and then in another instance, "unpatriotic." Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have put forth proposal after proposal to fund this government, to keep it open, to protect the American people from the President's hostile takeover of the health care system.

Sadly, we still have a President and a Senate majority leader acting like petulant children, refusing to come to the table to negotiate, prolonging that failure of leadership. Each day that passes, with the Affordable Care Act going into effect, our Nation's fiscal health gets worse—a failure of leadership. I love America too much to let it fall under these circumstances. I will not stand by and watch as our country crumbles because of a President who is not willing to work with us and come to the table and to carry out this prolonged failure of leadership.

I am RANDY WEBER, and America is worth fighting for. I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for fighting alongside me and continuing this valiant effort.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, Randy. It is an honor to stand beside you in this. This is a time for solutions. And people wonder, Can we get this right? Can we make things better? Can we keep the opportunity for the future? With you, I would say, Yes, we can, but we are going to keep working on it. Thank you very much.

I now yield to my friend from the Midwest, from Indiana, MARLIN STUTZMAN. What would you like to share with us tonight?

Mr. STUTZMAN. First, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and organizing this Special Order about solutions. That is what the American people expect from us as Congress, whether you are a Repub-

lican or whether you are a Democrat. The American people are looking to Washington to find solutions, to work together, to make America strong again. So I want to thank you for your comments today and for representing your district so well.

It doesn't take much to sort out and to realize the difficulty that we are facing in our country and what our Federal Government is facing: \$17 trillion in debt, a struggling economy, a health care system that does need to be fixed. People are looking to Washington to gain confidence in the marketplace. And in spite of Washington, you will find bright spots throughout the country where good things are happening, but it is not enough. We can still do better. And it is time for Washington to find solutions for our economy, for the American people, for American families so that way when a family sits down to have dinner tonight, they are not going to be wondering if Dad is going to be going to work next week. They don't have to worry whether Mom will have her job the following month. What is going to happen after Christmas time? What is going to happen next year? They hear so many different stories about the new health care law and what it means for them. What is their insurance plan going to be like next year? There are so many unknowns and questions that are not answered because of the uncertainty that Washington has placed irresponsibly on the American people.

While we know we have \$17 trillion of debt, a deficit that is running out of balance, a health care law that is crushing the American people today, an Independent Payment Advisory Board that has 15 board members that are unelected and unaccountable who will be making health care decisions for Americans in the near term, we still have an unemployment rate of 8 percent and mandates from ObamaCare that are forcing companies to cut hours. Too much uncertainty is being created by our Federal Government.

Small businesses are trying to figure out how they are going to make ends meet next year, how they are going to plan their budget when they know the mandates and the cost of insurance continue to crush them, how they are going to create new jobs and expand their companies if regulations continue to hamper them and the new health care law continues to sidetrack them.

One of the taxes that is in the health care law that is driving jobs away from Indiana is the medical device tax, also known as the pacemaker tax, the wheelchair tax. Anything that is a medical device, such as a hip, a knee, a joint, these things are taxed now because of ObamaCare. It is over 20,000 jobs just in Indiana. Warsaw, Indiana, in particular, is the orthopedic capital of the world. It is the home to Zimmer, Biomet, DePuy, Paragon, and so many other companies that are doing so much remarkable work for the betterment of Americans.

I know that my grandmother had her hip replaced before she passed away 10 years ago, and it changed her life. It gave her a new ability to enjoy life with her children and her grandchildren. This is an industry that is being harmed by ObamaCare, and it is time that we take a step back and reevaluate and find new solutions.

Unfortunately, this tax is putting 2,000 jobs in jeopardy in Indiana, and I believe that it is time for Washington, for the President, for the Senate, and for the House to come together. Let's stop stumbling from crisis to crisis. That is not the best way to govern. The American people are tired of the way Washington has these cycles of political stunts and fiscal cliffs and all these other manufactured crises.

Hoosiers know, as many Americans know, that in order to get a job done, you have to sit down and figure out a way to get it done, talk about it, and then go out and do it. But Washington is broke because government spends too much and talks too little. So I think now is the time for us to get serious about our debt. We need to reform our entitlement programs. We need to work towards reforming our Tax Code. We have solutions. We have ideas. We can make things better for not only the American people, but for the world, if we would just trust the instincts of the American people. If we followed those instincts and followed the example of the American people, the Federal Government would be in a much better place today.

It is time for solutions, and I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on this issue tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, MARLIN. That is right: it is time for solutions. And I very much appreciate you bringing up the concern with the taxes. We haven't talked about that yet tonight, but there are 20 new taxes in ObamaCare, and especially, as you pointed out, the medical device tax, which is very onerous and killing jobs all over.

The statement you said that is going to stick with me most tonight that I hope the American people remember and that I love that you just said is that Washington is broke because it spends too much and it talks too little. Well said.

Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts.

I now yield to my friend from Michigan, KERRY BENTIVOLIO.

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Thank you. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for the opportunity to speak on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before this Chamber today to talk about the Democrat shutdown.

In the House we are standing strong to prevent ObamaCare from hurting people. Just today, the Detroit Free Press, a liberal-leaning paper, reported that two health insurance companies are dropping the low-cost plans for

146,000 Michigan families due to ObamaCare. This will cost each of these families thousands of dollars per year, more to be covered by ObamaCare-approved health care plans. That is unacceptable. Our government is shut down because the extreme liberal Democrats refuse to negotiate and have rejected bills to keep most of the government open. This behavior reminds me of a spoiled child having a temper tantrum who runs to their room, slams the door shut, and refuses to come out until their demands are met.

This is no way to behave and is a disservice to all Americans. Mr. Speaker, they are obsessed with forcing health care legislation, which they are exempt from, onto the American people. They want two classes, the majority who live under ObamaCare and the elite who use their connections to get waivers.

By refusing to fund veterans, to keep the parks open, or support pediatric cancer research, Senate and House Democrats are showing whose side they are on, and it is not the American people.

I plead with my responsible, adult Democrat colleagues that it is not too late. Let's move forward. Join the rest of the American people and support equality under the law.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, KERRY. And thank you for your leadership. I know you have been going down to the World War II Memorial and helping to open up the barricades for our Honor Flights coming in. It is sad that we have to do that, but thank you for your leadership in that.

I now turn to one of your colleagues from Michigan, BILL HUIZENGA, and yield time to him.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Thanks. I appreciate my good friend from Missouri putting this together and having this conversation.

This is a conversation we need to have with the American people. There is obviously a lot of misinformation that is going out over the airwaves as we have talked about a number of times, and I think people are looking for that information. I know I have been tweeting out a few of the articles that I have come across on my iPhone here.

For those of you out there watching, it is @RepHuizenga. I would love for you to follow me and take a look at this, this #Time4Solutions hash tag that we have going here because it is talking about some of those challenges, as well as the solutions that, I think, we are all looking for.

I appreciate you pointing out to my friend and colleague from Michigan, KERRY BENTIVOLIO, who is a great veteran himself of Iraq, as well as earlier times, and has done a couple of tours. For me, that World War II Memorial was something very special to be able to be a part of. That first day, there weren't television cameras around, there wasn't media. There wasn't any-

body around except for those of us who cared about making sure that our veterans had an opportunity to go in and see a memorial that they earned.

I will tell you, as someone who is the son of a disabled World War II veteran, a man who suffered a B-24 crash in Italy in 1944, I can tell you I know how powerful it is for him, how powerful it was for his buddies that he was able to go to the memorial, and how powerful it was for me as a family member to be along on that very special day. The least that we can do is to open that up.

It is not just the World War II Memorial. It is the Korea memorial. I had a chance to bring a group of veterans from the Grand Rapids area in my district and in and around Kentwood and those areas. We went down to the World War II Memorial, and we also went down to the Korea memorial. That is where most of them were. They were greeted with no crowds, but the same barricades, as well as a park ranger who was in a very tough spot. He told me, Congressman, I am here to tell you that this monument is closed, this park is closed. I said, Well, respectfully I am here to tell you that I am going to help my constituents exercise their First Amendment rights and open up that barricade. We were able to get some people in there.

Today, as I was coming in, I drove past the Martin Luther King memorial. It was the same thing. There were buses lined up on the street with their flashers going, and there was a tremendous number of people in there exercising their First Amendment right, that civil disobedience that had gone on. The gate was kicked open, and they were in there going and seeing that memorial to a great man the way that it should be, open and available, right now, without the excuses, without the rented barricades, without those other things.

I also want to touch a little bit on the health care side as we are going through this. I appreciate you saying it is not just challenges, but also the opportunities. Frankly, we need to be talking to each other, to get to those solutions. This hash tag, #Time4Solutions, is very timely. We have had a Senate leader who has said absolutely no negotiations, none.

Now we are finally getting there, I think because they are hearing from their constituents back home that we need you to be talking.

□ 2015

The same with the White House. I think the White House even came around a little sooner than what the Senate leader did. But it is time to make sure that we are having these negotiations and these conversations.

A lot of us know the challenge, many of them are very well known, the signup glitches that happened. Glitches might be charitable, shall we say, for what was going on.

But one of my colleagues from Michigan, the chairman of the Intelligence

Committee, MIKE ROGERS, had put forward an op-ed not that long ago, and I have a copy of it here that I was reading. He is talking about the privacy threat.

If you look at the hub, the data hub that is being built, you know, our health care records are going to be exposed to a tremendous number of people.

Your privacy information, your private information, health care information, yours, mine, all the constituents that are out there watching this, their information, your information is at risk. Your information is at risk, and it is time that we do something about it.

Now, who hasn't heard the "if you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor?" Well, maybe not so much.

This is one of the things I just tweeted out. CNNMoney today was reporting about doctor choice and ObamaCare—not so much. This is CNN. This isn't me. This is CNN.

They are saying that, for example, there was a major insurer that was offering policies in 14 different States, and what they are saying is that they are looking at the more heavier areas of population, eliminating up to half of the doctors.

Think of that. Half of the doctors that currently you could go to if you had one of their off-exchange plans won't be available to you. In a lesser populated area, it is "only" going to be 10 or 20 percent of those same doctors.

I can tell you, I sat, for a number of years, on the Michigan Rural Health Association board of directors as we were looking at health care issues in Michigan, especially in the rural areas. If you are starting to limit health care choices, even more so than what they already are in some of these rural areas, the damage that is going to be done to people and that relationship that they have with their doctor and with their health care provider—a place where you maybe have to do telemedicine just to be able to get the proper diagnosis and the things that are going on.

We have all heard, "If you like your plan, you can keep your plan." Maybe not so much.

Oh, but the plans are going to be more affordable. Well, they had the number right. There was a discussion that this was going to save \$2,500 for the average family. Unfortunately, we now know it is the right number, but the wrong direction. So it is actually going to cost the average family, like mine—I have got five young kids—it is going to cost \$2,500 additional. That is the wrong direction.

Some of the lesser-knowns—I will give you an example. My nephew, Andrew, is putting himself through college. He is working as a waiter in a nice restaurant.

A couple of months ago they called everybody in for the staff meeting and said, by the way, we are going to be starting this soon: No more than 29

hours per week. No more than 29 hours per week.

And he said, you know, Uncle Bill, I can get through this. It is not going to be easy. It is not going to be my choice, but I can get through it.

But he is looking at these colleagues, these single moms, these single moms that are saying, now where do I go for another 10 hours? Now how do I figure out where I am going to make ends meet and how I am going to make ends meet?

I think that is why we have seen letters by those big Republican organizations like SEIU, the Teamsters, the AFL-CIO, not exactly institutions normally related and associated with the Republican Party. They have put in formal letters saying, Wait a minute; this is not being implemented the way that it was supposed to be implemented.

They are afraid that there is an attack on the 40-hour work week, as well they should be afraid. That is exactly what is happening right now, and we need to be making sure that we are pushing back at that.

The medical device tax has been brought up a little bit. This has a significant impact in Michigan. Stryker Corporation, out of the Kalamazoo area, they have said publicly that it is going to cost them 1,000 jobs, 1,000 jobs. All right?

It is also going to be hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes that are being laid on. This ObamaCare tax, it has been deemed a tax by the Supreme Court, so let's talk about it in the terms of a tax.

It is time that we repealed this tax. It is time that we not take those 1,000 jobs away from Stryker; time that we not take those jobs out of Ann Arbor, an innovative hub; time that we not take those jobs away from the next entrepreneur in Grand Rapids, on Pill Hill, Medical Mile, as it is sometimes called; that we make sure that they have got the same opportunities, not less opportunities, the same opportunities. That isn't going to happen under this.

As you had pointed out, coverage, the mandatory, forced coverage of abortive services that is mandated in this bill, is absolutely wrong.

I have a company that is gaining some prominence in my district called Autocam. John Kennedy, the majority stakeholder and president and CEO of Autocam, was just in Washington sharing his story last week.

As a devout Catholic, he had made the decision that that wasn't going to be something that he would offer in his plans. They are self-insured, and if his employees wanted to go do that, that was their choice, but he wasn't going to be forced to pay for it, until this bill came along and said: It doesn't matter what your personal beliefs are.

It doesn't matter that you own the company. It doesn't matter that your religion says this is wrong. We know better. This government knows better,

and we are going to force you to spend that money to provide a service that you wholeheartedly disagree with.

Does that sound like the American way to you?

Does that sound like the American way to any of us? Absolutely not, yet, somehow we are viewing it as acceptable.

Waivers for the politically-connected, as has been talked about; as long as you have got a good friend that is either in the White House or at Health and Human Services, we can probably work something out for you.

Now, how does that feel?

Now, today though, we finally maybe got to the root of it. The Senate had been going along, no negotiations, no negotiations, no negotiations.

Oh, but if you want to spend some more money, if you want to roll back those automatic, across-the-board cuts that we had agreed to 2 years ago, maybe we will start talking about some reforms. That is what it is.

As we talked about, this is about spending. This is about a group of people that want to see government grow. They want to see the footprint of the government just smash down on top of everything here and take control of our daily lives. That is really what the problem is.

So now we are seeing what the Senate is really all about. It is about spending. It is about more spending and more control for them. Now, that has got to stop.

Now, the opportunity side. I want to wrap up because I know we have got some other colleagues that are here, and we are having a great conversation and, again, I appreciate your hashtag, Time4Solutions, because this really is about those opportunities, as you talked about, the invention of Velcro and how we got there.

I have learned that most of the times you learn more from the things in life that are tough, not the easy things. Major shifts in society are not easy. They might be simple, but sometimes those simple things aren't real easy. Well, this is neither simple nor easy, and it is because it is the wrong direction.

First and foremost, we need the White House to acknowledge these problems. They won't even acknowledge these problems. It is all hunkydory, peaches and cream here in Washington, D.C. We are rolling this program out.

Excuse us. We had to make sure that you don't worry about those "glitches" that were in the system as we rolled it out. Please don't look at those exemptions and carve-outs that we have had. Please don't, whatever you do, please, oh, please, don't talk about how this is a growing frustration that the American people have, because that would somehow acknowledge that the American people might know better than they do down at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

We have to acknowledge those problems. Words speak louder—I am sorry—

actions speak louder than words. The words are, everything is fine. The actions are very, very different though. The actions are very, very different out of this administration, as they have signed 17 changes into this law, as we have seen these carve-outs, as we have seen them do things like make sure that the individual mandate is kept in place, but the other mandates are not put in.

I know my colleagues are here too, and I want to give them time, so I am going to wrap up with this. My friend from Missouri, thank you for doing this.

It is time that we do make those substantive changes and restore some faith, restore some faith with the American people, that we have their best interest, and make sure that Congress can live under the same laws that they vote for and that they pass.

I appreciate you having this conversation tonight.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, BILL. Those were very eloquent remarks. You really brought home the need that it is time for solutions and all the challenges that we are facing.

Before I go to our other friends here, I do want to get this motion in.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, KEITH ROTHFUS, who is new here but, boy, he hit the ground running.

Appreciate your leadership, KEITH. What would you like to share tonight?

Mr. ROTHFUS. I thank the gentlelady for organizing this talk.

Pennsylvania's 12th District in western Pennsylvania stretches from Beaver to Johnstown and to the northern suburbs of Pittsburgh.

Last week we had a visit from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who was in town to tout the benefits of the health care law. She also attempted to help enroll some western Pennsylvanians in the exchanges.

According to press reports, however, those who showed up were not able to enroll, or even access the Web site. Apparently, glitches were to blame.

As reported in yesterday's New York Times, however, one industry source said, "These are not glitches. The extent of the problems is pretty enormous. It's awful." These problems took more than 2 years to build, and cost the American taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

The health care law's troubles aren't limited, however, to the Web site issues. Many western Pennsylvanians have reached out to me to share stories about how they are seeing their hours

reduced, or losing their jobs. Other western Pennsylvanians are seeing their health care premiums go up, or losing coverage altogether.

A woman recently got in touch with me and told me that her family recently received a letter from their insurance company, and they will lose the health insurance they have had for more than 25 years on December 31. The alternatives they have been able to find will cost them three times what they pay today.

Mr. Speaker, it is a time for solutions. We do have a new solution that we are proposing, The American Health Care Reform Act, which will actually lower costs, and I encourage our colleagues across the aisle and in our conference to take a look at that.

I thank the gentlelady for the time.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you very much, KATH. Good point there.

Now I yield to a friend from Kentucky, ANDY BARR.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Missouri for her leadership in leading this Special Order.

Many Americans watching on TV right now are frustrated. They are angry with what they are seeing in Washington. They don't understand why political conflict has to get in the way of solutions.

They are saying, and they are saying to all of us, why are the politicians putting their political agendas ahead of what is good for the country?

I share that frustration and anger, and I understand what they are saying. They are saying, why can't the politicians get their act together?

Why can't they reopen the government and avert default?

But you know, as important as it is to reopen the government, and as important as it is to avert a short-term default, and those are very critical, it is equally important that we stop business as usual in Washington.

It is important that Members of Congress do what they were elected to do, which is exercise leadership, stand up for what is right and what is in the long-term best interest of the Nation.

What is in the long-term best interest of the Nation is to stop spending money we don't have. It is to stop racking up mounds of debt to end the reckless practices in Washington that are literally mortgaging the future of our children and our grandchildren and pushing this country to the brink of national bankruptcy.

Now, some have accused House Republicans of holding the country hostage solely for the purpose of repealing or defunding the President's signature legislative achievement, ObamaCare.

Why is this relevant?

The President says ObamaCare should not be part of any negotiations to fund the government or raise the debt limit. But my constituents in Kentucky recognize the President's health care law for what it actually is, which is a massive increase in Federal spending.

Its projected cost has more than doubled since the President originally claimed it would reduce the deficit. It will cost American taxpayers \$2 trillion over the next decade, and its true cost will continue to grow.

ObamaCare was rammed through Congress on a partisan basis through a process that was specifically reserved for budget-related bills, the reconciliation process. So for anyone to suggest that ObamaCare is unrelated to the budget is both cynical and inconsistent with Congress' ongoing responsibility to scrutinize Federal spending.

After racking up \$7 trillion in debt in just 5 years, the President stubbornly refuses to negotiate over ObamaCare. But make no mistake: Congress would not be doing its job if it ignored ObamaCare and its massive cost in the ongoing debate about how to save America from bankruptcy.

□ 2030

So, Mr. Speaker, let me just conclude by saying this. It would be unfair for young people and the next generation if we simply raised the debt limit without also addressing the underlying cause of our problems, without also addressing the cause of our fiscal situation, and that is runaway government spending. This is our opportunity. This is our moment. Let's seize this opportunity on a bipartisan basis. It is time for solutions.

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership in this Special Order.

Let's not just raise the debt limit and keep kicking the can down the road. Let's solve America's problem and finally force the government to live within its means.

Mrs. HARTZLER. I thank the gentleman.

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

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and my privilege today to stand in the House of Representatives, along with my distinguished colleague from the Silver State, Representative STEVEN HORSFORD, to coanchor the CBC Special Order, the hour of power, where, for the next 60 minutes, members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to talk directly to the American people about the situation that we face in this country right

now related to both the government shutdown and the impending debt ceiling crisis that we confront.

Mr. Speaker, this is day 14 of a government shutdown brought to us by reckless, irresponsible, and unreasonable behavior by our friends on the other side of the aisle. It is a government shutdown that is hurting the American people. It is hurting children, placing their Head Start programming at risk. It is hurting seniors who rely on the Meals on Wheels program. It is hurting expectant mothers who may be unable to receive the nutritional assistance that they are otherwise qualified for. It is hurting the more than 800,000 hardworking civil servants who have been unceremoniously cast out of their jobs, uncertain as to when they may be able to return. It is hurting America.

But as bad as this government shutdown has been, we are also faced with a crisis that might be even worse if we are unable in this House to raise the debt ceiling within the next several days. The Treasury Secretary has indicated that the United States effectively will run out of the capacity to pay all of its bills and its creditors if we do not raise the debt ceiling by Thursday, October 17, just a few days from now.

Now, the debt ceiling has been a vehicle that all too often has been mischaracterized, perhaps intentionally, perhaps out of ignorance. I am not certain. But let's just clear the record as to what the debt ceiling actually represents. It is a backward-looking vehicle, not a forward-looking vehicle designed to give the President the ability to spend more. That is a gross mischaracterization. The debt ceiling is a backward-looking vehicle designed to give the President and this administration the capacity to pay bills that this Congress has already incurred.

We just want the Congress to undertake its constitutional responsibility pursuant to the 14th Amendment, where, in section 4, it makes clear the validity of the public debt authorized by law shall not be questioned. And it is Congress, in section 5 of the 14th Amendment, that has the responsibility to adhere to that constitutional requirement.

We are going to explore this theme and the consequences of a debt ceiling default during this Special Order. And I am very pleased that we have been joined by the dynamic leader of the Congressional Black Caucus, the distinguished chairperson from the great State of Ohio, Representative MARCIA FUDGE.

Ms. FUDGE. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressmen JEFFRIES and HORSFORD, for once again leading the Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, here we stand, nearly 72 hours before the United States Treasury reaches the debt limit. We are 72 hours away from compromising our