

We don't need tantrums; we need co-operation; we need to work together. We have got serious problems. The shutdown has created even more serious problems and, as we run up to the debt crisis, yet one more problem, because 40 or 50 people are throwing a tantrum.

This is the House of Representatives, 435 of us elected to represent the people of America, to do right by them, to do right by this Nation's economy, by the working men and women. Even those who are laid off because of the shutdown want to work.

It is time for us to end this. It is time for us to go to work on the long-term problems.

WHY WE MUST DEFUND OBAMACARE

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, when the President and the Democratic-controlled House and Senate forced ObamaCare into law without a single Republican vote, my constituents wrote and called my office, telling me they didn't want a government takeover of health care. They expressed many concerns, including losing a health care plan they liked, higher costs, overbearing regulations that would prevent businesses and their owners' ability to hire workers, and the government making health care decisions for citizens, just to name a few.

My constituents' concerns proved true. The ObamaCare Web site has been up for 2 weeks or more, and for those who were able to get the Web site to work, the reports have proved disappointing and anything but affordable: rate hikes of 260 percent, \$12,600 deductibles, copays up to 40 percent, and zero competition. Perhaps that is why, according to the Daily Mail, on October 11, in the first week, only 51,000 people completed ObamaCare applications.

My constituents continue to write me about their concerns with this bad law, and today, I would like to read a letter from one of my constituents, Lee Stanley. Mr. Stanley is a small business owner from Atlanta, Texas, who is facing difficult decisions due to ObamaCare. Mr. Stanley wrote to my office as follows:

Dear Congressman Hall, I don't know if you are getting any input from small business owners like us regarding ObamaCare. We are really in a dilemma here at Guard-Line.

We found that there are items that we can manufacture here at the same cost as we currently import from Mexico, China, and Pakistan. We would like to bring these jobs back here, but looming in the background is ObamaCare. We employ 85 people in our Atlanta facility. We compete in a world market with distributors or importers that maybe have 15 to 30 employees, and they fall below the 50 employees and, therefore, do not have to pay the \$2,000 penalty for not providing health insurance.

Our industry business model does not provide for employee benefits as it is mostly a minimum-wage industry with profit margins very low.

The situation we are in is that we would have to pay \$170,000 in penalties under ObamaCare. This is another example of the government picking the winners and the losers, and we begin to show up here totally as the losers. There is no way I can be competitive if I have to raise my prices to cover the \$170,000.

Here are my options:

One, don't pay the penalty;

Two, raise my prices and go out of business—85 people lose their jobs;

Three, lay off 15 to 35 employees to get under 50 in order to not pay the penalty, and move more production out of this country;

Four, reduce 35 jobs to part-time, under 30 hours a week, and move more production out of this country.

As you can see from the above options, there is really not a good one. We are having to run our business in a way that does not make very much business sense as we have to always keep in mind the effects of ObamaCare. We are in a position that we can add more jobs here in the USA, and are being penalized for doing that. This country will never be able to completely recover with restrictions on business like that. I am sure we are not the only employer in this situation. I don't know what we can do except express our concerns to our representatives.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I will continue to fight to defund as much of this bad law as possible. ObamaCare remains widely, completely unpopular across the country for good reason—it is hurting jobs, hurting pocketbooks of already struggling Americans, and preventing people from making their own health care decisions.

The American people deserve better. Responsible health care reform should do better, that offers true health, job, financial, and personal security.

WORK TOGETHER ON BUDGET MATTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 17 days ago, I came to the House floor to talk about how disappointed I was that a topic of such importance, the medical device tax repeal or delay, was being reduced to the level of political squabbling over whether we are going to continue the function of the government, but here we go again. We are here again to vote on that same policy 17 days later, but we have further delved into the realm of pettiness because the Republican leadership continues to insist that our economy's future should be tied to whether Members of Congress, Cabinet members, the President, and our staffs should have the same health care insurance that other Federal employees receive.

I am surprised. Are we really going to keep the United States Government shut down and threaten the full faith and credit of our country based on whether Members of Congress, our

staffs, and the President and Cabinet get the same health care that thousands of other Federal employees get? It is bordering on pettiness. It sounds so silly to be able to deal with this.

I was fortunate enough. I worked 23 years at a company at which they not only subsidized my health insurance, but they paid for my family's. Governments all over the country do that. The State of Texas, where I am proud to be from, pays for health insurance for State employees. The City of Houston has a health insurance plan for their employees that they help pay for. Harris County does it. All governments do that. Frankly, I represent a lot of petrochemical refineries and plants. Exxon, Shell, the ones who are serving our area, all of them have "subsidies," as the Republicans call it, for the health care for their employees; and yet, on the floor of the House, we think it is a dirty word.

Our goal with the Affordable Care Act was to have everyone in the country have access to quality health care, not just because you got to work for the government or work for an Exxon or a Shell, which are great companies—everyone. So that was the goal of it. If you look at the national exchanges, if we ever get the computers fixed, we will see that. People will have the option to be able to have the same options that we have as Members of Congress or as Federal employees or that I had in the private business that I helped manage. That is what we are talking about.

But to put that in a continuing resolution to open up the government and to make it that you have to vote for this or we are not going to pay the TSA, who screens us when we go into the airport—they are working, but they are worried about getting their paychecks; so is the military; so are a lot of folks. But to make that the end-all, the be-all—I can't believe our forefathers and our veterans sacrificed for our country to make sure we have this freedom—to lower it to the level of we are not going to vote for this unless we can take away the President's health care or the Cabinet officials' or the Members of Congress'.

Our constituents expect us to act more responsibly. We should be ashamed of what this House of Representatives has come to over the last number of months, because we need to talk about making sure our country continues to grow. What is so sad is that, last week, some of us were briefed that every week of the government shutdown costs 0.3 percent of our gross domestic product. We want jobs, but here we are, 2 weeks and going on 3 weeks into the shutdown, and we are adding to that unemployment because of what the Federal Government is doing.

Again, we should be embarrassed at what the House of Representatives is doing. Let us pass a continuing resolution. Let us pay our debts that this House of Representatives has voted for.

Every appropriations bill, every dime of that \$17 trillion passed this House of Representatives. Why would we not want to pay those debts? That is like my saying in Texas, Oh, I don't want to pay my house note. Well, maybe they will not come after me the first month, but under Texas law, in 90 days, you are going to get your house sold from under you if you don't pay your debts.

The Federal Government at various times has not paid its debts, one by technical glitch in 1979, but the last time we didn't pay our debts was when the British army burned the Treasury. I would hope this stance we have now is not compared to the British army burning our Treasury.

We need to pass a continuing resolution, deal with our budget, and make sure we don't hurt the full faith and credit of our country.

FUNDING FOR IMPACT AID SHOULD NEVER BE THREATENED

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Texas' 25th District, home to Fort Hood, the Army's premier installation to train and deploy heavy forces, and one of the largest military installations in the world and the largest in America.

Fort Hood ranks highest in terms of future capability and can support and sustain more than 50,000 soldiers and their families. The communities surrounding Fort Hood provide outstanding support and resources to these men and women, especially to the school districts, which are responsible for educating the children of our troops and for the education of our kids in the future. For example, 50 percent of all students in Killeen's Independent School District are military kids. That is over 20,000 students, and they are still growing. Nearby, in Copperas Cove Independent School District, well over 8,000 students have a parent in the military.

This is why funding for Impact Aid should never be threatened, not even at a time when Washington is at a stalemate. These students should have access to the best and the brightest educational opportunities our Nation can provide. Our men and women in uniform should not have to worry about their children's education when they are facing potential deployment.

Mr. Speaker, being a part of a military family is not easy. It requires more sacrifice than most of us can fathom. I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers of Congress to make good on our commitment to provide for our military and their families as we move forward.

In God we trust.

MOVING TOWARD A PLACE AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we are now on the precipice, moving toward a place that America should not be. I stood on this floor a few days ago and said, Mr. Speaker, we are facing a crisis; and for some, the argument is we haven't seen the market take a fall.

□ 1030

Let me suggest that we, as custodians of this great Nation—Members of the United States Congress—are like parents. Therefore, I ask any parent who is listening how long do they wait before they see a toddler fall, or do they leap toward that toddler so that they know the strength of that parent is always there.

We have an important challenge today. The headline of this newspaper says:

Senate Leaders See Deal on the Horizon.

And so I make a plea today, Mr. Speaker, that our Republicans, however distracted they may be, join Democrats so that the Senate bill will be on the desk of our President today before midnight. We are parents holding onto America.

I remind my friends of the words of Abraham Lincoln in his first inaugural address:

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

We are close to breaking those bonds of affection because we have thrown the American people into a downward spiral. I hope that Members of Congress will join me on H. Res. 375 in which I have this House go on record to never, ever again tie a nongermane legislative matter into the budgeting process: ObamaCare.

The reasons are many. Oh, there is much talk about the challenges we are having with the technological infrastructure. I met with almost 40 members of navigators in my area. I will tell you, when I left the meeting, they were smiling and they were encouraged; they were ready to move forward. They know there are technological glitches, and we will fix those; but they also know there are stories that are important, such as "ObamaCare Saved My Family from Financial Ruin," by Janine Reid:

House Speaker Boehner and his Tea Party friends shut down the U.S. Government because of people like me. I am the mother of an insurance hog, someone who could have blown through his lifetime limit of health insurance by the time he was 14. My son has managed to survive despite seemingly insurmountable challenges, and he wears his pre-existing condition like a Super Bowl ring. Mason, now 16, was probably born with his brain tumor.

It goes on to talk about, We discovered it 6 years ago through biopsies. Over and over again, he has had any

number of surgeries until the point that he reached where he was reaching his lifetime caps. But yet Mason came up toward the Affordable Care Act, which lifted his lifetime caps. He is a young man now who plays basketball and argues with his siblings. ObamaCare saved Mason's life and will allow Mason to go forward.

Join in H. Res. 375, never again to be mired in the opposition of a legislative initiative that can go through regular order to be able to, in essence, stop and shut down the government.

This default, which can occur, which we shouldn't play with, some people are talking about it can be 2 weeks from now or we will pay the bondholders so other folk won't suffer. Watch my words: interest rates and mortgages go up; access to small loans, business loans will not be able to survive, and interest rates on credit cards. Working America will literally crumble before us.

I hope that we will take the words of Chaplain Black, a dear friend of all of ours and mine:

Gracious God, we praise You that although we have merely a feeble hold on You, that You have a mighty grasp on us. Use Your mighty hands to lead our lawmakers to Your desired destination, making them instruments of truth and justice.

Mr. Speaker, there is a rum maker in Pittsburgh who was just getting his business together. After 2 years of work, he had lined up everything. He was ready to produce legally good rum in Pittsburgh, Maggie's Farm Rum. He was shut down because he could not get ATF, Alcohol and Tobacco, to come forward and be able to help him.

Mr. Speaker, the impact is egregious and horrific, and what I would just simply say to you is don't listen to those who are saying it is going to be okay. We have lost \$22 billion already. I am asking—I am pleading—to put the Senate bill on the floor, to waive the rules and vote on this. Put it on the President's desk tonight. Don't let Fitch, S&P and others send us downhill. This is a great country. This is a great Nation, and we deserve to show America that we care for them.

SHUTDOWN AND DEFAULT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, we are now 16 days into a government shutdown and standing on the precipice of defaulting on our debt. Families around the country are worrying if they will be able to pay their water bills, but the Members' gym has stayed open during the government shutdown so my colleagues can live rent free in their offices and use the gym to shower and shave.

One of my colleagues who is using his office as a Holiday Inn has nearly 43,000 households on SNAP in his district. These people don't have the option of curling up in a government building or