

side of the aisle says let's not pay our bills; but we do say, just like every family does when their credit card bill comes and it is a little higher than they expect, well, let's see how we can maybe save some money. Cut up the credit cards and maybe find a way to bring in some more money.

Mr. Speaker, we can bring in more money with economic growth and economic development. Curtailing things that are killing economic development, like the President's health care plan and excessive regulation, must be stopped. We have to stop spending, and we have to increase our revenue by growing our economy.

MERCY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over the past 16 days, many of us have risen to this floor and pleaded with our friends on the other side of the aisle and asked for mercy, not mercy for our individual selves as Members of Congress, but mercy for the American people, for the 800,000 over the past 16 days who have lost their jobs in furloughs, for the \$300 million a day that this Nation has lost. This is the very answer to those who are suggesting that we are spending too much money, Mr. Speaker: we have lost money.

But today I come humbly to plead with my friends to do as the Chaplain mentioned this morning, to have a generosity of spirit and recognize that we can come together. Let the voices of common sense recognize that States like Mississippi, Louisiana, Arizona, South Dakota, Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Montana, Georgia, New York, and Wyoming—States that represent so many—are losing so much because they get the most money from this Nation.

Then let us recognize Juanita Davis with little Tu'Nita, 10 days old, who is fearful that her WIC money, Women, Infant, and Children money, in the State of Texas is running out. I am pleading that we come together with common sense and generosity of spirit and put this bill on the President's desk.

SPINNING GOP WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, once again the GOP has threatened the full faith and credit of the United States. Rejecting all warnings from top economists and business leaders, some of my Republican colleagues have actually claimed that default would be good for our economy; but the truth is, when you spin the GOP wheel of misfortune, everyone loses.

How would a GOP default that deprives seniors of Social Security

checks be good for our economy? How would a GOP default that pits foreign investors against America's disabled veterans be good for our country? How could ruining the U.S. Treasury bond status as the world's safest asset and hiking interest rates on American families be good for our economy? How could stopping payments for the doctors and nurses who care for Medicare beneficiaries be good for our economy?

Mr. Speaker, the answer is that it can't be. The Treasury can't pick and choose which commitments to honor, nor should it have to.

When you spin the GOP wheel of misfortune, there are only losers. Americans are disgusted when reckless games are played with our economic future. Be responsible, finally. Today, vote to reopen the government and prevent a default.

PRESIDENT'S HEALTH CARE PLAN IS BROKEN

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the President's health care plan is broken. Let me read from some of the letters and communications my office is getting from around my district.

Mike and Pat in Queen Anne's County write:

Mr. Harris, my daughter's health care premium just rose \$648 a year thanks to the Affordable Care Act. Don't you or other Republicans give up the fight.

Cindy from Talbot County writes:

I have just discovered that I can't keep the medical insurance I have had for many years as it no longer exists thanks to ObamaCare. Even though I am 58 years old, I must pay for maternity benefits and pediatric dentistry when I have no child under 19. I get an increased deductible and a premium increase of \$143 a month. What a mess that needs to be fixed and in a hurry.

Finally, Lorraine from Queen Anne's County writes that, in tears, she called our office. She was told by her insurer that her premium was just increased \$256 a month. Her total payment that she and her husband now are going to pay is \$956 a month, and her insurer told her that it went up because of ObamaCare.

Mr. Speaker, the President's health care plan is broken.

JUST HOURS REMAIN UNTIL NATION DEFAULTS

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

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you on this, the 16th day of the shutdown, with just hours remaining until our Nation defaults. The only way to end this crisis is for Members on both sides of the aisle to come together and take bipartisan action today. We need to do our job, and we

must act responsibly. The Senate has a bipartisan plan, and we should take it up immediately.

At home and across the Nation, the people we represent are facing harsh consequences: from the couple being denied a loan for their first home, to the Head Start kids whose school doors are shut, to the businesses with lost sales because national parks are closed, to the Border Patrol agent who can't pay his mortgage because his full paycheck hasn't come.

Mr. Speaker, we must vote for commonsense solutions. We must end this shutdown. We must restore faith in the United States of America, and we must restore faith in this, the people's House.

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OBAMACARE

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

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we are all getting calls in our offices as to the impact of ObamaCare on average Americans. Here is an example from just this morning:

A female, aged 23, making below the D.C. poverty level per year. She currently pays \$94 a month for her health care insurance. She went on the ObamaCare Web site just to find out that it would cost her \$250 a month, with a \$6,000 deductible.

Folks, the impact of ObamaCare on average Americans is why ObamaCare should be a part of this spending-and-debt debate here in Washington.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a sense of cautious optimism that we are nearing the end of this financial crisis. Our colleagues in the Senate are showing all of us that we can have disagreements on the issues and still work together to find common ground to tackle the challenges facing our Nation.

After so many weeks of this painful and unnecessary Federal Government shutdown, I urge all of my colleagues in the House to come together to support the commonsense, bipartisan Reid-McConnell proposal emerging from the Senate.

The past few weeks have taken away valuable time and attention from the many challenges facing our country. Once we reopen the government and avoid default, I hope that all of us will redirect our energies toward building consensus on solutions for comprehensive immigration reform, rebuilding our roads, bridges and ports, growing our economy, reducing our debt in a responsible way, and, most urgently, promoting job creation.

I hope every Member of this House will commit themselves to getting back to the work we were sent here to do and delivering real results for our constituents.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BERA of California. Mr. Speaker, it is day 16, and I am cautiously optimistic that the shutdown ends today and that we begin to restore the full faith and credit of our Nation.

Let's get this done. First, let's open the government today. Second, let's pay our bills and make sure that the world knows America always pays its bills. Most importantly, now is the time for us to come together and put a real budget together, a budget that brings Democrats and Republicans together, the best ideas out of both parties, and really begins to deal with the debt. We need a budget that begins to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for today's seniors, but also the next generation of seniors, and a budget that begins to create jobs and restores the middle class in America.

Let's work together as Democrats and Republicans to put the American people first. We now have that opportunity.

OBAMACARE

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the basic concept of fairness.

In July, the Obama administration announced that it would be providing Big Business a 1-year reprieve from having to comply with ObamaCare. The White House indicated that this decision was made to give employers time to adjust to what the Federal Government was about to impose on them: cover your employees with plans that have been blessed by Washington, or be fined.

It was a stunning move, a move some have said was an admission that either ObamaCare wasn't ready for prime time or that it was a political calculation that employers offloading their employees' health insurance would not be rewarded in the 2014 elections. The other possibility is that delaying the employer mandate was simply the fair thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the President that if the delay is good enough for Big Business, wouldn't it also be fair to delay the individual mandate that every American must comply with, or be fined?

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, the time is long overdue for us to put an end to this government shutdown and the tremendously harmful effects it has had on the people in our great Nation.

We need to get behind the Senate's reasonable, bipartisan plan that has been put together to open up our government, pay our bills, and put an end to this shutdown.

Failure, by the way, means that 5 million disabled veterans won't receive their benefits in November. Failure means that 10 million Americans won't receive their Social Security checks on October 23, and 26 million more people will not get their Social Security checks on November 1. Failure means \$36,000 in additional interest on an average home loan and an additional \$1,000 on an average student loan. Failure means hundreds of thousands of public employees won't get paid, with the businesses and the jobs and the people they serve being at enormous risk.

Mr. Speaker, the simple truth is that we need to end this government shutdown and stop the harm and damage it is causing.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, it appears a negotiated proposal that is bipartisan will come to a vote before this House today to end the government shutdown and avert a debt default. The American people surely are looking for reassurance that their government will offer them the security and dependability that they expect.

Our citizens expect a Nation that is confident and certain, not unsteady and uncertain. With the expectation that this compromise from the Senate will now be brought before the House, the Dow today already is up 200 points. That is what America wants—a growing economy, job creation here at home, a government run efficiently as part of a larger whole in which we all have a stake. As our Nation grows itself out of the deepest recession in modern history, the least any Member can do is do no harm.

A working bipartisan majority here in this House holds the power to govern this Nation. All it needs is the will. Frankly, the world depends on the certainty of the U.S. dollar. Let's get back to regular order. America's challenge is to grow our economy and the jobs that go with it.

Mr. Speaker, let's vote to end the shutdown today, pay our bills, and get America back to work for the American people. It is overtime.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, while I hope today is the last day of the senseless government shutdown, I want to share a part of a letter from one of my constituents, Lindsay Smith, a medical student and 2nd lieutenant in the Air Force's Health Professions Scholarship Program.

She writes:

On October 15, I woke up anxious. I took a shower, ate breakfast, and right before I left for class, I held my breath and checked my bank account—no deposit.

I am not getting paid during this ridiculous government shutdown game of chicken. Today, I got to call my electric and cell phone providers to ask for an extension of my mid-month bills. Ensuring I eat has become the most pressing issue in my life.

I wish more than anything that I could share my story with those Members of Congress who are keeping this stupid shutdown charade going. The Affordable Care Act has passed all three levels of government. That's how democracy works.

Because our elected representatives couldn't think about the big picture and in light of the Republican Party agenda to block anything and everything coming out of the Oval Office, thousands of Federal employees and non-Active Duty military members are having to make the choice between eating and paying bills.

The pettiness is messing up people's lives, the people who support and defend you. You should be endlessly ashamed of yourselves.

Thank you, Lieutenant Smith, for letting us know and for reminding us of the impact of our actions on real lives.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, in New Hampshire and across our country, we continue to see how congressional dysfunction is damaging our economy.

The other day, I had a telephone town hall to talk with my constituents about how to end this gridlock. I spoke with Nelson in Columbia, New Hampshire, a veteran who fought for our freedom in World War II. All he asked is that Republicans and Democrats stop fighting with each other.

If we do not end this shutdown soon, on November 1, veterans like Nelson will not receive over \$6 billion in pension, education, and other benefits they have earned. If we do not act now, we will fail to pay our bills and will default on all of our obligations. This is obviously unacceptable to the American people and to our economy.

Every day this shutdown continues is a day that Congress does not focus on growing the economy, fostering job creation, and expanding opportunity for the middle class.

It is long past time for Republicans and Democrats to come together, and that is why I am proud to be a founding member of United Solutions, a group of new Members who is working together and will vote today to reopen our government, pay our bills, and move our country forward.