

Democrat Party. They expect this Congress to see that the law is enforced, that we respect the separation of powers, and that laws are enacted by the people's elected representatives.

Change the rules, Mr. Leader, as we did in Texas, and make sure that no minority can block the will of the people. Make sure that our laws are enforced, that the border is secure, and that no one person can enact laws with the stroke of a pen. Laws are enacted here in the people's House in the Congress of the United States. The people of America voted overwhelmingly to reject the policies of Barack Obama.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the Congress to embody the will of the American people, enforce the law, and stop the policies of Barack Obama that the people just decisively rejected. Let's follow the lead of Texas. Change the rules in the Senate, Mr. Leader.

By the way, make the Democrat Senators stand up and filibuster. Let's have a real filibuster. Make them stand up there for 18, 24, 34, 48 hours. Make them stand up there as long as it takes. If they are going to have a filibuster, do it as we do in Texas. Enforce the law, follow the will of the American people, and do what we were elected to do—to preserve this great American Republic handed down to us, this precious inheritance handed down to us by the Founding Fathers, and let's honor the hope of Benjamin Franklin that we would preserve this great American Republic.

DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, in my State of Washington, we are very familiar with the vital role the Department of Homeland Security plays. Nearly 1 year ago, in a matter of seconds, 1 square mile of land slid into the Stillaguamish River near Oso, Washington.

That landslide was a heartbreaking disaster that was unbelievably devastating in the damage and the tragic loss of life that it caused. Forty-three people died in the blink of an eye. But FEMA, which is part of the Department of Homeland Security, was immediately on the scene to coordinate search-and-rescue operations.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do everything possible to ensure that resources are available to respond to disasters because landslides have no season, earthquakes have no season, and terrorist attacks have no season. By failing to fund the Department of Homeland Security, the Congress risks the lives of Americans, and that is simply unacceptable.

Now, some have said that most employees will be deemed essential, meaning they will be asked to do their already high pressure jobs of protecting our communities without pay. That

will be the case for more than 6,000 workers in my State. But FEMA Administrator Fugate said a lapse in funding would delay urgent disaster relief services because he would have to call staff back to work while the agency responds to an emergency.

Not only that, emergency responders who have requested Department of Homeland Security grants would be left without much-needed assistance. The Whatcom County Fire District 18, a mostly volunteer force that serves part of my district, applied for a \$24,000 firefighters grant to replace vital equipment. This is equipment that protects the lives of these volunteers who are saving the lives of others. But if Congress fails to fund the Department of Homeland Security, those grants are at risk.

If House leadership would simply bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor, we have the votes to pass it today. But instead, that legislation is being held hostage because some disagree with the President's executive actions.

Mr. Speaker, I helped introduce H.R. 15, a comprehensive immigration reform bill during the last Congress. But we never got a vote. If leadership agrees that this is such an important issue, so important that it is worth defunding an essential federal agency, then Congress should be working right now on comprehensive immigration reform and consider legislation immediately—but after we finish our job of funding the Department of Homeland Security. We need to stop playing politics and fund the Department of Homeland Security now.

DHS SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, yet again, in support of a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

First, Mr. Speaker, however, I want to thank my colleague, PATRICK McHENRY, for the tribute he gave a few moments ago to his predecessor in the 10th Congressional District of North Carolina, Cass Ballenger, who passed away last week. Cass Ballenger was a treasured colleague of mine. He and I came to the House together in the class of 1986. We worked together on a number of matters, including teacher recruitment and disaster relief. Cass used his time here and the work of his foundation to reach out to some of the neediest people in the hemisphere, in Latin America, in addressing their health care needs.

He came here after a successful business career. He was a man of great goodwill, good humor. He was someone who was a great favorite on both sides of the aisle. So I am happy to join PATRICK McHENRY and other colleagues in remembering Cass Ballenger fondly

and paying tribute to his years of good citizenship and service.

Now, at this moment, Mr. Speaker, we are 38 hours away from a Department of Homeland Security shutdown which will undermine many of the agency's critical missions and force its essential employees to go without pay until the politics of all this are worked out.

Front-line personnel at Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Coast Guard, the Secret Service, the Transportation Security Administration, and other critical agencies are going to be left wondering how to pay their mortgages and how to feed their families instead of focusing on their critical missions.

In North Carolina alone, Mr. Speaker, over 4,000 Homeland Security employees are going to be furloughed or go without pay.

House Republicans forced this unnecessary stalemate by including poison pill riders in the bill that our Homeland Security Subcommittee negotiated late last year. It was a bipartisan, bicameral negotiated bill. It is ready to be passed right this minute. It should have been passed in December along with the rest of the appropriations bills. Instead, Republicans held back Homeland Security, and they added riders designed to poke the President in the eye and to impose radical anti-immigration policies on our country.

Now, thankfully, Senate Republican leaders understand the potential consequences of a shutdown. They have resisted this Tea Party bait, and they have decided to take up a clean Homeland Security funding bill. So the Senate must quickly pass that bill, and Speaker BOEHNER must let us vote on that bill.

Mr. Speaker, the American people didn't send us to Washington to shut down critical functions of the United States Government on which all of our citizens depend. Pass a clean Homeland Security funding bill.

DHS SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House to fund the Department of Homeland Security and avoid an unnecessary shutdown. Instead of having a real debate about fixing a broken immigration system, Congress is putting at risk government operations that serve the people we represent and is playing politics with the livelihoods of our Federal workers.

□ 1100

Threatening to shut down a Federal agency because you disagree with the President's actions is an irresponsible approach. We have got to move away from this kind of dysfunctional government and get back to legislating.

That is what the American people sent us here to do. This current fight is exhibit number one of why folks don't think Congress works for them. The folks I represent want to see a government that is responsive, that provides needed services, and that supports economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, folks in my region deal in reality. Earlier this year, residents and businesses in the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam and Grays Harbor County, Washington, were swamped by heavy rains. Mudslides and flooding put people's lives at risk and took a toll on neighborhoods that they call home.

Local officials were looking for help, and they got it when the Homeland Security Region 3 Incident Management Team came to town. This team worked with locals on the ground to execute the best recovery plan to get people back on their feet.

Are we willing to tell workers like that, who lend a hand at a moment's notice, to go without pay or take a furlough? Are we willing to tell communities in need that when they call for help, there is no one there?

Fourteen percent of the Department's workforce is facing furloughs. This isn't an invisible workforce. These are staffers who administer grants to local governments. They are fire departments and emergency responders after devastating storms.

These are the people who are helping the emergency teams that are on the ground in places like Hoquiam, Washington. That staff won't be able to process emergency requests, won't be able to do their jobs because Congress isn't doing its job.

We should also consider the over 80 percent of Homeland Security employees who will stay on without pay. What kind of message are we sending members of our Coast Guard or our Border Patrol or the Department when we tell them to work without pay? Mortgage payment? Still got to pay it. Utility bills? Still do. Grocery bill? Still got to eat. But paycheck? Sorry.

It is true. If the crew of a ship faced trouble in Washington State's waters, the Coast Guard would still swing into action, but that crew wouldn't get paid for their work, and some of their support staff might not be back at headquarters to help them.

I have already heard from members of the Coast Guard, spouses of Department employees, and everyday citizens worried about how this will impact our communities and our national security because, in my home State of Washington, there are over 6,000 Department workers and we have five Coast Guard stations alone in my region.

Shutdowns like this have ripple effects into our local economies, too. When workers aren't getting pay or their pay is delayed, sacrifices are made. Less money is spent at the grocery store. Friday night dinners out are stopped. Family vacations are canceled or delayed.

It impacts local restaurants, local hotels, and small businesses. We have seen this movie before. Businesses everywhere took a hit when the customers they rely on aren't sure when exactly their next paycheck will come.

Finally, we don't motivate our Federal workforce by engaging in these stunts. We are proud of our Federal workforce in my region. Too often, Congress does not let them know that what they do is important. Too often, they are a bargaining chip in a political fight.

I came to Congress to give people confidence that their government was not broken, that it is staffed with workers dedicated to making a meaningful impact in their lives and in the lives of American citizens.

We will not see qualified and motivated folks join a workforce that faces continuous threats to the job they do every day when the message to our workers and to local businesses is that politics is more important than their paychecks.

I want to end by mentioning, yesterday, former Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge said that this shutdown was "wrong" and "folly."

He said: "These are soldiers at DHS. They wear a different uniform, but the goal and objective and mission is the same—keeping America as safe as possible."

Mr. Speaker, let's keep America safe, and let's reject this shutdown.

STRENGTHENING STUDENT PROTECTION

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, last year alone, over 450 teachers or school employees across the Nation were arrested for misconduct with a child. That is more than one per day. What is more, the Department of Education has estimated that nearly 10 percent of students are targets of educator sexual misconduct sometime during their school career.

Those numbers should be disturbing to every lawmaker, to every parent, and every grandparent in this body. In an effort to curb this alarming trend, I am proud that the Student Success Act under debate here today includes language from a bill that I introduced, the Jeremy Bell Act, to strengthen student protection efforts and get serious about who is being hired and transferred within our school system.

The Jeremy Bell Act was named after a young boy from West Virginia who was drugged, sexually assaulted, and murdered by his elementary school principal—a man who had been suspected of sexual misconduct at previous jobs but was allowed to quietly transfer from district to district, avoiding repercussions and without awareness from his new employers, a shameful act known as "passing the trash."

Language found within the Student Success Act will end the practice of "passing the trash" by blocking educational agencies from receiving Federal funds if they facilitate the transfer of an employee that they know or have probable cause to believe has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student.

Furthermore, it ensures that the hiring of all school employees will be compliant with current, extensive background check requirements.

As the husband of an educator, I know the overwhelming majority of teachers, educators, school administrators, and support staff are amazing, caring individuals committed to the success of their students.

It is as much to protect the good work that they do, as well as the safety for our children, that we must pass this legislation and take real steps to address this issue.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Bruce Miroglio, St. Helena Catholic Church, St. Helena, California, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, we ask Your blessing on this day You have provided for us.

As we confront all the challenges that arise from the human condition, we ask Your blessing to allow us to use our intellect and free will to guide our human affairs and to seek the blessings of freedom, personal development, and prosperity for the common good.

In Your goodness, bless the Members of our Nation's House of Representatives. May all their deliberations and discussions be inspired by the vision of Your loving kindness and saving grace.

May the work conducted here today bear rich fruit that nurtures all of the people of this Nation and their dreams for a better world and, thus, be for Your greater honor and glory.

All of this we ask in Your most holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.