

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.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND BRUCE MIROGLIO

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to our guest chaplain, Deacon Bruce Miroglio.

Deacon Miroglio serves in The St. Helena Catholic Church, my church in my hometown. It is where I was baptized, received my First Communion, was confirmed, and where Jan and I renewed our wedding vows.

I was born, grew up, and still live in our community, in the community that the deacon serves, so I know personally how deeply he cares for our community and how much he and our church have given back to our town.

Growing up, Bruce didn't know if he wanted to be a priest or a lawyer, so he took the sage advice of "when you have a choice between two great things, take them both."

In both careers, he has embodied selflessness, compassion, and quiet generosity. He has guided people through challenging times, comforted them in times of grief, always pursued righteousness, and has never wavered in his devotion to bettering the lives of others.

St. Helena is blessed to have him today; and today, we, in the House, are equally as blessed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to

15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

THE SO-CALLED STUDENT SUCCESS ACT

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

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, I will be voting against H.R. 589, the so-called Student Success Act. Although there are some positive reforms regarding empowerment of local schools that my constituents support in the bill, major problems with the bill remain.

For example, sadly, we have done nothing to roll back the onerous high-stakes testing regime that has led to a "teaching to the test" culture in our schools, and I want my parents, teachers, administrators, and students to know that I am listening and taking action.

I offered a bipartisan amendment to roll back to pre-No Child Left Behind levels testing requirements. Essentially, it would have cut Federal testing requirements in half that we hope would have been a catalyst for States to cut their tests as well, but for the second straight year, that amendment has been ruled out of order, despite the fact that this is so important to the American people.

The fight continues. As this bill moves to the Senate, we have allies there that are interested in empowerment and properly resourcing schools, and I look forward to working with them to get in the bill that the American people will support and we can enact.

FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I can't believe we are actually here. In just 48 hours, the Department of Homeland Security will shut down. In this day and age, with so many threats facing Americans and the rest of the civilized world, how can our colleagues even contemplate allowing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down?

In just the past couple of months, we have seen terrorist attacks in Denmark and Paris and, just yesterday, arrests in New York of individuals charged with supporting foreign terrorist organizations.

The failure to fund the Department of Homeland Security will put American lives at risk—and all to try to prove a political point.

Tying legislation against the President's executive order on immigration to the essential funding that pays the hardworking men and women, the extraordinary professionals that keep us safe, is reckless and irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker, take up a clean DHS funding bill that will pass both Cham-

bers and be signed by the President immediately, and let's get back to the work many of us came here to do: strengthening our middle class, growing paychecks, and creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that will keep the Department open so it can carry out its mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

REMEMBERING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

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

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 23rd anniversary of the Khojaly tragedy, which took place on February 25–26, 1992.

On this evening, 23 years ago, it was the site of a cowardly massacre of 613 unarmed Azerbaijani citizens, which included 106 women, 63 children, and 70 elderly. Despite the attempts to minimize this tragedy, I stand in memory with the Azerbaijani Caucus to remember the loss.

The United States and Azerbaijan share a bipartisan and a strong relationship. As a former commander in the Navy SEALs, I know firsthand the importance of Azerbaijan's commitment.

Aside from deploying troops and equipment to Afghanistan, over one-third of nonlethal aid that was used by our troops in Afghanistan flowed through Azerbaijan.

President Kennedy once said that America would pay any price and bear any burden in the defense of liberty. I am proud that Azerbaijan and America share the same commitment to freedom and liberty.

It is important today that we take this moment to join our Azerbaijani allies in liberty in recognizing the Khojaly tragedy.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, 27 years ago, as the lines of the Soviet Union were fading, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh were united in a call for a say in their own futures and greater independence from Azerbaijan. This peaceful movement for self-determination and freedom was followed by premeditated and government-sponsored attacks.

Over the next 2 years, the Armenian population in the territory of Artsakh