

THE SCHUMER SHUTDOWN
CONTINUES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the editors of the National Review explained the Schumer shutdown clearly in their editorial, "Hang Tough, Republicans."

In no uncertain terms, Senate Democrats have blocked a bill to keep the Federal Government running and fund the Children's Health Insurance Program for the next 6 years. Senate Democrats have made a choice not to keep the government open.

A government shutdown does not benefit anyone. It causes irreparable harm to our military. Over 100,000 National Guard members will be sent home from weekend training, and over 2 million servicemembers will have their pay disrupted by the Senate Democrats' partisan politics.

As chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, I know that military readiness is at risk; yet the government would be fully open for business if Democrats had not voted against the bill, a bill that has nothing of substance that they oppose, to get leverage for a policy they favor.

This Schumer shutdown could have been avoided if Senate Democrats had prioritized funding at-risk children and troops over political grandstanding. Sadly, the Democrats' negotiating stance is: Give us amnesty or we will make the government shut down and blame you Republicans.

This is an unreasonable position.

Hang tough, Republicans.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

REPUBLICANS' CYNICAL EFFORTS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just want to address the cynical effort by the Republicans to link the Trump shutdown to Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

The fact of the matter is, if the Republicans cared about children's health insurance or anybody's health insurance:

They wouldn't have tried repeatedly to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

They wouldn't have put the provision in their tax scam that says that people don't have to buy insurance, which we estimate will result in about 13 million Americans losing their health insurance.

They wouldn't have put a CHIP bill on the floor earlier this month, or earlier this year, that basically eliminated or cut back on the prevention fund and, at the same time, said, if you didn't pay your health insurance within the first 30 days, you would lose it,

which the CBO says would cause another half a million people to lose their health insurance.

If you care about children's health insurance, which you clearly don't, then you don't want to eliminate and cut back on health insurance for the American people in general, which is what you are doing by sabotaging the Affordable Care Act every day.

The only reason why you linked the CHIP bill to the CR this week is because you don't have to pay the subsidies for people's health insurance because they are going to lose it.

VOTE TO FUND THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, some Americans have not heard the truth about why we have the Schumer shutdown. The simple truth is that it is because the Republicans believe in the rule of law, want to fund our troops and the CHIP program.

Democrats are advocating for illegal aliens. President Obama violated the Constitution when he signed an executive order allowing illegal aliens to reside here as legal residents. The court ruled his action unconstitutional.

To President Trump's credit, he agreed with the court and asked Congress to find a solution to that issue and our broken immigration system.

House Republicans are working on a solution and doing our job in passing appropriations bills and continuing resolutions to fund troops and our government.

Senate Democrats saw an opening for their zeal to make these illegal aliens legal and have chosen to shut down the government. It is time for the Democrats to give priority to national security and legal people in our country.

Vote to fund the government, and come to the table to find a law-respecting solution to immigration. Stop the Schumer shutdown.

REPUBLICANS IN SPIN MODE

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

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of rhetoric out there about why there is a government shutdown and who is to blame. Well, let's look at the facts.

The GOP is, indeed, in charge at all levels of Federal Government yet has not been able to do much of anything since then. They can't fund the government, and now they are asking for their fourth continuing resolution of only a few weeks yet again.

The only major, concrete thing they have really done is give tax breaks to their wealthy donors, and now they are in full spin mode trying to say the government is shut down because we want to let certain people into our country.

Please.

Look, we are fighting for parity on non-defense funding for things like schools, Head Start, and programs like Meals on Wheels and homeless veterans' assistance. We want to get funding for community health centers and CHIP. And, yes, repairing the DACA agreement that has allowed a lot of good, talented young people to stay in this country is important to many of us as well.

Let's remember, the only thing the Republicans have to show for their last year is a giant, wet, sloppy tax break for their donors and a way too extended honeymoon with the President.

It is time to step up and put our country before our party, and we need to do that now.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 4872, the End the Shutdown Act of 2018, a continuing resolution that would immediately reopen the government through Tuesday while negotiations continue on a budget agreement that adheres to parity and on other critical issues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

DEMOCRATS OWN THE SHUTDOWN

(Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding of us to do what is right. That is why I proudly voted "yes" to keep the government open, to pay our troops, to provide funding for our Nation's military, and to reauthorize CHIP, healthcare for children in need, for 6 years.

Instead, Democrats in the Senate voted "no." They said no to all of these critical priorities—national security, healthcare for our children, keeping the government open—all while they pushed their own political agenda. The only thing they said yes to was the Schumer shutdown.

Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. Nothing in this bill is controversial. We did our job. We have passed reauthorization for CHIP, the Children's Health Insurance Program, not once but twice, and it has stalled in the Senate.

Democrats own the Schumer shutdown. They have said no to policies the American people want and the American people need.

Washington is broken. We need to get back on track. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work together, to work in the interest of all West Virginians and all Americans, working for working families, military families, and retirees. They are all depending on us.

DEMOCRATS ARE FOCUSED ON
TAKING CARE OF FAMILIES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, to the men and women of the United States military, how shameful it is to use you. You will be paid. And it is important to note that the Democratic Party, our leadership, is focusing on making sure your families are taken care of.

This is a debate about ensuring domestic spending so that you have education dollars for your children—sadly, some of our soldiers are on food stamps—the CHIP program to be fully funded and made permanent, and veterans benefits to continue.

It is shameful.

When I was growing up, the way to use language against a person running for office was for them to be called an “N lover” or for them to advocate for integrated schools or use the race card.

Now, today, the person who has the highest office in the land is using the race card; and, sadly, congressional Republican Members and leadership are using it by way of illegal immigration in a political ad that has just come out to say that we are responsible for killings by illegal immigrants.

DREAMers are not illegal immigrants. They are Americans. They are soldiers. They are doctors and lawyers. They are my neighbors. They are my interns.

And I am saddened by this. I want the American people to know that the best moral stance to be is where the Democratic leadership is because we are standing for all of America, and we will continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to bring up H.R. 4872, the End the Shutdown Act of 2018, a continuing resolution that would immediately reopen the government through Tuesday while negotiations continue on a budget agreement that adheres to parity and on other critical issues to stop the Trump shutdown.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

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FIFTY-ONE PERCENT IS A MAJORITY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my friend, Sammy Mahon, from Baytown, Texas, drives a jet-black Peterbilt tractor all over America, and he asked this logical question: Why does it take 60 votes for the Senate to make a decision?

He said: Well, the rule—I can’t really say what he said; I’ll just use the word “nutty.”

Why have this rule? We all learned in elementary school that 51 percent is a majority. By requiring 60 votes to

make a decision, government is ruled by the few, not the majority; thus, a handful of Senators can block progress.

The result? The government is shut down. The military is not paid. Lovely.

The Senate inconsistently allows the majority rule in some votes but, on others, 60 percent. The Senate should strongly consider what Sammy thinks about this archaic rule: make a decision with 50 percent, regardless of what party is in charge.

Sammy is right. This undemocratic rule is nutty. The sky will not fall if the Senate makes decisions by majority rule.

And that is just the way it is.

COMMANDING MAJORITIES IN CONGRESS

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, a century ago, William Butler Yeats wrote a poem called “The Second Coming,” in which he said: “Things fall apart; the centre will not hold; mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.” But in America, that is not our destiny. We can make sure things don’t fall apart. We can make sure that the center will hold.

Let’s move beyond the blame game, and let’s identify the moral center and common ground for reopening the government and moving America forward.

Commanding majorities in Congress and in the public want to reauthorize and fund the CHIP program and guarantee healthcare for our kids. We should do this for a 10-year period and save \$6 billion over a mere short-term extension.

Commanding majorities in Congress and the public favor reauthorization and funding of the community health centers which are indispensable for both children’s and adult health.

Commanding majorities in the public and in Congress favor passing a clean Dream Act for 800,000 DREAMers who are contributing to our communities and in school and serving our country.

And all of us must favor a return to regular order and a fair and transparent budget process that allows all of our agencies, from NIH and NOAA to the DOD, to plan for the effective delivery of public services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent now to bring up H.R. 4872, the End the Shutdown Act of 2018, a continuing resolution that would immediately reopen the government through Tuesday while negotiations continue on a budget agreement that adheres to parity and addresses the other critical issues facing the country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

SCHUMER SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am frustrated, I am fed up, and I am concerned for our soldiers, their families, my constituents, and all Americans. People are filled with uncertainty. They are confused, and, honestly, so am I.

CHUCK SCHUMER and the Senate Democrats shut down the government over a deadline that does not exist. They voted against a bill they have no issues with. Democrats have recklessly put 9 million children at risk of losing their health insurance. Over 2 million members of our military, the men and women who risk their lives to protect us, are not being paid.

It is time for Senate Democrats to join us and reopen the government. They need to join us in passing the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and they need to join us in putting our military readiness, our American soldiers, and our country before political gamesmanship.

Stop the Schumer shutdown.

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

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

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak candidly and directly to the American people.

There are many, many issues that we agree upon, Republicans and Democrats, coming together to solve big challenges.

In my district in New Hampshire, people are dying, and they are dying from an emergency that did not exist—a continuing resolution will not solve their problem—and that is the opioid epidemic that hits districts all across this country. People are dying, families are suffering, and our communities are hurting.

We need to come together, and we can. We have a bipartisan task force with 100 Members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats. Just this week, 50 Members, Republicans and Democrats, came together to ask for funding for this emergency crisis.

We ask the President: Extend the emergency. We need to fund, and now is the time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent, please, together, Republicans and Democrats, bring up H.R. 4872, the End the Shutdown Act of 2018, a continuing resolution that would immediately reopen the government through Tuesday while we continue negotiations on a budget agreement that adheres to parity and other critical issues like this opioid epidemic. This is urgent. Please, I ask my brothers and sisters on both sides of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.