

us safe, a filibuster of funding for the Federal Government itself, for hundreds of millions of Americans—all over a tangential issue related to illegal immigration that does not even ripen until March. All of these other things are an emergency. The one non-emergency issue that our friends on the other side are trying to shoehorn into this discussion doesn't reach that status of emergency until March.

This is pure folly. The American people know so. That is why, in a recent survey, a majority said keeping the government open is a higher priority than shutting down the government over the issue of illegal immigration. That is why headlines all across America are laying the blame for this government shutdown right at the feet of Senate Democrats and their filibuster.

Now, the Democratic leader could end this today. We can get past this manufactured crisis and get onto a host of serious issues before us that require thoughtful, bipartisan negotiations. This shutdown is going to get a lot worse tomorrow—a lot worse. Today would be a good day to end it. All we have to do is pass the common-sense legislation the Senate is currently considering—ending the government shutdown and ensuring healthcare continues for vulnerable children. There is nothing in this measure that my Democratic friend cannot support.

So here is the situation. If nothing changes, a cloture vote will be no sooner than 1 a.m. tonight. We could resolve this much earlier if the Democratic leader withdraws his procedural objection and allows the Senate to proceed to a vote. Our constituents want us to end this. Secretary Mattis, our military leaders, and our Governors want us to end this, and we can. Today is the right day to do it.

Senate Democrats only need to withdraw their filibuster and allow a bipartisan majority to move America forward. If they really care about the big issues—increased defense funding, disaster relief, DACA, border security, and other important matters that we have been negotiating and that I would like to bring to the floor—then they will stop their filibuster and this shutdown and let the negotiators get back to work.

Everyone has figured this out. This shutdown was a political miscalculation of gargantuan proportions, but it doesn't need to go on any longer. It could stop today. So let's step back from the brink. Let's stop victimizing the American people and get back to work on their behalf.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we now enter day 2 of the first real government shutdown ever to take place when one party controlled the Presidency, the House, and the Senate. Under this unified control, it was the Republicans' job to govern. It was their job to lead. It was their job to reach out to us and come up with compromise. They have failed.

Our democracy was designed to run on compromise. The Senate was designed to run on compromise. We are no dictatorship subject to the whims of an Executive, just as we are not a one-party system, where the winner of an election gets to decide everything and the minority nothing.

We are a government that can only operate if the majority party—the governing party—accepts and seeks compromise.

The majority, however, has forgotten the lessons of the Founding Fathers. They have shown they do not know how to compromise. Not only do they not consult us, they can't even get on the same page with their President from their own party. The congressional leaders tell me to negotiate with President Trump. President Trump tells me to figure it out with the congressional leaders. This political catch-22—never seen before—has driven our government to dysfunction.

Americans know why the dysfunction is occurring: a dysfunctional President. Hence, we are in a Trump shutdown with party leaders who will not act without him. It has created the chaos and the gridlock we find ourselves in today. It all really stems from the President, whose inability to clinch a deal has created the Trump shutdown.

I agree with Majority Leader MCCONNELL. The Trump shutdown was totally avoidable. President Trump walked away from not one but two bipartisan deals, and that is after he walked away from an agreement in principle on DACA that we reached way back in the fall of last year. If he had been willing to accept any one of these deals, we wouldn't be where we are today.

On Friday, in the Oval Office, I made what I thought was a very generous offer to the President—the most generous offer yet. The President demanded for months that a deal on DACA include the wall. Most Democrats don't think the wall is effective. We think it is expensive and a waste of money. We are all for tough border security, but every expert will tell you that drones, sensory devices, roads, and personnel are far more effective than the wall.

Because the President campaigned on the wall—even though he said it would

be paid for by Mexico—and demands the wall, for the sake of compromise, for the sake of coming together, I offered it. Despite what some people are saying on TV—and mind you, these folks were not in the room during the discussion—that is exactly what happened. The President picked a number for a wall. I accepted it. It wasn't my number. It wasn't the number in the bills here. He picked it. It would be hard to imagine a more reasonable compromise. All along, the President has been saying: I will do DACA and Dreamers in return for the wall. He has it. He can't take yes for an answer. That is why we are here.

We don't have anyone in the White House, in the Senate, or in the House, Republicans of the President's own party, to tell him he has to straighten this whole thing out. He can't say yes one minute and no the next—three, four, five times.

The bottom line is this: It would be hard to imagine a much more reasonable compromise. I was, in principle, agreeing to help the President get his signature campaign promise—something Democrats and Republicans on the Hill staunchly oppose—in exchange for DACA, a group of people the President said he has great love for. I essentially agreed to give the President something he has said he wants in exchange for something we both want, but only hours after he seemed to be very open, very eager about that generous, tentative agreement—and it was only tentative; there were no handshakes—he backed away from the last best chance to avoid a shutdown.

That is why, from one corner of America to another, this is being called the Trump shutdown. It is trending all over. People from one end of the country to the other know it is the Trump shutdown, and they know why. They have seen what the President has done. It is a direct result of the President, who has been proved unwilling to compromise and is, thus, unable to govern.

The deal wasn't everything the President wanted. It certainly wasn't everything we wanted. It was a compromise—something nobody loved, but everyone could live with; something good for the country. It would have staved off a government shutdown on Friday. It could still reopen the government today. I am willing to seal the deal to sit and work right now with the President or anyone he designates. Let's get it done.

Meanwhile, the Republican leader would have you believe we Democrats forced the shutdown. He forgets that several Members of his own party voted against the CR. Are they holding the government hostage over illegal immigration? No, it doesn't seem that way.

The Republican leader accuses Democrats of holding up pay for our troops. I heard Speaker RYAN blame the Senate on TV, but yesterday Senator MCCASKILL offered a motion to make sure our military gets paid, and the majority leader himself objected. The

majority leader prevented the troops from getting paid. This would have passed in a minute. Speaker RYAN should talk to Leader MCCONNELL, who is the only person in the U.S. Senate standing in the way of paying our troops, not anybody here.

We don't want to use the troops as hostages. Unfortunately, some on the other side may be doing just that. We can make sure our troops get paid right now if the majority leader would only consent. If there is pride of authorship, let him offer the resolution. We will not block it. We will applaud it. I hope it can happen as soon as possible.

The Republican leader also accuses Democrats of blocking CHIP, when he full well knows every Democrat here supports extending CHIP. It is 4 months lapsed. Who let that happen? The Republican majority. A Democratic majority would never have allowed CHIP to expire.

Now, just because it was placed on a CR—that was a bad idea for so many reasons—Republicans want to pretend they are advocates of CHIP, but quite the contrary. They were using the 10 million kids on CHIP and holding them as hostages for the 800,000 kids who are Dreamers. Kids against kids; innocent kids against innocent kids. That is no way to operate in this country.

Again, a party that controls the House, the Senate, and the Presidency would rather sit back and point fingers of blame than roll up their sleeves and govern.

The way out of this is simple. Our parties are very close on all of the issues we have been debating for months now. We are so close. I believe, we might have had a deal twice, only for the President to change his mind and walk away. The President must take yes for an answer. Until he does, it is the Trump shutdown.

He has said he has a love for Dreamers. Let him show it. He said he needs a wall and border security. Accept our offer to do both of those things because we Democrats—while we think the wall will not accomplish very much and cost a lot of money—we strongly believe in border security and fully supported the President's budget proposal on border security for this year.

So this is the Trump shutdown. Only President Trump can end it. We Democrats are at the table ready to negotiate. The President needs to pull up a chair and end this shutdown.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

FEDERAL REGISTER PRINTING SAVINGS ACT OF 2017

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 195, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 195, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to restrict the distribution of free printed copies of the Federal Register to Members of Congress and other officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 1917 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 1918, to change the enactment date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, President Trump didn't vote to shut down the government. He is not a Member of the U.S. Senate. President Trump did not shut down the government. Now, Senate Democrats are reeling because the President has said that while the government is shut down, he is not going to negotiate a change of our immigration laws that our Democratic colleagues, and, frankly, many Republicans like me would like to see changed relative to the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, young adults.

It seems to me, our Democratic colleagues have figuratively shot themselves in the foot; reloaded and shot themselves in the other foot. Now they expect President Trump to somehow rescue them out of this box canyon.

I know I am mixing my metaphors here, but this is the situation they find themselves in. They shut down the government, and now they are hurting the very people they shut down the government to help because there are no negotiations going on to find a solution that we would all like to try to achieve.

This is really surreal. There is an old saying: Everybody is entitled to their opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts. Facts are facts. Democrats voted to shut down the government because they are impatient to get a solution for these DACA young adults. Now they have to blame somebody else because they are unwilling to own up to their own responsibility.

Growing up, my parents told me one of the most important things I could do—and my sister and brother could do—is accept responsibility for our own mistakes, not blame somebody else. That is simply juvenile.

We could work this out today. We could work this out now if our Demo-

cratic colleagues would simply acknowledge that they, themselves, are the ones who shut down the government. They, themselves, have now caused negotiations for the solution they want to cease because the President rightly says: Why reward bad behavior by continuing the negotiations when they shut down the government? As I said a moment ago, it is surreal.

There are casualties. There are casualties, not just to the DACA kids, who are now young adults. These are children who were brought here by their parents without complying with our immigration laws. Being children, they are not responsible. They are not culpable. The law doesn't hold them responsible.

We all agree they ought to get some relief, and we would like to be able to negotiate that. But we can't do that when the government shuts down as a result of their miscalculation.

The DACA kids, now young adults, aren't the only casualties here. It is our military. It is the National Guard that can't train. It is the 9 million children who are depending on an extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program, which enjoys broad bipartisan support.

I almost couldn't believe my ears. The Democratic leader is a talented politician. He is a very intelligent guy. I enjoy working with him on occasion, but he has been driven into this untenable, unsustainable filibuster because he simply refuses to say no to the most radical fringe of his political base.

This isn't like him. This hasn't been my experience working with the senior Senator from New York on a myriad of other things. But as the Democratic leader, he simply could not say no to this narrow fringe of his political base that insists that a solution today on the DACA problem is more important than funding the military, paying our Federal law enforcement officials, or providing health insurance to 9 million vulnerable children.

As people begin to realize this miscalculation, we start seeing it reflected in public opinion polls. CNN reported that only 34 percent of the people they polled said that this kind of miscalculation was justified—34 percent. I bet as people learn more, as they are personally affected more and more by this government shutdown—now in day 2—then there is going to be an even greater majority of people who say: This just is not worth it. Why won't you take yes for an answer from Republicans who want to work with their Democratic colleagues? Why would you shoot yourself in one foot, reload, and shoot yourself in the other foot?

I realize it is hard for our Democratic colleagues to save face in this outcome, but sometimes in life, when you make mistakes and you can't blame them on anybody else, then you simply need to acknowledge your own responsibility and say: Do you know what? I had the best of intentions, but I was wrong. I made a mistake. That could be