

Together with House Democrats, they are standing up to President Trump and his illogical wall. Together with House Democrats they are saying: reopen the government. Together with House Democrats, they know that we can't secure our border if border agents aren't being paid and if Active Duty Coast Guardsmen are not being paid, and we can't secure public safety if FBI agents aren't being paid.

Madam Speaker, my constituents and hundreds of thousands of other families are suffering because of this Trump shutdown. I am proud to have voted with every House Democrat to reopen the government to pay our Active Duty servicemembers and restore government services. It is time for the Senate and President Trump to show the same commitment to our economy, our national security, and the hard-working men and women who serve this Nation as Federal Government employees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### LET'S COME TOGETHER

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

Mr. WOODALL. Madam Speaker, I remember standing in your chair over these last couple of Congresses reading out that very same card at the end. Whether the Obama administration or the Trump administration, folks come down to the floor, they get caught up in the passions of the moment, and we do have opportunities to come together.

I had not planned on coming down. I was actually in the Cloakroom making some telephone calls, and I heard my colleague speaking. I heard her with sincerity implore the President to come to his senses, come to the negotiating table, and end this shutdown. Then I heard her with sincerity implore the leaders of the Senate to come to the negotiating table, to come to their senses, and to end this shutdown. Then in about an hour and a half, I will be down here leading the debate on the rule for the minority, and we will bring yet another of the exact same bills we have brought to the floor that have gone absolutely nowhere in an effort to reopen the government.

I would say to my friends that the secret to finding common ground isn't to ask everybody else to come to where you are standing. That is the new definition of compromise in this town. I have seen that, that gravitate in the five terms that I have been here.

The definition of compromise is: Well, why don't you agree with me?

The truth is the only movement I have seen in this debate over these last 32 days is the President this past weekend when he said: Do you know what? We have called on every single Member

in every single Chamber to find a solution to the young men and women trapped in a DACA status, those families who come here with temporary protective status, and they are uncertain about their future—folks on both sides of the aisle have called for that—he said: Do you know what? Maybe we can broaden this debate, Madam Speaker. Maybe we can broaden the definition of what success looks like, and maybe we can break this logjam.

Madam Speaker, I would just say to my colleagues: I will come back down to the House floor as often as you all want me to come back down to the House floor, and we can do exactly the same thing every single day knowing we are going to get exactly the same result from the White House and the Senate. Or, we can try to do something different.

Candidly, my constituents didn't send me here to do the same thing over and over and over again with the same failed result. They sent me here to get success. They don't care if I win. They care if I succeed on their behalf. They don't care about Republican and Democratic priorities. They care about their family priorities.

And I have to believe—though I don't know all of my freshman colleagues as well as I would like—I have to believe that even with all the new Members in this institution there is still more that unites us than divides us in this country. I love that about this institution. I love that about the men and women who are here.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask this: Let's try to do a little more listening and a little less talking. Here in the rank and file, golly, I have to believe if I could pick out a few colleagues here, I am pretty sure that we could sit down at the table and solve this. I confess it is beyond our reach as we sit here today. This is a White House decision. This is a MITCH MCCONNELL decision. And this is a NANCY PELOSI decision. We ought to all as rank-and-file Members be outraged when it does rise to that level because we lose control. Our constituents lose their voice.

I am encouraging my leadership to be as open and honest and to be as flexible and creative as they possibly can in finding a solution. Every single one of us bears responsibility in this Chamber of what is going on.

If Senate Democrats had let these appropriations bills move last fall, then we wouldn't be in this mess. If Republicans had passed a continuing resolution in December, we wouldn't be in this mess. There are 1,000 different decisionmaking points where we could have done things differently. We cannot change those, but we can change what is happening here today.

I tell my constituents back home: If you want to understand what is happening in Congress, listen to the 5 minutes in the morning, listen to the 1 minutes at noon, and find out if the folks who are coming to the floor are celebrating opportunities for success or

simply condemning their colleagues for not being invested in solutions.

I believe in the men and women of this Chamber. I believe in the U.S. House of Representatives. I believe in self-governance in this Nation. Failing the American people, Madam Speaker, undermines that confidence. We have an opportunity to succeed, and I hope we will say yes to that opportunity.

#### VIRGINIA'S EIGHTH DISTRICT IS SUFFERING

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, my Northern Virginia district includes more Federal workers—almost 87,000—than any other, and my people are suffering.

This week we entered the second month of a shutdown which President Trump began by rejecting a Republican bill which passed overwhelmingly in the Senate after promising that he would, in fact, shut down the government.

The undeniable fact is that if the President told Senate Republicans today to vote for the exact same bill they already passed, the exact same bill he promised to sign, then this shutdown would end. But he refuses to do so because his demands are unmet.

President Trump's complaints of a crisis, Madam Speaker, are correct in one respect: they are a crisis for the people I represent and for people in every district across this country.

The President has said many things since he promised that he would shut down the government, but few of his comments are directed to the Federal workforce. I have gotten many hundreds of calls, emails, and letters, and they are overwhelmingly opposed to the shutdown. They are about tuition they can't pay, rent, healthcare premiums, insulin and other drugs, and groceries.

I am particularly concerned because so many of the folks who work in northern Virginia have security clearances, and the number one reason people are denied a security clearance is because of a financial blot on their record. It is the number one reason their security clearance is taken away. If they are late on car payments and mortgage payments, they can actually lose their jobs.

I am concerned about the impact on contractors. These are the folks like guards at the Smithsonian or food service workers or people in cleaning crews. They tend to be minimum wage. They tend not to have savings, and often no benefits. They are not getting paid, and they have nothing to fall back on. All the people who serve in our community—waiters, dental hygienists, auto mechanics, and hairstylists—are seeing their ability to make money day after day disappear.

President Trump says his shutdown is about making the country safer, but

that doesn't make any sense if you talk to the people who are suffering today. I have heard from furloughed FBI agents, air traffic controllers, State Department officials, workers at TSA, the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard, and even Customs and Border Patrol, and they all vehemently oppose the shutdown.

Madam Speaker, we all support effective border security, but keeping these people furloughed or making them work unpaid doesn't make us any safer.

But on the positive side, as the pain has gotten worse for our community, I have also seen something else, which is that communities are coming together to make sure that no one gets left behind. Business after business throughout the country and throughout northern Virginia are helping with free sandwiches, free meals, and free services.

Nonprofits are stepping up their efforts to meet the worsening conditions created by the shutdown, and government officials, furloughed and unfurloughed, are doing everything they can to pitch in and lighten the blow on their unpaid colleagues.

□ 1100

Yesterday, I was helping serve food to Federal employees at Chef Jose Andres' World Central Kitchen. There was a line around the block, and it was D.C. police officers on their lunch break who came to help serve.

By the way, Madam Speaker, I think I handed out more than 300 meals, and not a single person said: Open up the government. Give Trump his wall.

We are better than this. We are good, kind, and industrious. The American people don't deserve this shutdown.

It is axiomatic that we shouldn't negotiate with hostage takers, but the President has taken our government hostage. If we give him what he wants, he may well use this tactic again and again and again.

President Reagan said: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

We say: President Trump, tear down your wall—your unreasonable obsession with an obsolete, medieval, ineffective way to secure our borders—and open up our government.

#### NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Transportation Funding Fairness Act and to express my hope that, after we have come to our senses and reopened the government, this year Congress will come together to fund the bridges, tunnels, railroads, airports, and roads that we all understand America needs to prosper and grow.

In the first decade of the 20th century, commuters in New Jersey towns like Summit, Union, and Westfield

could hop on a steam-powered train, ride right up to a terminal on the dock in Jersey City, change seamlessly to a ferry, and be in Manhattan within 50 minutes to an hour, if there wasn't too much fog or ice on the Hudson River.

A hundred years of magical, technological progress later, and we have managed to shave that trip by maybe a few minutes, if the trains are running on time that day.

Decades of underinvestment in public infrastructure have taken its toll on American greatness. Anyone who has traveled the world and has seen the modern airports and seaports and fast rail networks that our competitors are building would understand that.

Just in the last 2 months, as we have not even been able to open our government, the Chinese Government has been busy approving over \$125 billion in new rail projects—\$125 billion.

No State suffers more from our lack of attention to infrastructure than New Jersey, where twice as many people use public transportation than the national average. To get to and from New York, 200,000 of us a day still depend on just two rail tracks across the Portal Bridge and through a Hudson River tunnel that our great-grandparents built in 1910 because they thought those 50-minute, turn-of-the-century commute times were unacceptable long.

When the Portal Bridge opens to let boats pass today, a worker with a hammer must sometimes lock it back into place while stranded commuters wait, and that Hudson River tunnel has just a few years of life left. If we fail to replace it in time, we will be dealing a crippling blow to the economy of our region and our country.

That is why it is so urgent and important that we get the Gateway Tunnel project built.

Madam Speaker, in New Jersey, when we say we want to build bridges, not walls, that is not just a metaphor. We mean it literally. The \$5.7 billion that would be wasted to wall off America from Mexico happens to be almost exactly the Federal share of building a new Hudson River tunnel that would keep Americans connected to each other and, ultimately, to the world.

These are the real choices that we face. Is there any doubt what the voters who sent us here would have us choose: building something that millions of people living in my State and neighboring States say they desperately need, or something people living on the border say they do not need? A symbol of national progress, or a symbol of national fear? Is there any question at all?

That is one reason why I am introducing this bipartisan bill today, which is meant to clear one of the artificial obstacles the Department of Transportation has placed in the path of the Gateway Tunnel.

The Department has argued that when States take advantage of Federal transportation loans to pay some of

their share of projects jointly funded by the Federal Government, like Gateway, those loans don't count as part of the State contribution to the project.

It makes no sense. State taxpayers, after all, are 100 percent obligated to pay back those loans. It is like saying that I am not actually paying for my house because I have taken out a mortgage.

Our bill makes crystal clear that States can use Federal loans to cover all or part of their share of these projects.

Speaking of taxpayers, Madam Speaker, I represent a State where we get only 74 cents back from Washington for every dollar we pay in taxes. That is the worst ratio in the country. The average American gets \$1.12 back for every dollar he or she pays, courtesy of the Federal deficit.

What we ask, with strong justification, is that Washington give a bit more back in the form of investment in the infrastructure that powers States like New Jersey and, in turn, enables us to power the American economy.

I hope we will make progress on that this year and that this bill will make the task a little bit easier.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked 1 full month of this unnecessary government shutdown, and 800,000 Federal employees are set to miss their second paycheck later this week.

The shutdown is not only affecting those workers, but we are seeing ripple effects of agencies being closed or staff being downsized. Food banks are seeing massive increases, some almost twelve-fold, in demand from Federal employees, but also people who rely on help like Section 8 housing checks or SNAP benefits.

Here is some of what I am hearing. I heard from a constituent who is a career employee at the FAA that "it is frustrating that thousands of hard-working Federal employees have become innocent pawns in the current Washington standoff between Congress and the President over funding for border security. As an integral part of the Nation's air traffic control system, my focus has always been and will always be on safety."

He goes on: "My dedicated colleagues and I at the FAA work tirelessly in furtherance of the agency's mission of providing the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world, despite some of us now doing so without pay."

I have also heard from a woman whose husband is a Federal agent at the FDA. "My question," she says, "is how are we going to make ends meet without a paycheck from my husband this Friday? We adopted our sweet son a year and a half ago, draining our savings account to do so. We currently do