

not have savings to fall back on during this time.

“How are we supposed to pay our rent, our bills, keep food on the table for our family, or pay for an emergency should it arise? I do have a full-time job that will at least bring us some income during this shutdown, and I am sure we are luckier than most Federal-employed families, but I can assure you that our family is in true panic mode.

“We have been doing everything in our power to ensure our family would be able to purchase a home this summer. How do we explain to creditors that we don’t have the money to pay them right now without it affecting our credit?”

I have also heard from a constituent who is a furloughed Federal worker who is “forced to come to work every day without pay due to the partial government shutdown.

“Every day that goes by, the stress and anxiety about not having a paycheck and having to support my family, all the while having to incur the costs of going to work every day, mounts. To top this all off, as an ‘excepted,’ or an ‘exempt,’ employee, under current Federal law, I am not allowed to apply for nor can I receive unemployment compensation.”

I have also heard from a local business owner who contracts with Federal entities. He says: “My work has ground to a halt. I won’t be compensated for any downtime, and I will have to reduce my workforce. We don’t need a wall; we don’t need to waste money; and we don’t need symbolic racism. We need an open government that manages land, services, travel, and commerce. Please apply pressure to get the government open and our district’s Federal employees, contractors, and private-sector partners back to work.”

I have heard from a constituent who served 40 years in the Coast Guard, under many different administrations, who said: “Worst of all, it is negatively impacting the most junior members of our workforce. These are the people you will meet if you ever take your family out boating on Puget Sound or the navigable waters of this country and experience some form of distress. As a retiree, I will not be paid at the end of this month, a statement I once believed I would never have to say.”

I have heard from a social worker whose client left a domestic violence situation and recently received a letter about discontinuation of Section 8 housing benefits: “This family, without this support, will be homeless once again, let alone the emotional strain that this is causing. Please do what you can,” she says, “to prevent the stress on our most vulnerable.”

The shutdown must end now. Federal employees and their families should not be held hostage for a wasteful and ineffective wall. People who rely on assistance from the Federal Government are now caught in the fray.

The House now has voted nine times to reopen the government with bipar-

tisan bills that have similar language to what the Republican Senate passed in December, and we will introduce similar legislation today, giving Republicans in the Senate yet another opportunity to open the government.

I will not support reopening the government in exchange for the President’s wall. This hostage-taking strategy must not be a successful one, or we will see it again.

The wall, as he defines it, is a monument to racism and xenophobia, an environmental disaster, and a huge waste of hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Let’s be clear that what Mr. Trump offered as a “compromise” on Saturday doesn’t even undo the damage he alone has caused. That is no compromise; that is lip service.

Get the government open, and then we can have an informed, evidence-based discussion about the best way to protect our borders without holding the American people hostage.

#### HOSTAGE TAKING

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise once again as a proud American. I love my country. I love what it stands for, in terms of its great ideals. And, Madam Speaker, as a proud American, I rise today to address the question of hostage taking.

One of the principles that we employ in international diplomacy—and I am being a little bit euphemistic by saying “international diplomacy”—is that of not negotiating with hostage takers.

If you take one of our planes, hijack one of our planes, and you demand a ransom, we will not negotiate with you. Grab an American off the streets in some distant place, and we will not negotiate with you.

It doesn’t matter that you start out at \$50 million and then reduce your desire to have a ransom to \$10 million, maybe. We don’t negotiate with you. You are a hostage taker.

The United States of America, the greatest and richest country in the world, which can pay the price, refuses to negotiate with hostage takers.

Madam Speaker, this is bigger than the President. This is about whether or not we will allow any President to take hostages and demand a ransom that must be paid or else the hostages will continue to suffer. This is about whether we will allow any President to do this—not just a Republican President, any President.

It is un-American to take persons hostage within this country and demand a ransom when we wouldn’t allow it on the international stage.

I am a person who decided that it was appropriate to meet with the hostages, and I did. I met with the hostages who work with the IRS. I heard their clarion call for help, their appeal for some understanding.

When I met with them, it became very clear to me that there is pain be-

yond the pain of not having the check to pay the bills.

Some of these persons literally indicated that they were having some mental concerns that would have to be addressed because they played by the rules. They have come to work; they have done their jobs; and now they find themselves in this most tenuous position of being denied the wages they have earned.

□ 1115

There is something wrong when a President will hold people hostage to the extent that they have mental issues as a result of the hostage taking.

One of the things called to my attention was that they don’t believe that this all ends with them the moment they are allowed to go back to work and receive the wages that they have earned. They believe that they may have to have some additional counseling to help them through and to better cope with the experience that they never contemplated they would have as a result of being employed by the United States of America, the richest country in the world.

This is bigger than this President. It is about him, but it is bigger than him. It is about whether or not we will allow hostage taking within the country and yield to it, or will we demand that we do what we continue to say is our bedrock principle when it comes to negotiating with hostages on the international stage, and that is, you release our people; you let them go.

Mr. President, let our people go. You have become a modern-day pharaoh. You are holding people hostage, Mr. President. Don’t you see what you are doing to the fiber and fabric of this country? Don’t you see how you are ripping it apart? You are a modern-day pharaoh. Let our people go.

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

#### 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 16 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

God of wisdom and peace, thank You for giving us another day.

As this partial government shutdown continues, help the Members of this assembly to open their hearts to Your love and to surrender their hopes and desires to Your purposes.

Pour out Your spirit of wisdom on each Member that today's deliberations might best respond to the pressing issues of the day. While disagreement abounds in Washington, thousands are in need of relief.

Bless those Americans who locally are stepping forward to assist those charged with serving to secure our safe travel and our borders and who are missing their second paycheck.

May humility and compassion be manifest among those who have the power to bring this impasse to an end.

Lord, have mercy on us.

May everything we do be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

**Mr. CROW.** Madam 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. CROW.** Madam 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

**THE SPEAKER.** Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO), the whole number of the House is 433.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

**THE SPEAKER.** The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

**Ms. LEE** of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday was the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court decision that affirmed the constitutional right to an abortion.

This decision allowed millions of women to come out of the shadows and access lifesaving reproductive care, yet antiabortion laws and sustained attacks on women's access to the full range of reproductive healthcare continue to push abortion coverage out of the reach for too many people.

Since 2011, State lawmakers have passed more than 400 laws that restrict abortion, and policies like the Hyde amendment have pushed coverage out of reach for millions of women, especially low-income women and women of color. That is why I have been proud to be the lead cosponsor of the EACH Woman Act, along with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE.

This legislation will end the harmful Hyde amendment and make sure that all people, regardless of where they live or how much they make, have access to a full range of reproductive healthcare.

Madam Speaker, I remember the days of back-alley abortions, and we cannot allow this administration to turn back the clock on women's access to abortion. It is time to be bold and end Hyde and lift all the bans that deny a full range of reproductive healthcare to all women.

#### IRANIAN PROXIES

(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, the murderous regime in Tehran has a very clear policy: death to America, death to Israel. That is why Iran trains, arms, and funds militia groups to fight its proxy wars throughout the Middle East.

In Iraq, these militias destabilize the country, weaken Baghdad's central authority, and do Iran's bidding. These militias directly threaten American interests in Iraq.

Many of them have American blood on their hands, but they are not being held accountable for their actions by our government. That is why I introduced H.R. 361, the Iranian Proxies Terrorist Sanctions Act, with my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee, BRAD SHERMAN, STEVE CHABOT, and TOM SUOZZI.

This bill will finally sanction two notorious Iranian-controlled proxy groups in Iraq, including those responsible for the September 2018 attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and U.S. Consulate Mosul. Mr. Speaker, I urge

my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

#### GERTRUDE AND SOL SLOAN—INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I recently met with an extraordinary American by the name of Gertrude Sloan. Today, I rise to share her story and that of her late husband, Sol, both Holocaust survivors.

Sol and Gertrude were born in Romania into Jewish families, and both were taken by the Nazi regime and held in a camp in Auschwitz. In an oral history, Sol tells the horrors of the concentration camps: starvation, beatings, and family separations with fatal endings.

Of the 1.3 million people taken to Auschwitz, an estimated 1.1 million were killed. Sol and Gertrude made it out alive. They met at a displaced person's camp and were later sponsored by relatives to come to America. In 1955, they opened Sloan's Antiques on Buffalo's east side, which continues to be operated by their son Max today.

I share the Sloans' story as we prepare to recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day. May it be a reminder of the unspeakable grief for the Holocaust and for the inspirational stories of those who survived.

#### GLOBAL TRADE ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, international trade is essential to America's economy and to American leadership. Today, I introduce the Global Trade Accountability Act, which seeks to establish this principle.

As a private-sector manufacturing business owner, I experienced the harmful effects of bad trade practices firsthand.

On trade, as with many other issues, Congress needs to work with President Trump to restore power to the American people. This bill does that by ensuring that the President has flexibility to change tariffs as needed in negotiations, but if the President wants the tariff to continue beyond 90 days, Congress would need to vote approving that action.

President Trump's commitment to put America first in trade is commendable in fulfilling his promise to American workers; however, the President should not be in this fight alone. Congress needs to join the fight to ensure these efforts are effectively moved forward for the entire country.

The Constitution clearly gives the legislative branch the responsibility to