

President Trump has asked Democrats to work with him to find a way to reopen the government and pay our furloughed employees, but Speaker PELOSI didn't even listen to the President's proposal before she rejected it this weekend.

This is ridiculous. The President offered a legitimate proposal with the compromises that Democrats asked for, the same priorities that Speaker PELOSI talked about just last year. In return, he wants the funding to solve the crisis at our border.

This is bigger than partisan games. This is the lives and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Americans. Let's stop stonewalling, stop the theatrics, and do our jobs.

SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what my good friends have not heard is the outrage and cry of the desperate Federal workers, some sending their children to relatives because they cannot support them, museums shut down costing \$4 million, TSA officers not able to come to work, and air traffic controllers suffering.

Today, Democrats did again what they have done over and over again. The message is: Mr. President, open the government, pay the workers now, and let us sit down at the table of reconciliation and iron out the question of border security.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I have voted time after time as a Democrat for border security—barriers, drones, technology, jeeps, and laptops. I know what it is. I am from a border State. I have been to the borders in the daylight and in the dark.

Today, we voted to open up Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, financial services, environment, Transportation, Housing, and all of the law enforcement we voted for.

Our simple cry is: Mr. President, understand the pain of America. Open the government, pay the workers, and let's get down to the business of negotiating on behalf of the American people.

HONORING AL AND CHERYL HODGE

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Hodge, Jr., and as anyone who knows Al will attest, my remarks would not be complete without a recognition of Al's talented wife, Cheryl.

Over the past 21 years, Al has served as president and CEO of the Rome, Floyd County, Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to his hard work, employers—including Suzuki, Pirelli, Neaton, and

Lowe's—have brought more than \$1.2 billion of direct investment to our region and thousands of jobs.

But Al's success would not be possible without Cheryl. Cheryl is not just a supportive wife, mother, and grandmother. She is a Rome institution in her own right. A talented artist active with the Rome Area Council for the Arts, Cheryl is best known for her beautiful water colors, one of which is hanging in my office right here in Washington, D.C.

I pray for the best for Al and Cheryl, wherever life takes them. They came to Rome over 20 years ago, and it is certainly a better place today because of them.

Al and Cheryl, thank you and God bless.

WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New York State Legislature for passing the DREAM Act. States have had to step up because of the Trump shutdown, because of our inability to move forward and recognize that this continues to be a nation of immigrants.

So States like New York today had to pass the DREAM Act to allow in young people, many of whom are nurses, doctors, members of our Armed Forces, and teachers who are contributing to our communities across the country. All they want is a shot to be part of the American Dream, because this is a nation of immigrants.

The DREAM Act today in the New York State Legislature was named after my good friend who passed this year, unfortunately, Senator Jose Peralta.

I congratulate New York. That lady still stands in the harbor with her torch lighting the bay for everyone across the world, because we are a nation of immigrants.

SCHOOL CHOICE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate National School Choice Week. Every child and family is unique in their own way, and when it comes to learning, it is no different. National School Choice Week shines a bright spotlight on effective educational options for children.

At the heart of our American values is the belief that we can all pursue happiness through hard work and dedication on the path to achieve the American Dream. This path starts at a young age, and school choice empowers parents and families to choose the best educational environment for their child, ensuring that the American Dream can become a reality.

In the town of Dublin in my district, school choice starts in elementary school where students are encouraged to find their passions early on and are provided with the tools to succeed. And it has worked. Dublin City Schools have a 90 percent graduation rate, with Dublin High School reaching almost 97 percent.

As a proud school choice supporter and member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I look forward to continuing my work highlighting the effect of school choice in Georgia and throughout the Nation.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN'S IMPACT ON CENTRAL VIRGINIANS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share another story of how this reckless shutdown is hurting real people in real communities, including in central Virginia.

Chesterfield, Virginia, resident Donna Ingram has worked for the U.S. Department of the Treasury for 15 years. She is a mother of two, and because of the shutdown, she is worried about her ability to make ends meet. Earlier this month, Donna's pay stub showed the word "furloughed," and her paycheck showed the number zero.

Donna is currently in the middle of medical treatment, but because of the shutdown's financial harm, she has been forced to discontinue her treatment. Donna said her livelihood is at stake and that she could lose everything she has worked so hard for over the past 15 years.

Donna said that Federal employees like her want to work; they want to serve our government and our communities; and they want to continue their service.

Yet this is how we treat our public servants here in the United States? Are they bargaining chips?

I will continue to push for an immediate end to the shutdown, because I do not think they should ever be used as bargaining chips. There are hundreds of thousands of hardworking Federal employees like Donna who are depending on us, their elected officials, to do our jobs, to open this government, and to restore the function of our government.

END THIS SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I am new here, but I am almost speechless. We just had, moments ago, a vote that would have provided pay to the Federal workers who have not received their paychecks this year.

Americans agree that we must provide for our border security, reopen the

government, and end this shutdown. But since House Democratic leadership has refused to come to the table and negotiate in good faith, the least we could do is ensure our Federal workers don't suffer because of Washington's dysfunction.

Last week, only six Democrats joined every Republican to vote to pay our workers. This vote took place moments ago, and 10 Democrats joined us again. We have heard speeches today on the floor, in the media, and all over the news by Democrats who claim to empathize with Federal workers who have gone unpaid. But when they had the chance today to pay them, for the most part, they have declined.

We need to listen to the people, pay our Federal workers, secure our borders, and end this shutdown.

SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, working families in Utah are now facing another lost pay period. Through no fault of their own, they are suffering from the last Congress' failure to pass bills to fund government operations and our inability now to get an agreement to end the shutdown.

This weekend, I heard stories firsthand. Family members are facing medical issues due to the stress of wondering when a spouse will be paid. IRS workers worry about missing the training they need to be ready for processing tax returns. Air traffic controllers are working hard to keep airplanes in proper airspace over the Salt Lake Valley but are going without normal staff backup and equipment maintenance.

One individual who has been in government service for 30 years as a member of the military and as a civilian has applied for other jobs, knowing that he is likely not going to get hired. Employers see too much uncertainty.

Small businesses are hurting because their customers don't have money to eat at local restaurants or shop in local stores. The shutdown is harming the entire American economy and every American.

As one worker said to me: Our jobs have nothing to do with the border.

They have had enough of political games. I support border security, and I support Dreamers, but we need to end the shutdown so that they can get back to work.

REMEMBERING MARSHALL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Marshall County community to honor and remember the precious lives of Preston

Cope and Bailey Holt. Preston and Bailey were victims of a tragic shooting at Marshall County High School in Benton, Kentucky, on this day last year.

Marshall County High School is comprised of a truly compassionate group of students, parents, and alumni who have demonstrated the resiliency of this community in the wake of such devastation.

Preston Cope and Bailey Holt remain in our hearts as we remember and honor all that these young, bright individuals brought to their families, friends, school, and community.

(1615)

TRUMP SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today addressing the damaging impact of Trump's senseless shutdown in the State of Michigan and in the 14th District.

Thirty days and Trump continues to hold the American people hostage over a wall that Mexico was supposed to pay for. Over 5,000 workers in the State of Michigan continue to suffer.

My constituents are suffering the hardships because of this shutdown. A constituent from Southfield, Michigan, wrote:

I have worked for the Federal Government for over 30 years. I have given 100 percent in my career with the IRS, and now I am facing the possibility of not being able to pay my mortgage because of this shutdown.

Our Federal Government is supported by a devoted workforce who are feeling like they have been taken for granted and used. This is unacceptable. Our hardworking Federal employees deserve so much better.

This shutdown is causing chaos and pain for our dedicated Federal workers in America. It must stop.

BRING THE COUNTRY TOGETHER FOR THE STATE OF THE UNION

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my objection and disappointment with the decision that was made to disinvite the President of the United States to address this Chamber for the State of the Union.

I would like to commend Majority Leader STENY HOYER, who, just yesterday, said he would welcome the President here to the Chamber this upcoming Tuesday.

This decision that was made is not one to bring this House together. That is a decision that is not one to move our country forward. I object. And many others in this Chamber do as well, and I believe many Democrats do.

Then I hear that we are about to leave again? I say we stay here. We should all be in one room. No phones,

no pay, no one is leaving the room until we have a deal and there is white smoke.

That is how to lead, not to set us backward, as we are seeing again by the Speaker's decision today.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, this week is National School Choice Week. It is when we shine a light on the educational opportunities when they are tailored to the individual student.

I was raised by four academics, and they would be the first to tell you that, in order to empower young people to develop into the type of adults who can solve the problems of tomorrow, their educational experiences need to be tailored.

No parent, no teacher, no student wants an ill-fitting educational experience.

Education is the great equalizer. It is the combat multiplier. It is the path that leads toward American dreams.

God bless the American student. God bless the American teacher.

READING OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to address the House today as we come together as Members of the House and read our U.S. Constitution.

Long-time British Prime Minister William Gladstone in 1878 said: "The most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by brain and purpose of man." That is how he described the U.S. Constitution.

For 2 centuries the Constitution has dedicated the structure of our remarkable Republic and created the operation of the consent of the governed and the protection of a free people's individual rights.

All of us who work here in the people's House marvel at its daily majesty, of James Madison's checks and balances, separation of powers, and the institutional hybrid of Federalism.

Today, we gather at the heart of the Capitol, the heart of Article I, the first branch, to read our governing document:

"We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Article I, Section 1: