

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to come to the table and urge Speaker PELOSI to come to the table to negotiate an end to this shutdown.

This week, Democrats called us back to Washington to solve this problem, but they voted against paying Federal workers three times over the past week, while Republicans have been standing up for those who have now missed paychecks.

It has been 15 days since the Speaker has sat down to negotiate with the President.

Last week, I went to the White House for what was supposed to be a bipartisan meeting to discuss ending this shutdown and, unfortunately, none of my Democratic colleagues showed up.

Before Democrats even heard President Trump's proposal offering a solution for DACA recipients and TPS individuals in return for border security, they rejected it.

Speaker PELOSI gave the longest speech ever in this Chamber, on protecting DACA recipients, but now she is refusing to provide certainty for them.

We have an opportunity to get real border security and protect DACA recipients. It is time to set politics aside and for the Speaker of the House to go to the table, end this shutdown, and negotiate a deal with the President.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I was in my district over the weekend. We had a couple of marches. We had a Women's March. We had a march for MLK Day.

A man approached me, and he said: Representative KIRKPATRICK, I work for the National Park Service. I am furloughed. I have no income. I have missed two paychecks.

He said: My 9-year-old son gave me his Christmas gift card to help our family get by.

He had tears in his eyes, and I am tearing right now just telling that story, because this shutdown is affecting families, children.

The instability that these children are feeling—and we don't talk about that enough—is going to affect them for the rest of their lives.

We have got to open the government, and we have got to do it now.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I received an email Friday night from a young lawyer I know in northern Virginia. I met him last year when he had just hung out his shingle for a solo practice.

He was desperate. His one big client is a Federal Government contractor who told him he would not be paid for December or for January because of the government shutdown.

He wrote me because he had just received an eviction notice from his landlord: come up with the rent for January by Wednesday, noon, or face immediate eviction.

I connected him with our local government office on emergency assistance. He got some meaningful help. He reached out to a few nonprofits and got some more. He was only \$800 short yesterday, and the landlord agreed to wait another month.

Yes, the shutdown has left 800,000 Federal employees without the money for life's necessities, but it is also harming American citizens far and wide, cruelly and unnecessarily, victims of the inevitable multiplier effects of a Federal Government failing its fiscal responsibility.

This should be the last ever Federal shutdown. We must never again give a President the power to hold the most powerful and best managed government hostage to his whims, obsessions, and political knavery.

Mr. President, let our people go.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, to all my colleagues, I apologize. I may speak just a little longer than 1 minute—not much.

Madam Speaker, I was sitting in my office just a few minutes ago and Representative MICHAEL WALTZ, whom I do not know, from the State of Florida rose and said he was here in an empty Capitol.

Scores of my fellow Democrats are here because they are outraged that we have shut down the people's government, and they are here, Mr. WALTZ, to urge the President of the United States and MITCH MCCONNELL to open up the people's government. That is why they are here. They haven't gone home, Congressman WALTZ. We are here.

I don't see anybody over here.

Madam Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in highlighting the absurdity of the Trump-McConnell shutdown and share some of the ways, just some few ways, it is affecting Americans in my district.

Now, you can go to this website, trumpshutdownstories.us, and get scores more stories than I will be able to tell on this floor in this short time I will speak.

Maryland's Fifth District, which I have the great honor of having rep-

resented for the last 38 years, has 62,000 Federal employees, tens of thousands of whom are not getting paid, and some who are being forced—no, who are voluntarily working because they love this country and they love their jobs, and they are working without pay.

Is that any way to treat any employee, much less an employee working for their government?

One woman from Prince George's County, Maryland, wrote to tell me that her husband, an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, is furloughed. She isn't working because they have an infant, and he, the only source of their income.

Another constituent wrote to tell me that he serves in the Coast Guard. He said:

As I was putting my 9-year-old son to bed last night, he asked me, "Dad, how come they are making you work without pay?"

He went on to say:

I gave him an answer about having taken an oath and that it is my duty to serve, but he was still confused.

I share that young child's concern and confusion. Why would we do this? What would lead us to show such disrespect for those who carry out our policy?

All Americans should be confused about why our hardworking public servants would be forced to work without pay or be told to go home and wait while a paycheck doesn't come.

It is not just Federal employees and contractors who are affected.

And, by the way, we are going to repay the Federal employees, as we should. But the contractors, the small business people, the small shop owners in my district who have thousands of their customers who aren't being paid and, therefore, are not customers.

One woman from St. Mary's County, the county in which I live, said:

We were scheduled to close on our home on January 11, and we received a phone call 3 days before that we would not be going to closing because our loan was on hold due to the government shutdown. A time that is supposed to be the happiest, and here we sit with our house in boxes and living week to week with a landlord. We don't know if we will lose our home.

Madam Speaker, I would tell President Trump to listen to these stories, listen to the humanity that must be in you, be sympathetic, be empathetic, be caring about these people who are your constituents, whom you are pledged to protect.

Madam Speaker, I would ask the President and Senator MCCONNELL to hear the voices of men and women their shutdown policies are hurting. They are going to hear many more stories.

Democrats have voted now 11 times to end this shutdown, and Republicans and the President have blocked these measures again and again.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, to those who might be listening: We passed Republican bills to open up this government—not our bills, not partisan bills,

but Republican, Senate-passed bills which would have opened up the government.

Madam Speaker, because we care so deeply about our constituents who either work for or are served by our government, we will continue to do everything possible to reopen government and share the stories of those being held hostage by the President and Senator MCCONNELL.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for being on this floor to bring their stories of their constituents, of the President's constituents, to his attention, as well as Senator MCCONNELL.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to call on President Trump and the Senate to reopen the Federal Government immediately.

A legion of Federal workers went to work again this morning with no idea how or when they will be able to pay their bills or support their families, workers like Tracy from my hometown of Amsterdam, New York.

Tracy has worked for the USDA for more than three decades helping up-state New York farmers, with nowhere else to turn, find the funds they need to stay afloat for another season.

She says: "When you start to lose farms, equipment dealers go out of business. Everybody suffers—the charities, the churches. If you can't pay your bills, you can't go to the local pancake breakfast on Sunday" to help a not-for-profit.

This weekend, bitter cold hit New York's capital region. Tracy tells me she hasn't gone down to the basement because she is afraid to see the level of heating oil left in her tank.

Just as tough is the mental toll this shutdown is taking. Until recently, Tracy was furloughed. Now she is working, working without pay. She worries about the farmers who rely on USDA loans to get seed and fertilizer for the coming season.

When asked what she would say if she were standing here in this spot today, she said: "We need to take care of one another. It doesn't matter what party you are. We need to help and uplift each other."

Madam Speaker, I urge the United States Senate to heed Tracy's call, move forward with any one of the many bills that we have passed here in the House to reopen this government, restore paychecks to our dedicated Federal workers and the critical services they provide to our neighbors who need it, who need it most.

□ 1615

TRUMP SHUTDOWN

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address

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

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I went to the Jose Andres food bank in Washington, D.C., for Federal workers. I was stunned to see hundreds waiting in line in the rain.

Inside, they were giving a hot meal to everybody, as well as fresh vegetables, diapers, and feminine products. And they were assisting those who were in danger of missing utility payments.

As I served the workers, I asked them what their jobs were. They worked for the FBI, the Department of Justice, and the D.C. Superior Court.

How many of these workers were served by this food bank yesterday? Eleven thousand.

They are like the Federal workers in my district, people like Catherine, who has back problems and now can't afford the copay for physical therapy and epidurals, or Eric, who told me he had to defer car maintenance in order to avoid missing his son's college tuition payment.

This suffering could end right now. But instead of ending their pain, Trump ignores it. Just this morning, his Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, said he could not understand why furloughed workers have to go to food banks. Well, I say: End this shutdown today.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, this shutdown is causing fear, pain, and stress for thousands of families in central Florida.

Now, this may be confusing to the President and to Senator MCCONNELL, but to Brandon and his wife, who both have Federal jobs in my district and zero income coming in, it is all too clear.

It is all too clear to Ralph, an Army veteran who is trying to juggle expenses for three children, including a special needs child.

It is all too clear to Doug, who keeps sensitive equipment working at the airport, but now he is struggling to cover daily expenses while also taking care of his mother.

It is all too clear, Madam Speaker, to my constituent Jeff, a Coast Guard retiree, now a civilian employee, who is working to raise money to help current Coast Guard servicemen. But Jeff himself is also not receiving a paycheck.

Families like these—and there are hundreds of thousands of them—are real people with real pain.

The President and Senator MCCONNELL need to do the right thing and put an end to this destructive shutdown now.

DO YOUR JOBS, NOT PRESIDENT'S BIDDING

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because what our country is going through is a disgrace: 800,000 Federal workers are going without a paycheck. They are suffering, and their families are suffering, all because the President wants a wall that is nothing more than a monument to hate. The American people are tired of this President's games.

Last night, I called some constituents who had contacted my office because they are furloughed due to the Trump shutdown.

I talked to a Forest Service worker from my district who has missed a paycheck and doesn't want to be used as a bargaining chip by the President.

I talked to another constituent who works at the National Archives and is experiencing the consequences of this shutdown. She knows that the longer this drags on, the more people who will get hurt.

Last night, I received a heart-wrenching message from a constituent who is experiencing hardship and needs to apply for assistance programs, but she can't because she can't even access the information she needs from the Office of Personnel Management.

This has to end. We have voted not once, not twice, but 11 times to reopen the government. Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans have blocked these bills in the Senate every step of the way. To them, I say: Enough. Do your jobs, not the President's bidding. 800,000 workers and the rest of the American people demand it, and so do we.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

SHUTTING DOWN GOVERNMENT IS FAILED POLICY

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of Megan and Rick, and their children, from Pennsylvania's Sixth.

Rick answered the call after 9/11 to join the Air National Guard. He was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2008, and then hired as an air traffic controller on a veteran preference. Currently, the family's only income is Rick's.

In day 34, Megan now is selling items online to try to get income for their family because they have no idea how long this shutdown will last. She has called their daughter's preschool to see if they can withdraw her and get a refund for the remainder of the school year. She now has an appointment with SNAP this week for food assistance for her and her family.

Rick loves his job. He takes pride in what he does, but this is taking a toll on him as well. The family's last-ditch plan is to pull from their 401(k)'s and