

incur severe penalties to be able to keep a roof over their heads.

This tragedy is playing out in household after household in my community.

I am a third generation veteran. Border protection is an imperative and a real issue, but a shutdown is not the answer. I rise for the people like Megan and Rick, because shutting down the government is failed policy.

END THE SHUTDOWN NOW

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my Republican colleagues, who continue to vote against reopening the government, how they respond to their constituents who are suffering during this inhumane shutdown.

For example, my office was contacted by the wife of a Federal corrections officer from South Carolina's Third District. Her husband works at the Federal prison in Edgefield, and she just had bariatric surgery and is unable to work. She is unable to afford the vitamins her doctor prescribed because they are not covered by insurance. Without these vitamins, she may develop deficiencies that could cause death.

To further add to their financial difficulties, her husband, as a correctional officer, was required to sign a document that he would not get another job. They sacrificed a lot to build the good credit score they have that this shutdown is impacting, and their family's finances will be affected well into the future.

Again, I ask my colleagues across the aisle: How do you respond to your constituents who are suffering?

They need leadership from the President, Leader McCONNELL, and House Republicans to end the shutdown now. Enough is enough.

IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, across my district, the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and across our country, this shutdown is hurting small businesses.

One of my constituents is an entrepreneur from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He recently emailed me to let me know that he can't get his mandatory employer ID number for the new business he is trying to start because the IRS is shut down. Until he gets that number, he can't set up payroll for his employees or open a company bank account.

Another constituent from Emmaus, Pennsylvania, processes Small Business Administration-backed loans to

entrepreneurs trying to start or expand businesses. But, as he explains, since the SBA has been shut down, no small business loans have been going out. For many, that means no access to capital at reasonable interest rates and having to turn to loan sharks to keep businesses afloat.

And let us never forget that our Coast Guard is still working without pay.

We were sent here to make people's lives better, not make them harder and more stressful than they already are. Members of both parties need to come together to support our military and the small businesses that power our economy, and that means ending this shutdown.

LET THEM EAT CAKE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let them eat cake—Marie Antoinette.

The Secretary of Commerce has indicated that my \$28,000-paid TSA agent can walk into the Nation's banks and demand a loan. Well, right now, in my district, the city and other good neighbors are opening their doors to give free groceries to those TSOs and other wonderful Federal workers. I don't know what bank they can go into.

I can tell you that Edith, who just returned from deployment in the Middle East, is suffering. She hasn't worked for 25 days. To make matters worse, she has to take temporary work in order to help pay for her children. She now is selling personal possessions to make a difference.

Sandra, who recently came to Houston to work at NASA, came to start on January 7 from Nebraska. She hasn't been able to work; she doesn't have a job; and she doesn't have any money.

Or what about Linda, who has been working and now has to work extra shifts to help pay for her children? She, too, is selling her items for rent, groceries, everything that is needed.

Let them eat cake. That is what is being said by this administration.

Open the government. Pay our workers now.

Mr. Republican, join us in the 11 times that we have voted to open the government now.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in condemning the President's decision to shut down the federal government, furloughing 800,000 civil servants and forcing nearly half that many to work without pay, and which is costing the economy more than \$1 billion each day in lost productive and economic output.

As the Trump Shutdown enters its thirty-fourth day, the effects of President Trump and Republicans' reckless decision to shutter the government over a wasteful and unnecessary border wall are obvious.

A continuing resolution could be passed that would provide funding for the federal government through February 28, 2019 but it has not been done.

Frontline federal employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, have been working without pay since December 22. So many people have risked their lives in order to serve this country and the way they have been treated

This includes around 14,000 FBI agents, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents, 47,000 Transportation Security Officers, and 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

TSA employees received their last paycheck on December 28, this single paycheck will now have to stretch much further than they initially anticipated.

The shutdown has already forced some employees to look for new jobs or take on extra work, and the pressure is immense for employees and families with no other source of income.

Among those not receiving a pay check for their work are 3,200 Secret Service agents who risk their lives every single day to protect President Trump and his family.

Speaker Pelosi's decision to delay the State of the Union is in defense of the Secret Service agents who would be forced to work without pay.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and NASA have been furloughed without pay, plunging them and their families into uncertainty.

These are real American families that are being put through an unwarranted and unnecessary shutdown, and they are suffering because of it.

With many federal employees being furloughed, and those deemed essential being expected to work without pay American families are now stuck wondering how they are going to get by without an income, especially since things like rent, groceries, children's prescriptions and general day-to-day living costs must still be paid whether the government is fully functional or not.

The Trump Shutdown will end when the President comes to his senses.

The Republican members of the House and the Republican controlled Senate can send a message to the President to end the shutdown by voting a veto proof margin in favor of a short term continuing resolution.

Not only are Americans struggling to pay for their day-to-day expenses but veterans and military families are suffering as well.

The shutdown has lasted long enough that the Department of Veterans Affairs has said that it may not have enough money to pay disability claims and pension payments.

This could affect approximately 3.6 million veterans.

The military is also suffering in other areas. For example, changes of station for military personnel will be delayed and facility and weapons maintenance could be suspended.

Military commissaries (base grocery stores) have shut down and military families are being forced to shop elsewhere, costing up to 30 percent more on average than at the commissaries.

The United States Coast Guard is still without funding.

This is an added expense that adds up quickly, especially for military families living in cities with a high cost of living.

Edith Banda who recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East is

among thousands of people in the Houston area feeling the impact of the government shutdown.

Edith has not worked her federal job in downtown Houston since the shutdown 25 days ago.

Making matters worse, she and dozens of others in Houston are unable to seek temporary private sector work because such jobs require permission, and the people who process those requests have been furloughed.

Edith has begun selling her personal possessions to make ends meet, but she said another couple of weeks of no work would be crushing.

There are so many other issues that we could tackle with the money Trump wants to spend on the wall.

With an increase of \$265 million the Department of Justice could hire 2,000 new police officers and make steps towards making many communities a safer place.

With an increase of \$99 million the Office of National Drug Control Policy could support community-level efforts to address substance abuse programs in nearly 730 additional communities.

With an increase of \$200 million the Economic Development Administration could create or preserve 31,000 jobs for our hard-working Americans.

With an additional \$20 million Small Business Administration grants could support dozens more Women's Business and Veterans Outreach Centers providing business training, counseling and outreach to 47,000 additional U.S. veterans and women.

These are the changes that American citizens deserve.

Madam Speaker, it is critical that the President ends this government shutdown and end the unwarranted suffering of American families across the nation.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN'S IMPACT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, over the past 34 days, we have heard that this shutdown is about security. Well, I am a former undercover CIA officer, so let's talk about security.

There is nothing secure about FBI agents working without pay. There is nothing secure about them closing down investigations and losing their informants, their counterterrorism informants.

There is nothing secure about TSA employees who keep us safe in the airspace working without pay.

There is nothing secure about our Customs and Border Patrol agents, who work along the very border we are discussing, working without pay.

There is nothing secure about our air traffic controllers working 10 hours a day to keep our airplanes safe in the air.

There is nothing secure about our diplomats, who work in war zones and around the world to keep this country safe, working without pay.

There is nothing secure about the 42,000 dedicated members of the U.S.

Coast Guard working without pay as they defend our shores.

The public servants who work every single day to protect the lives of their fellow American citizens deserve better. I know this because I used to be one of them.

This shutdown is a disgrace. It is hurting our national security. We must end it now so that Americans can sleep safely at night; Federal workers can receive the paychecks they have earned; and our country's military, economic, and diplomatic strength can be preserved before it is too late.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to share the story of Laurie Wall, a Las Vegas resident, a mother of three, and a Federal employee denied a paycheck because of this government shutdown.

Like many of Nevada's Federal employees, Laurie is still reporting to work every single day, doing her job on behalf of the American people. But because she is not getting paid, Laurie also has to add trips to the local food bank to pick up needed food and diapers for her family.

Because of this shutdown, 3,520 Nevada-based Federal employees are being denied a paycheck; 30,000 southern Nevadans are at risk of homelessness because of reduced housing assistance; and 34,000 people in my district could lose their nutritional assistance.

The House has already voted 11 times to reopen the government. It is long past time that the Senate does the same and stops holding Nevadans like Laurie Wall hostage.

OPEN UP THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, here we are in the fifth week of this shutdown.

I want to talk about two stories.

One is Tyler. He is a resident of Golden, Colorado. I have known his family a long time. He has two small children. He says: Two weeks ago, I received a certificate from the United States of America thanking me for working for the air traffic controllers for 10 years. The same day, I got a check for zero dollars.

Then I want to talk about a young woman who works for the EPA. She has two children with disabilities. She is a patriot. She has a chemistry degree. She could work in a million different places. She wanted to work for us, for the United States of America, to serve the public, to give back to the United States. But now she has to question, with two young kids with disabilities, whether she can do this any-

more. She expected us to be reliable as employers, and we are not.

We are better than this, Mr. President. Open up the government.

□ 1630

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, every day I hear from constituents about how this manufactured crisis is hurting them and hurting their families. MITCH MCCONNELL's and President Trump's refusal to reopen government has consequences for real people.

A Marine veteran from Bay City, Michigan, won't receive his monthly housing allowance this week that he needs to pay his rent and make his car payment. His words to me were this: "I never thought the President would be putting us veterans that he says he loves so much in harm's way just to get money for his harebrained immigration solution."

That is from a United States veteran who served this country and is now being treated by the President of the United States as a pawn in a political game to get something that he is not willing to submit to the legislative process.

Shame on this President. Shame on him. Open this government. Do it now.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the good people of the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, who are helping their neighbors, the Federal workers, contractors, and families who have been so grievously impacted by the government shutdown.

As the human and financial toll of this senseless shutdown has spread, we have seen locals step up and help those who are struggling without pay. What a contrast with this administration where Cabinet members said today that they didn't understand why an unpaid worker might have to resort to a food bank to feed his family.

Unlike this administration and the Senate majority leader, our neighbors have recognized the true impact of the shutdown and are doing something about it. We have seen youth groups, and fire departments, and local organizations organize food drives. Nonprofits are collecting donations and organizing food pantries so Federal workers can feed their families.

I urge the President and the Senate majority leader to put people before politics. People are not bargaining chips. The shutdown needs to end now.