

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.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, the time has come for the President to end this shutdown and put our Federal workers above political bickering. Hundreds of thousands of Federal workers, many of them veterans, continue to show up to work every day without pay. TSA employees, FBI employees, air traffic controllers, coastguardsmen and women as well as many others continue to make the security and safety of our Nation a top priority.

One such person that I spoke to is Lupe Mejia. Lupe is a veteran, who currently works for the FBI on counterterrorism issues. Her husband also works for the FBI, and neither one of them is getting paid.

During this shutdown, Lupe has been going to food banks to keep food costs down. Paying the bills has become a struggle, and she is trying to do this all without dipping into their family savings, but it is getting harder and harder each day.

Madam Speaker, I say to the President that his shutdown is causing hardship to families like Lupe's all across this country. Thirty-four days is long enough.

Let's do what is right and pay our Federal employees, especially those who put their lives on the line for our country. They deserve to be compensated for the work they do and the security they provide. Let's bring sanity back to government, and I call on the President to tomorrow end this shutdown.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, the pain from this Trump shutdown is being felt deeply in every corner of my district in New Mexico and across America.

We have farmers and ranchers that are unable to plan for their production. Tribal communities are facing disruptions in their healthcare services. People are not getting urgent questions answered by the IRS, and some families are worried that there are going to be liens put on their homes.

A local health clinic in my district, the Pecos Valley Medical Center had their Federal loan halted, even though the project has been approved, which means they can't draw down on funds. This means they will have to pause their efforts to expand access to mental healthcare and it could jeopardize the project.

Over 800,000 families, individuals across America are not being paid.

Over 150,000 veterans that are furloughed, some of them are working without being paid. Chef Jose Andres is feeding thousands of people who are lining up just down the street between here and the White House.

Madam Speaker, I say to the President, come outside and go see what Chef Andres is doing. These families are hurting. End this shutdown. It can end today.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I was elected to fight for the people of my district, to challenge the way things are done here in Washington, and make sure our government starts working for the people. But it can't work for the people when it is not working at all.

It is not working for Christy, a hardworking air traffic controller, veteran, and single mother of two who is terrified. When she doesn't get her paycheck tomorrow, she won't be able to feed her kids. She works a good job. She shouldn't be afraid of meeting her kids' basic needs, and now she is looking for a job at night as a bartender.

It is not working for Eric, a 17-year career employee at the Federal Aviation Agency. He wrote to me, "As an integral part of the Nation's air traffic control system, my focus has always been, and will always be, on safety."

That is true for so many of the law enforcement officials, aviation specialists, and firefighters who are affected by this shutdown. They are focusing on our safety, and in return, they are not receiving pay for their work. Every day, that safety becomes more and more compromised.

It is not working for Diane, who works for the Angeles National Forest and lives paycheck to paycheck as almost 80 percent of this country does. She is gearing up for the economic turmoil of not getting a second paycheck tomorrow.

It is not working for John, who protects us, as a Federal prison guard, from terrorists, who is now driving Uber after his shifts in order to pay the bills.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues, the President, and our fellow Senators to open the government right now.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this morning, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, the Marie Antoinette of the Trump administration, said he "doesn't understand why Federal work-

ers need to go to food banks." Oh, my God. He might as well have said: Let them eat cake.

This President and his Cabinet are so out of touch, it is pathetic. Here are just a few emails I have gotten this week.

A law enforcement officer in my district says: "We struggle, but pinch pennies so our child can attend a good school. My mortgage company put us in no-pay status. The shutdown is putting us at risk of losing our home."

A Customs and Border Patrol employee says: "We have bills to pay, like nursery school and daycare. What's going to happen to us? I am sick over this."

A Fish and Wildlife Service worker writes: "I am proud to serve the American public. But right now, I can't even serve my family dinner."

Madam Speaker, President Trump's publicity stunt is hurting America's hardworking public servants. It is cruel. Shame on him and shame on Majority Leader MCCONNELL for refusing to end this shutdown. He, along with the President, need to grow up. They need to do their job, and they need to reopen this government now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, at its most basic level, the government should keep us safe. On the 34th day of the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history, hundreds of thousands of Federal workers tasked with keeping us safe are working without pay.

As the men and women of TSA, air traffic control, the FBI, the United States Coast Guard, and many other government agencies continue to perform their duties, many live with the uncertainty and fear of not knowing how they are going to pay their mortgage or feed their families.

In less than 2 weeks, millions will come to Atlanta, Georgia, the district I represent, and they will be flooding in for the Super Bowl. Having been a flight attendant for 30 years, I am very afraid. I am deeply concerned for the Atlanta airport's TSA agents, air traffic controllers, and for the Federal agencies tasked with ensuring the public safety during this event.

President Trump said he would shut down the government for a wall that he claims will make us safer, but, in fact, his shutdown has made us less safe. I will continue, along with my Democratic colleagues, to support bipartisan funding packages to reopen the government.