

I want to honor all of them, and their families, that go every day, put on a uniform and protect all of us. And, in particular, I want to say thank you to my oldest son who, as a six year old, decided he wanted to be a police officer, and continues to serve every day protecting his family and our community.

And I want to thank all the law enforcement officers that, every day, get up to keep us safe.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last night, the President went on television in an attempt to justify his decision to shut down our government and plunge our country into chaos. He claims that we are in the middle of an emergency, and I actually agree with him on that. I just don't agree on what the emergency is.

It is an emergency that more than 5,200 Federal workers in Michigan are working without pay, or are furloughed.

It is an emergency that the Environmental Protection Agency has halted inspections of our drinking water systems.

And it is an emergency that our President is ready to spend, in his words, "years" prolonging this shutdown and hurting American families for the sake of an ineffective and expensive border wall.

On day 1, House Democrats took the first steps to clean up this mess by passing a complete funding package to reopen our government. Now we are preparing further action to reopen all government agencies, one by one, and remove any doubt that hardworking Americans will receive their tax refunds and the services they depend on.

Enough is enough. Michiganders can't afford one more day of the Trump shutdown.

PROTECTING AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the people of the Illinois 14th elected me as their Representative to protect their access to healthcare coverage and to make healthcare and prescription drugs more affordable.

I am a nurse, and I have a preexisting condition and so I know, personally, how critically important having high-quality affordable healthcare is for people.

Today, we are taking an essential step to protect access to affordable coverage from the GOP's cruel lawsuit which seeks to destroy the Affordable Care Act and its lifesaving protection.

My community sent me here to use my voice and my vote as their neighbor

and as a nurse, and I am proud to vote today to protect people with pre-existing conditions; to prohibit insurance companies from imposing lifetime and annual limits on health coverage; and to preserve young adults' ability to remain on their parents' insurance until age 26, and more.

I commend my colleague, Mr. ALLRED, and am proud to join my Democratic colleagues in wasting no time delivering on our promise to defeat Republican attacks on the Affordable Care Act, and to fight for the people, and to protect Americans with pre-existing conditions.

GUN SAFETY REFORM

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my condolences to the families of the three individuals whose lives were cut tragically short because of gun violence in my district.

Last Friday, a senseless shooting at a bowling alley in Torrance claimed the lives of Michael Radford, Robert Meekins, and Astin Edwards, while injuring four others.

Gable House Bowl, where the mass shooting took place, is a staple in my hometown. It is a place where I have visited; where my kids have celebrated birthdays; where folks in my community go to spend quality time together, and it should have been a place last Friday where people of all ages could have had fun safely.

My heart aches for the victims' families who lost their loved ones in a senseless, preventable manner. I am also dismayed that our community now joins an ever-growing cohort of communities touched by mass shootings.

Gun safety reform is a complicated task, but I am grateful that the House, now under Democratic leadership, is taking this challenge on. Yesterday, we introduced H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019, which is an excellent place to start addressing gun safety reform. We must continue to push for sensible gun safety measures.

DO THE RIGHT THING NOW

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

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, my district lies just outside of Washington, D.C., in northern Virginia, and is home to tens of thousands of Federal workers and contractors. Since I was sworn in on Thursday, I have received hundreds of calls, emails, and social media outreach from my constituents whose lives are upended. I would like to read one of those messages now.

I am a Federal employee who used the last of his discretionary funds this week to attend his grandfather's funeral. Now I'm pre-

paring to file for unemployment. My wife has to try to get a job despite her severe and crippling disability, and we've had to return some of the Christmas presents for ourselves, our four-year-old son, and our six-year-old daughter.

We've always lived paycheck to paycheck because of the high cost of living in northern Virginia, and we don't have the option to take out loans because we incurred so much debt moving to the area and dealing with our family's medical bills.

Right now I am contacting our utilities and mortgage company to see if we can push out the deadlines for bills. I gave up military service to join the civil service and have been so disheartened to see the lack of respect for our Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, we owe our Federal employees better than this. I call on the Senate and the President to do the right thing and end this shutdown now.

THE UNNECESSARY AND RECKLESS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. SHALALA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great disappointment that I rise today on the 19th day of this unnecessary and reckless government shutdown.

Just last week, this body passed the very same Republican funding bills that would open the government and keep Americans safe and secure.

My community in south Florida is home to one of the biggest airports in our Nation, Miami International Airport. Just yesterday, 130,000 passengers passed through the airport. Yet, TSA employees, air traffic controllers, and Customs and Border Protection agents who inspect international cargo are forced to work without pay, and must deal with the unbearable decision of choosing between paying for healthcare or putting food on the table.

Nearly a quarter of the households in my district rely on food stamps. If this shutdown continues, these families are at risk of losing access to food.

There is absolutely no reason why families should be evicted from their homes or go hungry because their nutrition benefits were left unprocessed.

There is absolutely no reason why the Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, and our national treasures around the country, must continue to rely on the kindness of devoted volunteers to keep them from deteriorating.

Mr. Speaker, I have been through a shutdown before. I oversaw 125,000 employees at HHS during the longest shutdown.

No one wins in a shutdown. It was painful.

MEDGAR EVERS HOME NATIONAL MONUMENT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce H.R.

356, the Medgar Evers Home National Monument Act. The home is located in Jackson, Mississippi.

The Evers family home, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2017, is hallowed ground for those of us who lived through the struggle for racial equality and desegregation. That single-story, ranch-style home bore witness to one of the most consequential monuments in the civil rights era, the assassination of Medgar Wiley Evers.

I am honored to, in my capacity as Congressman of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, to offer this legislation to honor the sacrifice of not just civil rights icon Medgar Evers, but his widow, Myrlie, by designating their home as a national monument.

Due to bipartisan efforts last Congress, this legislation passed through the Committee on Natural Resources and ultimately passed the House by unanimous consent. I am asking that we make this happen again and honor the legacy of an icon in American history, Medgar Wiley Evers.

I urge everyone to support this legislation.

LET'S REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT TODAY

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, we are about to witness the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. Hundreds of thousands of Federal employees, many in my own district, are not certain when or if their next paycheck is coming, and for what? For what? For a border wall?

Mr. Speaker, in San Diego, we know walls. We have a triple fence, and we know there are real concerns on the border. Let's work on solving those problems. Spending billions of dollars on a wall won't.

In San Diego, we have the most modern port of entry in the country. It works well to catch drugs and stop criminals. If the President wants border security, well, that, that should be our focus.

Paola Avila, of the San Diego Chamber said it best: "Our border region is an opportunity zone, not a danger zone."

Let's take that opportunity and work to improve our border, not waste money on a wall. And let's not waste any more time. Federal employees want to get back to work.

We have already passed legislation, bipartisan legislation, to end this shutdown. Let's reopen the government today.

□ 1230

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to deliver my first floor speech today speaking about an issue that is deeply personal to me, to the patients that I care for as a pediatrician, and to thousands of my constituents in Washington's Eighth District.

As you know, the lawful nature of the Affordable Care Act has been challenged, and if the decision stands, 17 million Americans will lose their health insurance. This includes many of my patients, children, and people with preexisting conditions.

Having seen families struggle to pay ever higher insurance premiums and deductibles every year, I understand that we need improvements in our system. The answer is to shore up the ACA, not dismantle it. And as the lone woman doctor in Congress and as a patient with type 1 diabetes, I look forward to leading that conversation.

The first step is to preserve the protections that we have now, and that is why I am so pleased that the House will take steps to intervene in this court case.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider the fates of their constituents who might not have access to medical care without the Affordable Care Act and to support this intervention. Millions of Americans and thousands in my district are counting on us.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 31

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Deutch, Chair.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Lofgren, Chair.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 264, FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 265, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 266, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 267, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019; AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 28 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 28

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House any bill specified in section 2 of this resolution. All points of order against consideration of each such bill are waived. Each such bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in each such bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on each such bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. The bills referred to in the first section of this resolution are as follows:

(a) The bill (H.R. 264) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

(b) The bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

(c) The bill (H.R. 266) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

(d) The bill (H.R. 267) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

SEC. 3. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of January 15, 2019, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.