

pay for protection at our southern border; but what they won't tell you is, if the U.S. were to grant amnesty or a path to citizenships for all illegal aliens currently living in our country, it would cost an estimated \$2.6 trillion. That is an easy choice from the perspective of \$5.7 billion as the price to pay for our national security.

We are facing unprecedented obstructionism from the Democrats, and we can't reward them by backing down. We can and will win if we continue to fight.

When I talk to people in my district, when you can break down why are we here, what our cause is, and what our principles are, they support us. People on the border that are border security guards support us.

That is why I believe the Democrats will have to come to their senses and negotiate as more and more Americans support our view from what you have heard here today. I appreciate the Freedom Caucus for standing up and pointing these things out.

Meanwhile, this shutdown wore on through the weekend, and I along with my Republican colleagues stayed in town to end it, but the Democrats chose, instead, to go to Puerto Rico to party with over 100 D.C. lobbyists while calling on non-U.S. citizens to be able to have the right to vote, and they watched the play, "Hamilton."

It is no wonder we haven't been able to negotiate a deal with the Democrats. They won't deal. In the face of their refusal to negotiate, we don't have any choice. I and my colleagues are prepared to be here through the weekend, every weekend, until we can put enough pressure on the other party to be reasonable and come to a solution.

The right thing to do is to negotiate.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, and I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

This debate over securing our border has become a debate over the morality of our efforts, and I welcome that debate. But if we are to debate this issue of border security on the basis of morality, it is fair for us not only to ask how this issue affects our own Nation, but to look across our border and see how our national policy affects those beyond our borders.

For those of us who live near our southern border, we understand all too well the effects of the criminal cartels who profit from abusing our Nation's generous immigration laws.

When I visited the Rio Grande Valley just recently, a rancher with land on the border described the situation, saying that he finds dead migrants on his land all the time.

In my hometown of Victoria, Texas, 19 migrants died of suffocation and overheating after being trapped in the back of a trailer abandoned by a smug-

gler with a callous disregard for human life.

But beyond our borders, these cartels carry an outsized influence in Mexico and in developing nations in Central America. We know that cartels profit from smuggling drugs and humans across the border. They siphon oil from pipelines. They extort families and businesses and kidnap for profit.

The barbarism of these criminal cartels has led to 150,000 homicides in Mexico, alone, since 2006. They have worked their corrupting influence into the halls of government and law enforcement, hindering the people of these nations from developing and realizing the blessings of liberty for themselves.

Our Federal Government's unwillingness to control our border allows cartels to amass profits of tens of billions of dollars each year smuggling drugs and humans into our country, with a devastating toll on the most vulnerable in our Nation. Our lack of border security allows these criminal cartels to wield their corrupting influence in a way that makes positive change so difficult in these developing countries.

Unfortunately, like too many issues these days, border security has become a divisive and a partisan issue when, historically, this has had broad support. But there should be nothing partisan about ending a humanitarian and criminal crisis that is driven by cartels and enabled by our Federal Government's failure to act.

Congress has a responsibility to protect the citizens of our country and to end the humanitarian crisis on our southern border, and it is past time to reform our broken asylum system and secure the border.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for being part of this discussion.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, we hear that walls don't work, yet this is a picture of the Democratic National Convention in 2016. They put up a barrier. They put up a fence because they wanted to protect themselves like people in America want to protect themselves.

And there is a lovely gate, wall. They have them everywhere there is something that needs to be secured. Every single Democrat who is standing against securing our border has an outer wall to their home.

If walls don't work, they can eliminate that. People can come and go as they please. But they know deep down in their hearts, they secure their dead bolts. They secure their home. They may even have a wall around their outer wall because walls work.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for yielding to me.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for sharing his thoughts on this topic.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Madam Speaker, our bodies should unite to stop the violent cartels and drug lords who have taken advantage of the humanitarian national security crisis on our southern border. Border security is national security, and we need to be doing everything we can to secure our southern border.

For years, our senior Border Patrol officials have made modest requests for tactical barriers. The President's request prioritizes the top 10 of 17 priority areas that Border Patrol wants to secure.

The men and women patrolling our borders put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe from terrorism, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, gunrunning, money laundering, and all sorts of dangerous crimes. They routinely encounter some of the most dangerous criminals and traffickers anywhere in the world.

They seize drugs that would have otherwise made it onto Ohio streets where we are dealing with the tragedy of this opioid crisis that has killed far too many of our friends and neighbors. They have also arrested illegal aliens who were charged and convicted of crimes, including sexual assault, kidnapping, and homicide. A significant percentage of women and girls entering the country illegally are raped.

We should be giving our personnel on the border the resources they need to get the job done. Nevertheless, millions of Americans want to participate in this great cause. They have contributed private funds and would like to give directly to our government.

That is why I introduced the Buy a Brick, Build the Wall Act, which would allow the Treasury Department to help fund this wall and make sure the resources go to the cause that so many people support. We need to unite and secure our border.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NEGOTIATION IS CRITICAL TO ENDING THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my colleagues from the Freedom Caucus for the hour that they spent sharing with the American people the facts and the statistics of what is happening at our southern border because of the inaction of Congress over quite a long time.

As a historian, I love this building. I love the Capitol. I love spending time

in this Chamber just thinking about the history of our Nation and the historical moments that have taken place in here.

I love giving tours of the Capitol to constituents when they come. I bring them into this Chamber and, as they sit here, I share with them that it is from this rostrum behind me that President Franklin Roosevelt gave his day of infamy speech.

We walk down the hallway and we go to the rotunda, the magnificent rotunda that has portraits hanging in the rotunda that depict the history of America. I share with them about how this is the greatest legislative body in the history of the world.

We have become the envy of other nations, our deliberative bodies, for the strength of America and all that we have accomplished in this Nation, the mind-boggling things that we have accomplished, from aerospace to business and the ingenuity of America, because of the strength of our freedom that has been built by a legislative body that brings the different sides together and negotiates to come up with solutions, solutions that are good for America.

Our strength isn't because we have always agreed. No, we, quite frankly, disagree. And our disagreements go back to the beginning of our Nation.

In that rotunda is a portrait portraying a turning point in American history, a very critical part of American history. It happened during the Second Continental Congress, when our predecessors, those who came before us, the representative body that we now represent, were faced with a very critical decision. That decision was whether to vote in favor of declaring independence against Great Britain.

There were strong advocates, very strong advocates in favor of independence. One of those was John Adams from Massachusetts. John Adams was strongly in favor of independence and spoke very passionately of voting in favor of independence. But just as strongly as John Adams was in favor of independence, you had John Dickinson from Pennsylvania who also was as strongly opposed to independence.

They continued to debate all aspects of whether they should declare independence. And, in fact, there were others who disagreed, even to the point where the first vote for independence failed.

But Dr. Benjamin Franklin understood the power of negotiating, the power of compromise, the power of bringing two sides together, and he began to negotiate. He began to bring the sides together. And by the time they took the second and final vote for independence, he had garnered enough votes to actually pass the motion to declare our independence from Great Britain.

Now, the difference between John Adams and John Dickinson wasn't that they disagreed on the problem they were facing. No, they both agreed that there were atrocities committed on the

American Colonies by Great Britain. They only disagreed on how to deal with it.

As I mention that, and as you know from history, the second vote barely passed. John Dickinson remained opposed to declaring independence. In fact, he voted "no" on the resolution when it was brought before the floor. However, as soon as the resolution passed, John Dickinson left Philadelphia, and he joined the fight for independence.

□ 1800

We are at an impasse here in this historic Chamber today, not because we have a differing opinion, but because we are even refusing to come together to lay out the facts, to lay out the ideas, and to lay out the various solutions to this problem.

We are the greatest, most powerful, and most influential legislative body in the world. We have been the envy of the entire world. Other nations have modeled or tried to model their legislative bodies after ours. But we should be embarrassed to where we are today because the system is broken, and it isn't broken because of a design flaw. It is broken because of what we have turned this into. We have broken the system because we have chosen to ignore our own rules, our own laws, and our own procedures.

Most Americans may not realize it, but we have a deadline. We have a deadline every year of September 30 to fully fund the government. But the last time that was done was in the 1990s. We have continued to kick the can down the road. Every September we get to the point that we just do a continuing resolution, and we put it off to another date and to another date until we get to a point that creates a crisis and we must fund the government. Then somebody holds the funding of the government hostage for whatever political partisan reason that they want.

The 4 years I have been in Congress I have worked diligently with others to try to change this status quo system of ignoring our own laws, rules, and procedures and consolidating the power of appropriations to just a few who get to call the shots and allow others to hold the American workers, the citizens, and the businesses that rely on those workers who were furloughed, hold them all hostage in our political partisan wrangling. I don't like where we are. I don't like the way the process is broken. We should not be here because we should have fully funded the entire government before the end of September.

Now, to give credit where credit is due, over the last couple of years the House Republicans have made great efforts to try to accomplish that. In 2017, we were actually able to pass all 12 of our appropriations bills out of this Chamber before the deadline. It didn't happen in the Senate, but we were able to do it here. This year we made an even greater accomplishment; we

passed several of them. We passed five out of here that also went to the Senate. The Senate passed it. It went to the President's desk, and he signed it. But it is those remaining appropriations bills that have us where we are today, because we did not follow our own rules.

I don't like it. Most of the Members I know on our side don't like it. My dad, a World War II veteran, used to give me a piece of advice. He said: Son, if there is something in life you don't like, you have two choices. You can do something to change the situation or just accept the status quo and go on with your life. But complaining never accomplishes anything.

We are at an impasse where two sides have dug in on what they both claim are ideological principles. Let's look at where we are. One side, the Republican side, believes that the drug trafficking, the weapon trafficking, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and terrorist travel coming across the border is a national security and humanitarian crisis. In fact, the Vice President, when he met with us last week, used those words, that this is a national security and a humanitarian crisis we have at the border. The President of the United States also agrees that we have a crisis at the border.

However, the other side that is also dug in, the Democrats, don't believe that we have a crisis. In fact, the talking points of the day have been, as you heard earlier, that the crisis has been manufactured, that the desire to build a border wall or a physical barrier is a vanity project for the President, or as one reporter stated as he was at the border, he said: Things are tranquil here.

So we have one side claiming a crisis, and the other side claiming conspiracy.

I believe we do have a crisis at the border. I believe that that crisis is real and that crisis has been going on for quite some time. As you can see on the board next to me here, I am not the only one who believes that, not only do we have a crisis but we have had a crisis that has existed for quite some time.

The President of the United States in 2014 stated: "We now have an actual humanitarian crisis on the border." In fact, what he said was: "We now have an actual humanitarian crisis on the border that only underscores the need to drop the politics and fix our immigration system once and for all."

Now, some of you who are watching on television right now will look at that and immediately attribute that to our current President, President Trump. But if you think back, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States in 2014 was President Barack Obama. He is the one who said: Yes, we do have a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis at the border.

But today my Democratic colleagues on the other side say that the crisis doesn't exist, that it is manufactured, and that it is a conspiracy. It really doesn't exist. Things are tranquil.

Well then you have to ask the question: What changed?

We must have done something significant during that time period. But nothing has changed. We still have the status quo when it comes to our border and border security.

In fact, President Obama went on to say: "In recent weeks we've seen a surge of unaccompanied children arrive at the border, brought here and to other countries by smugglers and traffickers."

"The journey is unbelievably dangerous for these kids. The children who are fortunate enough to survive it will be taken care of while they go through the legal process, but in most cases that process will lead them to being sent back home."

This is exactly what our current President is saying. We have a humanitarian crisis as well as a national security crisis. In fact, for the 4 years I have served in Congress, I have been saying that our crisis at the border should not be categorized just as an immigration crisis, but it is a national security crisis.

When I served on the Homeland Security Committee, we had many briefings by the then-Obama administration Department of Homeland Security who went through all of what was going on at the border, the crossings at the border, the drugs, the weapons, and who they were intercepting, and I identified at that time that we had a crisis at the border.

But this issue at the border goes beyond even the time I have been in Congress. It has been going on for decades. It is a decades-old problem that because of status quo, because of the broken system that we are working under, because politicians are comfortable with the status quo, we have not done anything to address it.

In 2006, I was serving in the State legislature in Georgia. I was a young businessman who didn't like the way things were going in the State, so I took the advice of my father that if there is something in life you don't like, do something to change the situation. So I ran for the State house, and I was elected.

We were dealing with issues in Georgia of immigration. In fact, a young man by the name of Dustin Inman had lost his life because an illegal immigrant driving drunk hit the car killing Dustin Inman and permanently making his mom disabled. It appeared to us that the Federal Government, the Congress in Washington, D.C. wasn't doing anything to fix the situation, so a group of legislators got together.

We said: Look, we may have to address some of this on our own. So we will go to the border. We will spend several days at the border to see what is going on ourselves.

While I was at the border, I spent time with Border Patrol agents. We went up and down the border. They showed us where the physical barriers were working, but they also showed us

where they had problems, and it was usually where the physical barrier ended. They shared with us the lack of funding that they had and the lack of adequate Border Patrol agents. They told us of the dangers that they were facing, but they also told us the frustrations of catch and release.

We also spent the night with a rancher, after we had met with several residents who lived along the border. They were telling us the horrific stories of crime that were going on on their property and in their neighborhoods, because of the cartel activity going on at the border. While we sat at this rancher's home that evening—because of the lack of the adequate number of Border Patrol agents, he had to set up his own security systems and surveillance systems just to protect his property and protect his employees on his ranch.

We sat in his home that evening watching on infrared night vision cameras. You could see coyotes, those who were helping to bring illegals across into the United States, as they would congregate inside of Mexico and they would move up to where there was a physical barrier, a border wall.

I asked him: At this point, what is going to happen? Are they going to scale the barrier?

He said: No. They are just staging. All they are going to do is move a few miles down that wall to where the wall doesn't exist, and they will walk right across into the United States.

That is exactly what happened. We watched as they came into the United States, they ran to a gully, and they hid in a gully until somebody came and picked them up. By the time the Border Patrol was able to get there, they were long gone.

I kept a journal. The other day I went back, and I pulled that journal out from 2006. I was reading over my experiences, and I got to the last entry of that journal that I wrote when I got home. That journal said: I believe the government in Washington, D.C., doesn't want to solve the problem at our southern border.

Again, they are happy with the status quo.

Americans have been asking Congress to do something, not just about illegal immigration but about the drugs coming across into our Nation. As you heard earlier, the Department of Homeland Security has intercepted enough fentanyl used in opioids to kill nearly two-thirds of the entire population of the United States. They want us to do something about the sex trafficking, other drugs coming across the border, weapons, criminal activity, human trafficking, and terrorism, the terrorists who are traveling across the border.

But we can't solve any of these issues nor reopen this government until we are willing and ready to come together and have a national debate, a debate about the merits of each side. Each side needs to come forward and present what their priorities are and what their ideas are for the solutions.

Republicans have done that. We have laid out several different ideas and several different solutions. We have yet to hear anything from our colleagues on the other side except for the word no.

We must lay out our priorities. We must lay out our ideas, not just hurl insults at each side.

Then we must debate, and the debate must be based on truth, on facts, not perceptions and not accusations. It has to be based on what is best for the American people, not what is best for the politicians or political victory or preparing for the next election.

If we are going to get to this place there has to be some things that take place. First of all, we have to have meetings, we have to have discussion, and we have to have negotiation. Just as Dr. Benjamin Franklin did at the onset of this Nation, he brought the parties together in meetings. They began discussing, and then they started negotiating. That is how they came up with compromise.

You have to have all three. You can't have one without the other. You can't have a discussion without first having a meeting.

Two weeks ago, congressional leaders were invited to the White House to; first of all, have a meeting to discuss, Where do we go from here to end the shutdown; to do something about border security; to move forward?

But the answer given to the President when he asked was: Are you willing to negotiate border security which includes building a physical barrier?

The answer was no, end of story, end of discussion.

Meetings aren't effective unless you actually are able to have a discussion and both sides are willing to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, you also have to be able to deal with facts. Both sides have to be able to deal with facts. Again, the President invited leadership of the House to the White House to the Situation Room to discuss the facts and the issues that you have heard several of here tonight.

However, as the Secretary of Homeland Security began to go through these issues one by one, she was interrupted by the Speaker of the House, Ms. PELOSI, and was told that she wasn't interested in hearing the facts. In fact, according to a news media report, it was, "I reject your facts."

Secretary Nielsen said: "These aren't my facts, they are the facts."

So we have to be able to deal with the truth, the facts. One question that I am always asked back home is: Your colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to say they are for border security, they are for national security and they just don't want a wall.

Well, that is a question I have. So when the Democrats rejected the facts that came from the Department of Homeland Security about the atrocities that are going on, the criminal activities going on at the border, the President took it upon himself, and he sent it to Members of Congress. Immediately upon receiving this data, my

colleagues and my friends on the other side started dismissing the data.

□ 1815

When it came out in 2017 that the Department of Homeland Security intercepted 3,755 terrorists, that number was immediately challenged. And the other side was quick to point out, well, not all of those were caught at the border.

And they were right; not all were caught at the southern border. In fact, they properly pointed out that many of them were caught at our ports of entry at airports, so we should focus in that area and not on a border wall, even though a number were caught at the border.

Well, that is fine. They say they are for border security; however, I question that because, when President Trump, in his first year in office, identified this very problem, that we had terrorists coming in from nations that are known to harbor, train, and fund terrorists and he tried to put a travel ban on people coming in from those countries, the Democrats objected to it and actually took it to court and tried to stop him from actually implementing that.

So it leads to the question: Do they really want border security?

When the statistic came out that 6,000 illegals associated with gangs have been apprehended by ICE, again my colleagues challenged that statistic and brought up that, well, only 800 gang members were actually apprehended at the southern border—only 800.

Just the other day, the district attorney of one of the largest counties in Georgia said that the greatest threat to Georgians today is gangs. And, as we started looking at how do these gang members come in, our colleagues on the other side adequately pointed out that most of these gang members were not coming across the border, but they were here as a result of visa overstays. “But we really do want border security, so we should address that.”

Last year, H.R. 4760, in June, was brought to this floor, which actually made visa overstays a Federal misdemeanor, but my colleagues on the other side—every one of them—voted against that bill.

The Department of Homeland Security also put out the statistic that 17,000 adults were detained at the southern border with criminal records. The other side has made the argument that these are just families that want a better life.

Again, they have rejected the facts. So my question is: Do they really want border security? Are they really willing to come to the table and lay out what their priorities for border security really are?

Is it port security at our airports? Well, obviously, they opposed the President when he took that route.

Is it addressing visa overstays? Well, obviously they voted against that bill when we brought it forward.

Do they really want to keep the government open and address border security? Well, they all voted against the continuing resolution the Republicans brought to the floor back in December and opted to close the government.

Do I believe that my colleagues want terrorists to come into the Nation? No, I do not.

Do I believe they want more gang members to infiltrate our communities? No, I don't believe that is what they want.

I don't believe they don't think that there is a crisis at the border. I just think that they are happy with the status quo.

You see, this city often runs on people who have learned how to navigate the swamp. They learn how to use the status quo to their advantage.

And if you go back and you look over the history of this Nation, especially the modern history of this body of Congress, we are still debating several of the issues that we were debating 10, 15, and 20 years ago. It seems that these become campaign issues more than they are issues that we want to resolve for the American people. Why? Because we don't want to address the status quo.

What we have in the White House right now is a President whose main objective is to change the status quo in Washington, to change the way we do things. Those ideas I support because what we are doing now is broken. The way we are doing it now is broken.

There is only one way out of this situation. It is for my colleagues from the other side of the aisle to actually agree to attend the meetings.

In fact, the President opened up the White House today for another meeting to start discussing and hopefully get to negotiations, but the leadership on the Democratic side refused to even show up.

We offered several compromises last year in December to avoid the shutdown, but the resounding response we received from the other side was “no.” Every attempt that we have brought to this floor to try to resolve the situation at the border has been met with a resounding “no.”

At some point, we have to get away from our own partisan political wrangling and understand that what we are doing is for the safety and the security of the American people. It is time to quit just saying “no” and say “but if.”

I appreciate every person who was elected to represent the American people, but now is the time to sit down, to have a discussion, and to begin to negotiate so we can reopen the government and, more importantly, ensure the safety and the security of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 268, SUPPLEMENTAL 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. RASKIN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-2) on the resolution (H. Res. 43) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DRUGS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEVENS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) for 30 minutes.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and great friend, Mr. RICE, for allowing me this opportunity. The gentleman is truly a man of the people.

Madam Speaker, 25 days, 25 days the government has been shut down—25 days—making this the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

Why has this been so long? It is because the Democrats refuse to come to the table and negotiate a solution. Instead, they would rather bring up messaging bills that don't fund vital programs, all so that they can say they didn't support increased border security.

Well, let's take a look at the last 25 days.

On the average, 2,000 inadmissible migrants arrive at our southern border daily. That means, in the last 25 days, approximately 50,000 illegal migrants have sought entry at our border without going through the proper channels. And there are proper channels.

Additionally, in December, 27,518 family unit aliens were apprehended for crossing the border illegally. If those numbers remain consistent, that means over 21,429 family unit aliens have been apprehended for illegally crossing in the last 25 days.

In fiscal 2018, 2,028 illegal aliens arrested had homicide charges. If this number remains consistent, that means 139 homicide charges for illegal aliens in the last 25 days.

Further, on an average, 300 Americans die per week from heroin, and 90 percent of that heroin in the U.S. comes through our southern border. That means, in the last 25 days, approximately 1,000 Americans have died