

concrete wall, as some falsely claim. It is a commonsense request for a sophisticated border wall system, including strategically placed 30-foot steel barriers, technology, lights, cameras, sensors, and other infrastructure.

Fact: Currently, there are 700 miles of physical barriers on our southern border, a measure 90 Democrats, including Barack Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and CHUCK SCHUMER supported in 2006.

Speaker PELOSI, it is interesting you claim walls are “immoral,” when many of the leading voices in your party have a previous record of supporting physical barriers on our southern border. Do you consider them immoral?

Fact: Border walls work. The Department of Homeland Security reports that, where a wall was built, illegal crossings have dropped by 90 percent or more. For example, apprehensions of illegal aliens crossing the border in El Paso, Texas, dropped 72 percent in 1 year and 95 percent over 22 years. And veteran Chief Border Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez, a Hispanic American, not a political appointee, a career professional with the Border Patrol agency, has said that the newly constructed border wall in her El Centro Sector of California has already reduced illegal border crossings.

Speaker PELOSI, you are entitled to your own opinion, but you are not entitled to your own facts. I certainly agree with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who say we must end this government shutdown and pay our Federal employees. It is wrong that these workers are missing paychecks, especially essential government workers who are required to work.

□ 1045

After all, many of these people are corrections officers, air traffic controllers, Federal court personnel, and Border Patrol agents. These are the very people who are charged with the responsibility of keeping the American people safe. That is why I cosponsor the No Work Without Pay Act, which would require us to pay these essential Federal workers during the pendency of a shutdown.

But as important as it is that we timely fund these patriotic Americans’ paychecks, it is equally important, and perhaps more important, that we fund their mission. So by all means, we must end this government shutdown, but that objective won’t happen when the Speaker of the House refuses to accept basic, irrefutable facts. It won’t happen until both parties sit down and offer a proposal, and a compromise, and a counterproposal, something that the Speaker of the House refuses to do.

So my other friends on the other side of the aisle, many of them who I know are equally committed to protecting the American people, to Speaker PELOSI, and Senator SCHUMER: Stop the partisan games. Do your job. Protect the American people from drugs and criminals. End this shutdown, and fund commonsense border security.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

SHUTDOWN STORIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an immediate end to President Trump’s irresponsible and unnecessary government shutdown which has now entered its 26th day.

People in my home State of New Hampshire and across this country are suffering and they are put at risk because of this manufactured crisis.

One woman wrote into my office: “My two girls and I count on the auto deposit from their dad. If this goes on, we will not be able to buy food, pay bills, or buy gasoline.”

Another constituent wrote: “We are not okay with a shutdown for a wall or for any other reason. We are not pawns on a chessboard.”

The wife of a Coast Guard member spoke of the sacrifices that their family has already made for this country. And now they are facing the uncertainty of even being able to pay their mortgage.

We take an oath to protect and defend this country. Safety is our number one job. And, yet, air traffic controllers, TSA agents, DEA agents, and even, ironically, Border Patrol agents are not receiving their pay, and our safety is at risk.

One of the most heart-wrenching stories that I have heard is that domestic violence shelters in New Hampshire and across this country are cutting services to women and children whose lives are at risk. These stories go on and on.

Who in our society are truly being hurt by President Trump’s shutdown: women and children; seniors; and veterans, whose health, safety, and well-being are put at risk by his intransigence.

Here in the House we have voted repeatedly to reopen the government and the Senate should follow suit. I urge the President to end this shutdown so we can focus on the hard work that is expected of us by the American people.

Democrats and Republicans in this Congress agree that we need comprehensive immigration reform and 21st century border security.

Now is the time to reopen the government so that we can work together in good faith to advance meaningful legislation that will strengthen and protect our country. Mr. McCONNELL and President Trump, do your job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are again reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF NORVAL REECE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we recognize Martin Luther King Day and we celebrate his legacy of civil rights and his promotion of opportunity for all.

Today, I am proud to recognize an individual from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who has spent his life and career dedicated to the advancement of equality.

Norval Reece of Yardley remembers witnessing Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech and marching with him on the third march from Selma to Montgomery. He worked closely with Dr. King to enact change and in 1967 spent several hours with Dr. King in Philadelphia.

Norval credits his devotion to civil rights activism to his Quaker faith. He served in India with the American Friends Service Committee, and later continued to work on their behalf upon his return home. He later became a successful businessman, building his own media company that helped bring cable television to then-Communist Poland.

Mr. Speaker, Norval’s life and dedication to the service of others is truly inspiring, and we thank him, his wife, and their sons, Tim and Stockton, for their service to their community and our country.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOD CENTER AT THE MORRISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a faith community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is going the extra mile to minimize the negative impact felt by Federal workers and their families during this prolonged government shutdown.

Last Friday, an estimated 800,000 Federal employees missed their paychecks. Understanding the undue hardship these Federal employees are facing, the Food Center at the Morrisville Presbyterian Church stepped up to the plate, opening their door to furloughed Federal workers and their families with the opportunity to receive food.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly blessed to represent such thoughtful and compassionate constituents.

As I did in this same exact spot yesterday, I urge my colleagues to put aside their differences and reopen our government. Our inaction is putting Federal workers in an untenable position.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the Reverend Rachel Rhodes and all the staff and volunteers at the Food Center at Morrisville Presbyterian Church for their work. Each and every one of them makes our community a special place.

STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, January is Stalking Awareness Month, and I rise today to bring attention to the critical need for action to empower survivors and protect victims of this crime.

Yesterday, I proudly joined my friend and colleague Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY from Florida along with Pennsylvania Senators PAT TOOMEY and BOB CASEY to reintroduce the Combat Online Predators Act.

This bill would increase criminal penalties for the stalking of children and help ensure law enforcement officials evaluate and update practices to combat online stalking of children.

Mr. Speaker, there are few things more sinister than preying on innocent children. Millions of Americans, including the most vulnerable among us, are harmed each year by stalkers. Here in Congress, we must work in a bipartisan manner to eliminate the digital footprint of predators to protect the kids in our communities and in our Nation.

I am deeply grateful for the support and advocacy of the Zezzo family of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who serve as an inspiration for this piece of legislation, the Combat Online Predators Act, and for survivors everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I pledge to work with all of my colleagues, Democrat and Republican alike, to advance this legislation and other solutions to stop stalking in all of its forms.

DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS MUST COME TOGETHER TO RE-OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a freshman who came here to get things done on the 26th day of the longest government shutdown in American history.

For 26 days, we have had to explain to 800,000 dedicated, patriotic Americans why we will not pay them for their service to our country, even as they must keep paying for their rent, their medicine and their kids' educations.

For 26 days, we have had to explain why small business owners can't get loans; why food safety inspections are suspended; why lines are growing and terminals are being shut down at our airports; why we are willing to jeopardize the safety of air travelers; why we can't protect our National Parks from desecration; and why, if securing our country is so important, we aren't paying the Coast Guard, and Customs and Border Protection officers whose job it is to secure it.

In the last few days, I have been hearing from college students in my district who have until February 1 to apply for financial aid, but they can't access their tax transcripts from the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, I ask: Why are we doing this to ourselves? The President says it is because of border security. But if we are honest, we know that that is not what this is about. If getting \$5.7 billion for a border wall is important

enough to inflict this much suffering on Americans, why didn't the President pick this fight in the 2 years when his party controlled both Houses of the Congress?

Why is he doing this now? I think we know the answer. I fear that for the President the chaos is sometimes not a means to an end, but an end in itself. He doesn't want a wall, he wants a fight over the wall; not a compromise to open the government, but a conflict that dismantles the government. And that raises the stakes for all of us.

For this is not about how we secure the border, as important as that is to all of us. It is about how we govern our country. We have a chance now to say, once and for all, Presidents are entitled to try to persuade us to support their priorities, but if they fail to persuade us, they are not entitled to shut the government down to get their way.

None of us, not Democrats or Republicans, are entitled to hold hostage the basic functions of our government to force our will on others. And if we give into this tactic now, it will be used again, and again, and again. We will have chaos in our government for as far as the eye can see.

So how do we solve this problem? We will not solve it by abdicating our responsibility in the Congress and waiting for the President to agree on something. If we wait for that, we will be waiting forever.

We will not solve it by encouraging him to use emergency powers or to use our military to defy the Congress. That would tear another hole in our constitutional fabric.

We will solve it when the House and the Senate Democrats and Republicans come together to say: This is not how we do business in a democracy.

Mr. Speaker, instead of enabling this abdication of responsibility by the White House, let us rise to our responsibility in the Congress. Let us work together to reopen the government by passing the same bills we were all willing to vote for across party lines last year, and then let's sit down together as adults to talk about immigration and the border as part of the debate about funding the Department of Homeland Security when both sides can put their ideas on the table and find common ground.

If we do that, we will not only address border security, we will break this pernicious practice of taking the American people hostage when we don't get our way.

We can make this the shutdown to end all shutdowns.

LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a small town in Kansas, and perhaps the most respected person in the city was our family physician, Dr. Norman Oberholtzer.

Dr. Oberholtzer delivered my brother, my sister, and, of course, me. He saved my life. He had saved many people's lives. By the time I was in 9th grade, I knew I wanted to be a physician just like Dr. Oberholtzer. I worked hard and with the support of my family and friends was able to get into medical school, and by the time I was a second-year resident, I was supposed to decide what type of physician was I going to be.

Go back to February of 1987, and we had our first baby, a little girl named Lauren. And the second she was born, the moment I heard her first cry, I said: This is what I want to do. I want to deliver babies the rest of my life.

So as an obstetrician for the next 30 years, every day I got to see 10, 20, 40, sometimes 50 pregnant women. It was a great experience and there were some very special visits that I really looked forward to with those moms. Their first visit for a first-time mom was always a special moment.

The moms came in. They had a twinkle in their eyes and they may have been throwing up for 3 or 4 or 5 days already, but there was still a sparkle in their eye and excitement.

□ 1100

Sometimes I would get to do a sonogram at that first visit. Believe it or not, about a month after conception, Mr. Speaker, you can see a baby's heartbeat. They would come back at about 12 weeks for their next visit. By then, their nausea was improving, and we could hear a baby's heartbeat on the Doppler for the first time.

They came back again at about 18 weeks, and I would ask them: Do you feel the baby move yet?

Again, the mom's eyes would sparkle that they are feeling that baby move. I would notice when I would touch the mom and when I would touch the baby, the baby would push back. If there was maybe a brother or a sister in the room, if that brother or sister spoke, I could feel the baby move, and I could actually hear the heart rate increase of that little baby inside that mom.

Then, of course, later on, the favorite moment of my entire life was always getting to hear that first cry of that newborn and give that baby to a proud mom and dad.

So those are great, great times.

Mr. Speaker, I am often asked when I think life begins. I hope you can relate from the stories I just shared that I don't have any other choice but to believe that life begins at conception and that those babies are people, and they deserve our respect and our protection.

Mr. Speaker, this week, we will be welcoming 200,000 people to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

I especially salute some students who are coming from Beloit, Kansas, and Concordia, Kansas. Like many students, they will be riding a bus for 24 hours. I am so proud of them, and I look forward to seeing them. I appreciate their efforts to put their words into actions.