

shutdown, I rise on behalf of Lauren, an El Pasoan in my district on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Lauren is married to one of our DEA agents, and he is one of nearly 10,000 Federal employees in El Paso. Every day, her husband puts his life on the line to serve El Pasoans and our Nation, and, last week, he missed his paycheck.

Lauren describes the shutdown as discouraging and scary. They are struggling to make ends meet for their family of three small children.

Lauren and her family, and the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees in America, should not have to face this dire reality and don't deserve this treatment.

We must reopen the government now and give our public servants the pay they have earned for their honorable work.

And I will repeat what I know to be true: The border has never been more secure or safer.

Madam Speaker, we, in the House, have voted on a number of bipartisan bills to reopen the government. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to come together, end this absurdity, have some compassion, and do the same.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, America is great because America is good. But I ask the question: What is good about terminating the God-given, sacred life of unborn Americans?

Madam Speaker, on Friday, thousands of students, pastors, priests, and patriotic Americans from all across our great land will gather here in our Nation's Capital to take part in the 46th annual March for Life.

Madam Speaker, written into the Declaration of Independence is our founding faith and principle that all are created by God, created equally, endowed by a creator, created as a gift, created as an American, to have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

However, since Roe v. Wade, we have fallen short of that national ethic by not acknowledging that life at every stage is precious, valuable, sacred, and ought to be protected.

Madam Speaker, this March for Life is a call to conscience, and it is a challenge for all of us to work toward a future where every life, born and unborn, is celebrated, cherished, and protected.

May God continue to bless those who are marching for their passion and their love for the unborn, and may God continue to bless these United States.

#### REOPEN GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, the House will vote again today to reopen the United States Government and end President Trump's government shutdown.

It is unwarranted and wrong to force our Coast Guard, TSA, Customs and Border officers, air traffic controllers, and others to work without pay.

One of my neighbors who runs a small business in Tampa in her retirement years to support her son with mental disabilities advised me that: As a tax preparer, I cannot get responses from the IRS that affect my clients.

Another neighbor, who hoped to retire by year's end and is also running out of hope, says: We are told there is no more funding after January 18 for the courts, and our colleagues in the U.S. Attorney's Office were not paid today, although they stay on the job prosecuting criminals.

Our TSA officers, Customs and Border officers, and air traffic controllers at Tampa International Airport are outstanding. Twelve-year Officer Luis Mendoza advised me that: I have experienced previous shutdowns and close calls, but I really feel that this one is going to be a tough one to get through. The officers in Tampa are trying to hang in there because we do believe in the oath we took to protect the flying public and guard against threats. But many are trying to figure out how to get through this.

Madam Speaker, I urge our Senate colleagues and President Trump to take up our bipartisan bill and reopen this government.

#### MARCH FOR LIFE

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 46th annual March for Life.

In Congress, I believe I have the responsibility to support life beginning at conception, which is why I voted last Congress to defend life and defund Planned Parenthood. However, I am disheartened this legislative body continues to funnel taxpayer money to the abortion industry.

The often repeated talking point that Planned Parenthood exists as a woman's health organization has now been refuted by its very own president. She had this to say about Planned Parenthood: "Our core mission is providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion and reproductive healthcare."

Madam Speaker, I am a proud co-sponsor of the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which reroutes Federal dollars to community health centers, where women can still get the care they need while protecting the sanctity of life. An organization whose core mission has taken the lives of 61 million unborn children should not be receiving taxpayer funds.

#### BE OUTRAGED

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of southern Arizonans and all our Federal employees. I stand here as their public servant because I work for them. They have called, sent letters, and shown up in our offices, pleading for action. They are scared, and not because of immigration. They are scared they can't pay rent, and they are scared they might not be able to feed their children.

To our constituents at home, I am sorry, but be outraged.

It is outrageous that John from southern Arizona, a Customs and Border Patrol agent, is furloughed and worried about how he is going to keep the lights on.

It is outrageous that Cochise County Community College students, many of whom are veterans, are worried they may not receive their financial aid.

It is outrageous that over 900,000 Arizona participants in SNAP, 72 percent of them with children, are in jeopardy of losing their nutrition assistance.

Madam Speaker, the majority in this House has publicly stated our willingness to work with the President. We must reopen government. Be outraged, because I sure am.

#### DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUNDING

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 2018 was a tough year for so many Americans. We had families and farmers and people all across California whose homes were destroyed, people who lost their lives, lost their farms, lost their businesses. In other parts of the country, there were storms and hurricanes that similarly devastated communities.

My home State of Hawaii was one of them. We were battered by natural disasters of all types last year on nearly all of our islands, from major flooding and landslides on Kauai and Oahu in April, an erupting volcano throughout May and June, and flooding and wildfires on multiple islands in August.

But, time and again, in Hawaii and across the country, people have proved their resilience and strength, living aloha, taking care of each other, even when they have lost everything.

Today, we are voting to pass funding that is sorely needed by communities like mine, where people are still struggling to get back on their feet with limited resources.

This bill provides funding for things like crop insurance, reconstructing facilities, water infrastructure projects, crisis counseling, rebuilding homes, small businesses, and more.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this necessary funding

bill and provide a helping hand to those whose lives will never be the same because of these disasters.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, this Trump shutdown is forcing servicemembers and retirees to go without pay.

Yes, our President is withholding Coast Guard pay because of his reckless demands. Who does that?

A constituent wrote to me: As a Coast Guard retiree, I am facing no pay during the shutdown. It is outrageous that, after 26 years of service, I face financial troubles due to my country not facing its obligations.

I agree. This is unacceptable for those who served our country, and it is unacceptable for those currently serving and not getting paid.

Can't we agree that supporting the Coast Guard is better than having a stalemate on a political issue?

We must take action to help our servicemembers and hardworking government employees, and our whole economy, which is being hurt even more than we thought.

Madam Speaker, how can the President think it is a good idea for national security to not pay those who protect us?

#### NO WAY TO RUN A COUNTRY

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third District, I rise today to say it is time to end the shutdown.

This weekend, I had the opportunity to meet with Federal workers in my district who are dealing with the very real consequences of this unnecessary shutdown.

One employee is now driving for Uber. Another one has been forced to sign up for food stamps at the age of 51.

A high-tech employer in Nevada who employs Federal contractors is dealing with his third Federal Government shutdown in 12 months. His highly skilled employees are sick and tired of the uncertainty and missed paychecks. If this shutdown persists, he will lose employees, which will not only hurt his company, but our overall economy as well.

Madam Speaker, this is no way to run a country. The government should never be shut down over a single policy, any policy.

#### END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, a concerned constituent recently sent me this hand-written letter about President Trump's shutdown:

"As an air traffic controller . . . I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me. For the last 2 weeks, we have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. But we don't know when we will receive our next paycheck. . . .

"I was putting my 7-year-old daughter to bed and I could tell something was bothering her. She had heard my wife and I . . . worrying about our next mortgage payment and the credit card bills. . . . My daughter looked me in the eye and told me she was scared and what would happen if we couldn't pay for our home and our bills.

"I have been teaching her the value of commitment and responsibility. I have showed her that by hard work and excellence you can make a good life for . . . your family. . . . My daughter should not have to worry about bills when we have valuable jobs and are doing our work.

"Please, Representative DEAN, help me teach my daughter about commitment and responsibility and help end the government shutdown."

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT LAWSUIT

(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. Madam Speaker, while Republican attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act went down in flames, their Texas v. United States lawsuit seeks to subvert the will of the American people and take our healthcare away.

In December, a judge ruled in favor of Republicans, issuing a decision that would strike down the entire ACA. If that ruling stands, every American will lose vital protections, like those for people with preexisting conditions.

I have cosponsored Congressman COLIN ALLRED's H. Res. 14, which authorizes the House to intervene in this case and defend the law of the land, because my family and I, like so many others, are no strangers to the costs of preexisting conditions.

Madam Speaker, I am a two-time cancer survivor. Two of my four kids have Crohn's disease, and they have been living with it for 14 years. Bills upward of \$10,000 are not unusual in my household.

Despite all this, I consider us lucky. Why? Because, thanks to the ACA, my sons and I cannot be turned away or charged more because of our medical histories. All of that will change if Republicans and President Trump got their way.

Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas, Congressman ALLRED, for introducing this important resolution.

□ 1230

#### REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, this is day 26 of the reckless Trump shutdown. Coast Guard officers and their families are suffering; Border Patrol agents and their families are suffering; TSA agents and their families are suffering because the President has decided to hold 800,000 Federal employees and the American people hostage.

We are prepared to have a conversation about infrastructure on the border, prepared to have a conversation about personnel, and prepared to have a conversation about technology. We are prepared to have a conversation about border security in a comprehensive way; prepared to have a conversation about our broken immigration system and how we fix it in a bipartisan fashion.

But, Madam Speaker, we are not prepared to have a conversation about these issues in the midst of a reckless shutdown where the President has decided to hold the American people hostage and try to force us to pay a \$5 billion-plus ransom note.

Madam Speaker, it is time for the adults in the room to get their act together and reopen the government so we can continue the business of the American people.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam 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. 46

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Ms. Lofgren, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Deutch, Ms. Bass, Mr. Richmond, Mr. Jeffries, Mr. Cicilline, Mr. Swalwell of California, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Jayapal, Mrs. Demings, Mr. Correa, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Neguse, Mrs. McBath, Mr. Stanton, Ms. Dean, Ms. Mucarsel-Powell, and Ms. Escobar.

Mr. JEFFRIES (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.