

In fact, in my own district, we actually measured how much damage was done to the economy in northeastern Pennsylvania. We have this marvelous asset, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, that had to shut down because of that government shutdown.

Now, this happened the first 16 days of October, which always is a very lucrative tourist season in northeastern Pennsylvania. The people are out to see the beautiful resplendent colors of the fall in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Because the national park had to shut down for those 16 days, leaf peeper season went out the window. And all of the little businesses ringing that national park in Pike County and Monroe County, Pennsylvania, the restaurants and the motels and the gas stations and all of the little businesses that survive off the tourism every year, they got murdered during that shutdown. In fact, we measured that per day. That damaged our economy to the tune of \$400,000 a day in my district alone.

The question is: Would MITCH MCCONNELL go ahead and damage our economy purposely to make a political point? The answer is, yeah, he probably would. It looks like he is doing it, and they have done it before, and they don't care.

So it is a sad answer, I know. But the truth is, they would rather score a political point and do harm to our Nation's economy than stick up for the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman couldn't be more right. And certainly, the good news, for those that are watching, is that House Democrats are committed to doing everything that we need to do to ensure that the full faith and credit of the United States is not threatened or undermined.

We have a colleague who has joined us who has spent her entire career ensuring precisely that, and that is the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Texas.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for her to address this Chamber on this subject.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am most grateful for the opportunity to join the gentleman from Colorado, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

I have just finished with a conference call with the director of the CDC, but I just could not miss the opportunity, because I am almost in a *deja vu*, having been here for—even shocking myself, because when you are enjoying serving, you don't count the years—but more than two decades. I have seen the dastardly results of government shutdown. So I want to thank the gentleman for bringing this to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I believe that it is always important to know who governs and how we are governed and what document do we yield to in terms of being

governed. And I heard my friend from Colorado make the point that Democrats are ensuring that this government is governed.

This morning I was on the floor, and I made the point that I don't stand here as a Democrat or a Republican but as an American, an American that has the responsibility of government. And that means that all of the shenanigans in the other body should be immediately dispensed with.

One point of the Constitution that I always like reading is: We, the people of the United States, in order to create or to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare. This was the very premise that the Founding Fathers—and everyone knows the Constitution missed some elements on those who were slaves, missed elements on women. They missed some elements; they missed some issues. But the premise was that we gather for the general welfare, uniquely grounded in some values of European principles but uniquely American.

Why did we form this government?

So having lived through government shutdowns, let me just, for a very brief moment, capture the horrors of a government shutdown, which is tied to ultimately the CR, but the effort that we, as Democrats, our leader, our Speaker, our leadership, rightly so, were acting not as Democrats but they were acting as leaders of this Nation, protecting those who are most vulnerable.

So the full faith and credit is not something to dismiss. Let me say, over and over again—I know it has been said on this floor—we are paying bills. As I said, if you had the light on for the last 20 days, you have a bill.

So to lift the debt ceiling—and I would like to characterize it some other way—to provide the mechanism to pay your bills. If you had the cable on for the last 20 days, you are paying your bill. So we are simply paying the bill.

The lack of responding to paying bills creates inflation, puts a damper on the view of America as an international destination for businesses. It, in fact, crumbles the economy on the most vulnerable, the hardworking bus driver, union worker, teacher. Because what you have done is, you have not given their dollar substance. That is how they make a living; that is how they pay for their responsibilities of a quality of life.

I always think of the persons who cannot speak for themselves who are doing great work. Teachers are doing great work; paramedics are doing great work; nurses are doing great work. I always think of bus drivers, because I think of school bus drivers. There is a shortage of school bus drivers. They are all doing great work.

So let me say that I came on the floor because I clearly wanted to em-

phasize the eloquent and important points that you are making, that it is tomfoolery to make political points about the debt ceiling, which is a responsibility that cannot be gotten rid of.

So it would be okay if I said: Well, we would want to say that. When I say that, if you are playing politics, you say we don't want to do that either, meaning those of us who are governing. But it is an obligation of governing and governance, and it is constitutionally vested not only in the language of full faith and credit but in the opening statement of the Constitution. If we don't take care of the general welfare, then who will?

I am grateful, as I close, to say that I support the INVEST Act and one bill, the Build Back America Act. That is how I would proceed on the unifying of those. The reason why I connect that, again, is to make the point that, as I have read line by line of the Build Back—and I am on the Budget Committee, and we sat on a Saturday to bring this bill forward to you-all. And rightly so; we make no complaint about that. But to get this bill here. It is ready. We passed it out of the Budget Committee.

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But as I looked at it, I have not deflected the gentleman here, deflected families. But it is a justice for women act. It is finally penetrating where women are in America, in terms of the care economy, in terms of pre-K, in terms of child care, in terms of family responsibilities. It is a bill that gives justice to women.

And so tie it to our responsibilities of governing, to lift the debt ceiling for payment of our bills, and also this book, the Constitution, doing our duty to create this Union that has been created to ensure general tranquility and the general welfare of the American people. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and his leadership.

Mr. NEGUSE. I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks. Those of us who have had the privilege to work with the gentlewoman from Texas know that her ability to speak truth to power really is second to none, and I think her argument is as compelling as it is straightforward. General welfare. Full faith and credit. Pay your bills.

And so I say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber and in the upper Chamber, it is time for you to do your job. Let's address the debt ceiling and let's get on with the business of this Congress in promoting and protecting the general welfare of our wonderful country.

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

ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we discussed last week some of the issues that are of significance, and I don't think the press is paying enough attention to them.

We just had a little bit more progress toward the development of fenofibrate, which is a generic drug, which some researchers from Israel have had some success on in curing COVID. I want to talk about these successes and then talk what is going to be necessary to have happen to get this potentially lifesaving drug in the mainstream.

Two researchers from Israel found 15 people who were on oxygen and had pneumonia; and of the 15 people, after giving them fenofibrate, a generic drug available for very little, they got out of the hospital in 5 days. The other took, I think, it was 14 days.

That is pretty incredible stuff. If it could be used routinely, it would dramatically have reduced the number of deaths in this country.

Right now there are a variety of people around the world trying to do research on this topic, including the University of Pennsylvania, and they are grateful they got some money from the U.S. Government. But given the promise of this drug, I think they should have gotten a lot more money to deal with it quickly.

I have talked to the researchers, and they think they will be able to get together. I guess they need 700 patients before they can make a determination. They think they will be able to make a determination that this is a good drug by the end of March. That is not quick enough.

If they had more money and more push, they would be able to get more potential patients, and I would like to think get a final determination by the end of December.

So I am calling on my colleagues in Congress, as well as the NIH and the CDC, to highlight fenofibrate. It is also known as Tricor. It has been around a long time without dangerous side effects. Maybe there will be side effects with COVID, but there wasn't dangerous side effects otherwise. It has been used by millions of people. I am going to be circulating a letter, hoping that the administration wakes up and does something and does something quickly.

And by the way, this doesn't only cure it, but one of the underpublicized problems with COVID is that if you get it, it can result in long-lasting problems, problems to your lungs, problems to your organs. It appears, tentatively, that fenofibrate will clear up those problems quicker and not as many people will have those problems.

I am afraid from what I read that COVID is going to be around a long time. I know people who have gotten it after being vaccinated; not as bad, I guess, but they have gotten it. So again, I hope that this institution moves, and I hope the administration moves and hope we can move at warp speed and get a final determination on fenofibrate by the end of December.

I would also like to address, given what has happened over the last week, what I believe is the biggest crisis facing the country today, and that is the problem at the southern border.

The numbers are well known. Last July 8,000 people crossing the border, staying in the country. This year, 105,000, and a lot of people think that is a low number. The increase, the percentage increase wasn't quite as great in August. But, again, it was a substantial increase at a time of year where it is very hot and normally people aren't crossing the border.

We know the effects. I also don't think it has been as publicized as it should be. The huge number of people who are dying of illegal drugs, clearing 90,000 in a year for the first time in this country. When I first got this job, 45,000 a year was a lot. Every politician had to say we wanted to do something to fight illegal drug use.

Now that we have fentanyl, an especially dangerous drug, we have more than doubled the number of people dying. Politicians barely talk about it. But obviously that situation has been exacerbated at the southern border.

My local sheriffs are saying, "Glenn, why aren't they doing anything to stop this coming across the southern border?" Think of all the families, the people who have died from illegal drug use.

You think of all the humanitarian problems in addition to the huge financial impact this is going to have on America.

I have been down at the border looking at the little children in pens, under 8 years old, unaccompanied by parents, staying there. What is going to become of these children? Apparently we don't care. We continue to let the system go on. We continue to allow the word go out around the world, not just Central America, but South America, Asia, everywhere, Russia, Cuba, Haiti, more and more people coming in this country. And every day we don't do something, the word gets out and the number continues to go up.

But what I would like to address is how have some Members—I hope not that many. But currently the reconciliation bill that is under consideration, you read about it in the paper, how do they respond? Do they respond with more Border Patrol agents? No, we are going to keep the Border Patrol understaffed.

Do they respond with a wall? Which whenever anybody thinks about it, whenever I am on the border talking to local law enforcement, talking to the Border Patrol, all thought the wall was a good idea. No, we are not going to respond that way.

We are going to look at the crisis and change immigration law to dramatically increase the number of people coming here, whether it is increasing the number of green cards, increasing chain migration. Right now, and something that I think would end the United States as we know it, if this

reconciliation bill passes, it will result in a dramatic increase in immigration.

So instead of doing what anybody with an ounce of common sense would say, and let's hire more Border Patrol agents for the border, we go the other way and say we don't have enough people in this country. We are near record levels of the number of current Americans who have been born abroad. Immigrants are fine. I think in 2018 we swore in, I believe, 830,000 new citizens.

But to respond to the crisis at the border, all the Haitians being let in, all the people from around the world to say let's change immigration law and let's dramatically increase the number of people who are coming here legally, to boot, is just crazy.

It is unfair to all the people who have done things right. And it is up to us to make sure that in the future, people who come here have their years in doing jobs, are appropriately vetted, and make sure they are good citizens. Not to slap dash say, as scandalous as things are at the border, let's let in a lot of new people here as chain migration relatives or that many more green cards as well.

So I beg this body to wake up. I beg the press corps to wake up as far as what is going on at the border, as well as what is going on in the reconciliation bill, and let the American public know what is going on.

I realize that the reconciliation bill is long and complicated. We can't cover it all. But at least the American public ought to know what we are voting on before we destroy America. In addition to the generosity that is in the bill as well that further serves as a carrot to bring people here.

We have a provision in there to give free Pell grants, free scholarships to people who are coming here illegally. Which, of course, will further encourage more people to come here. I still find that hard to believe. That if that bill passes as is, the average middle-class American will be expected to owe \$20,000, \$40,000, \$50,000 in debt and may or may not get something available at the university. But if you show up at the southern border because you don't have a lot of money and are considered poor, you will get free college. I mean, no wonder people are coming here when they see the type of bills that our Congress propose.

But above all, the other provisions are going to result in huge increases in immigration, and I beg the press corps to cover that.

I would like to thank you for giving me this time to address these two problems, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.