

for them. It is one of life's great enigmas that Republicans can keep a straight face while they simultaneously cite the deficit to extort massive spending cuts to critical programs and support a bill that would blow up deficits to extend trillions in tax cuts for the people who need them the least.

Three and a half trillion dollars is an eye-popping long-term price tag for the Trump tax law that Republicans swore up and down would pay for itself," Wyden said. "Republicans who say they're worried about the deficit have brought our economy on the brink of default, and yet they want to run up the debt by locking in the Trump tax law that remains horribly skewed toward corporations and the wealthy. The Republican game plan is clear. For every penny they give in tax handouts to the rich, down the road they're going to demand equivalent cuts that boot people off their health care, increase child hunger, and raise the cost of living for typical Americans.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, extending the Trump tax cuts would create a windfall for the top 5 percent of income earners, who would receive nearly 40 percent of the benefits in the first year alone, making this legislation one of the most regressive and expensive tax giveaways in history. The average taxpayer in the top 1 percent would save nearly \$26,000 in just that first year.

CBO's previous cost estimate for extending the Trump tax cuts was \$3 trillion through 2032, but the 10-year budget window now includes more years post-expiration. The new estimate is part of a larger report analyzing alternative assumptions about spending and revenues. It also includes a projection that permanently extending the enhancements made to the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits—originally enacted in 2021's American Rescue Plan Act and extended through 2025 by 2022's Inflation Reduction Act—would cost \$300 billion, a fraction of the cost of extending the Trump tax cuts.

HONORING OUR COMMITMENTS TO OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank this body for passing my bill, the Streamlining Aviation for Eligible Veterans Act, or SAFE Veterans Act, as part of the VET-TEC reauthorization bill that the House passed this week.

This bill will make a meaningful contribution to allowing more of our veterans to receive vocational flight training and enter our Nation's workforce as pilots following their service in our military.

Madam Speaker, in 1980, over two-thirds of our Nation's pilots were veterans. Today, that number is less than 30 percent. This bill will not only ameliorate that situation but also help us honor the commitment that we have made to those who served in our Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, I urge its passage in the Senate and its transmittal to the President, and I thank this body for supporting it.

REPUBLICAN DEFAULT CRISIS: VETERANS

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, this weekend, our Nation will solemnly observe Memorial Day to honor our fallen heroes and their families.

Instead of this honoring of our veterans, shamefully, the Republicans across the aisle will spend the weekend working to impose suffering on our valiant veterans.

The Republicans have forced Americans down a treacherous path to accept their extreme proposal, which would eliminate 30 million health visits for our veterans and slash revenues at the VA.

It would trigger a catastrophic default, which would force our Nation to stiff veterans on the benefits they have earned. That also applies to the effect it would have on America's middle class.

All this is for the Republicans to pass another massive tax cut, which they will do in a matter of weeks. That is their plan, to do it by the birthday of the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, June 16.

Trillions of dollars will be added to the national debt to give tax breaks to the high end at the cost of the suffering of our veterans.

It is disgraceful. Republicans must stay here and not skip town, work to avoid a default, and honor the sacred duty of our veterans as we observe Memorial Day.

RECOGNIZING ROLAND CHRISTENSEN

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

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, in the latest edition of the U.S. News & World Report's "Best States" rankings, Utah was ranked the top in the Nation.

Utah has one of the strongest economies in America because of our State's pro-market policies, family values, and entrepreneurial spirit. At the forefront of Utah's thriving economy is the booming technology industry in my district and across our State.

Today, I recognize Roland Christensen, an entrepreneur, a businessowner, and an engineer who has made an invaluable contribution to the Gunnison community and the entire State of Utah.

Raised in the rural town of Gunnison, Roland utilized his expertise in mechanical engineering to build one of the most successful aerospace companies in the Nation from the ground up in his hometown.

ACT Aerospace is a defense technology manufacturing leader supporting our troops with the latest technology to win on the battleground because of the visionary leadership of Ro-

land Christensen and the highly skilled workforce of Utah.

Madam Speaker, I thank Roland for all he does to keep Utah the best place to live, raise a family, and start a business.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, extreme MAGA Republicans have manufactured a crisis and are now extorting the American people with a terrible choice. Either they inflict cruel cuts that hurt everyday families, or they are forcing or trying to force a devastating default on our debt.

They are gambling with working people's livelihoods and the global economy, driving us to the brink of economic catastrophe.

It is all because they would rather have working people bear the burden of these terrible cuts instead of making billionaires and big corporations pay their fair share in taxes.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake. Our constituents are watching, especially those in Speaker MCCARTHY's district, where 75,000 people would lose Social Security payments; 285,000 people's healthcare benefits would be at risk; and the retirement savings of 89,000 people would be in jeopardy, not to mention the number of veterans who would lose their healthcare in Speaker MCCARTHY's district.

Madam Speaker, from day one, Democrats have been the most responsible and the loudest voices in defending working families from Republicans' extreme behavior. We will continue to call out these games and hostage taking. We must pay our bills.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, we are 1 week away from Secretary Yellen's hard default date, the June 1 deadline.

House Republicans have been calling on our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the President to be negotiating on this debt since January. It is now May 25. In the past 140 days, we have been hearing a lot of name-calling and little bipartisan negotiation.

While this impasse has dragged on, House Republicans passed legislation, the Limit, Save, Grow Act, that averts a default and reduces wasteful spending. Let's negotiate from that point.

We have a plan to avert default and are eager to work with the President to work out a suitable compromise, but we would rather hear a lot of stuff and name-calling, and keep on printing and spending more money. Indeed, it was pointed out that if our plan goes

through, it would mean a 20 percent cut in discretionary spending over just 5 months, so that must mean we increase spending by 20 percent in 1 fiscal year of discretionary spending.

Madam Speaker, how many years can you keep increasing spending by 20 percent? Not 1, 2, 3, or 5, but a 20 percent increase. How do we afford that going forward?

It is incredibly amazing we think that should be the route we should go and keep adding to our debt.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is an unfortunate reality that hypocrisy has become a guiding principle of the leadership of this body.

Three times we raised the debt limit under the previous President. Those three times the American people never once had to worry that we would not pay our bills or that their retirement was in danger.

This is a manufactured crisis by House Republicans. It is an act of calculated cruelty that would put millions out of work and force families across the country to wonder where their next meal will come from.

In my district, an estimated 95,600 households with Social Security checks are at risk.

My constituents are not alone. Madam Speaker, think of the people back home who elected you to represent their interests faithfully. It is in no one's interest to manufacture an economic crisis.

We can fix this crisis right now. All we need are five brave Republicans, five Republicans who care about veterans, five Republicans who care about Social Security, five Republicans who care about Medicare, and five Republicans who care about our future.

It is time to do our job.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, Ben Franklin said that necessity never made a good bargain.

This is necessity. For the first time since 1789, our MAGA GOP friends are putting us at risk of default.

However, we have a solution, and it is sitting right here, right next to me. It is a discharge petition, and we only need five of you.

Madam Speaker, I see about 80 of my Democratic colleagues in front of me, and I only see one Republican, you.

We only need five. So, I welcome you back to Washington. Come on. Join us. Sign the petition. We will keep the lights on, but will you?

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DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, this is why the American people get frustrated with Congress. They get frustrated when folks here play politics. They get frustrated when there are unnecessary crises created.

Rather than vote to pay our bills, as was done three times under the last President, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have us on a path to a disastrous default. That is, unless this body agrees to gut programs that working families in my State depend on.

The American people get frustrated when these issues are treated like a game and when our constituents are the ones who lose. There will be 4,800 kids who will lose access to preschool and childcare; 37,000 women, infants, and kids who will lose help with food; 89,000 college students who will see their costs go up.

I don't say this in a partisan way. These are just facts. The cuts proposed by my Republican colleagues would cut law enforcement, food safety, and vital support to families across our State.

That is not a good idea. We can do better. We should do better.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, in 7 days, our country will face one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to national security in our lifetime.

In 7 days, our country faces default while House Republicans continue to play partisan political games with the debt limit.

In these Chambers, we talk a lot about keeping Americans safe, strategic competition, and national security.

We point a finger at foreign threats and international bad actors but let us be clear: The biggest threat to American lives and livelihoods is House Republicans holding everyday Americans hostage for partisan political gains.

If we as a Congress are serious about ensuring national security, then we must stand up against this House Republican manufactured crisis.

We must do the right thing, invest in our country, and recognize that:

Financial security is national security. Health security is national security. Food security is national security. Housing security is national security. People's security is national security.

I will not support lifting the debt ceiling on the backs of working families, our veterans, or our seniors. Know this: As Democrats, we will continue to do the right thing and put people over politics.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS IMPACT ON VETERANS

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Republicans holding our economy hostage and planning to slash billions of dollars from veterans' services and benefits in return for maintaining the full faith and credit of the United States.

Republicans are delivering a one-two punch to veterans. First, their default on America act would slash \$30 billion from veterans' services, eliminate housing vouchers for 50,000 homeless veterans, and cut 81,000 jobs from the Veterans Health Administration. They can say whatever they want, but this is what they voted for.

Second, Republicans just released a bill to gut the healthcare funding we promised to toxic-exposed veterans in the PACT Act.

How about instead of cuts to veterans' services and benefits, we reduce our deficit by ending tax loopholes for the ultra wealthy and by ensuring the largest corporations pay their fair share?

House Democrats are united in opposition to Republicans' veteran funding cuts, and we will not go back on the progress we have made.

As we all head into this Memorial Day weekend, we must do better. We must not default on our debts. Let's keep our promises to our veterans.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are the most powerful country, and we are less than a week away from defaulting on our debt. We should all be outraged, and we should all be here.

Constituents in North Carolina's First Congressional District will feel the impact immediately and long term if we default.

North Carolina's First Congressional District has over 174,000 residents who would lose Social Security payments, and nearly 50,000 veterans, our heroes who protect our communities and defend our freedoms, would see payments slashed.

As we prepare to honor those who died in military service, the best way that we can help their surviving family members and those that they served with is by Congress fulfilling its obligation to pay its bills now.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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