

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?

□ 1100

#### 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.)

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concern with MAGA Republicans' ransom plan which threatens access to SNAP and Federal food assistance programs that prevent families from going hungry every single day.

Too often, households across the country find it difficult to put food on their tables. SNAP has been and remains a vital mechanism to alleviate this hardship.

SNAP provides relief for more than 42 million people each year. We are talking about 42 million Americans who would go hungry if this program were to be put on the chopping block.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have no problem cutting food assistance programs. For extreme Republicans, what they deem to be fiscally responsible takes precedence over addressing food insecurity. It takes precedence over addressing poverty.

I stand firmly against Republicans' heartless attempts to slash food assistance programs. Democrats are united to pay America's bills and not play partisan politics. It is time for Washington to work with American families.

THE DEBT CRISIS

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, the debt crisis that we are facing as a Nation right now is a manufactured one. Extreme Republicans are holding the livelihoods and the bank accounts of hardworking families hostage.

You don't have to take my word for it. This week, one of the most far right, TV-loving Members of this Chamber said he doesn't feel like they should negotiate with their hostage. That is a quote.

What is the ransom they are demanding?

Gutting the critical programs that those same families depend on to make ends meet.

It is disgraceful to tell parents working two jobs that their food assistance is being cut because Republicans are helping millionaires cheat on their taxes.

It is shameful to tell a veteran that his rental assistance stopped because the GOP doesn't want billion-dollar corporations paying their fair share.

We can end this manufactured crisis today, Madam Speaker. All it takes is five sensible, five responsible Republicans to turn their car around and join us in this discharge petition for a clean debt limit.

Do the right thing. Do it today.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today outraged that ex-

tremist Republicans continue to play games, political theater, with Americans' livelihoods.

Extreme Republicans, the hostage takers, are threatening to crash our economy unless Congress guts critical programs that millions of people rely on.

Defaulting on our debt could delay Social Security and Medicare benefits for 6.9 million seniors in California alone.

Alicia, a constituent from Upland, recently reached out to my office concerned about her Social Security benefits.

Alicia, along with many other seniors, are the victims of extreme Republicans. Alicia paid into Social Security her entire life with the promise that she would be able to retire with dignity. She deserves better. The Inland Empire deserves better. Americans deserve better.

If there are any reasonable Members left in this Republican majority, it is time for them to do the right thing and pay our Nation's bills.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, we are 7 days from a debt default that would spell economic catastrophe for hardworking Americans and Virginians.

As you have heard, we are in a hostage-taking situation where MAGA Republicans don't want to negotiate with the hostage.

It is not House Democrats that are being held hostage. As you have heard from my Democratic colleagues, it is the American people. It is also our State governments.

Last week, Virginia State Senate budget analysts outlined what a default would mean for the Commonwealth of Virginia, which has a very large Federal footprint.

It would be catastrophic. It would have a devastating impact on the State budget and funding for schools, healthcare, roads, public safety, broadband, and affordable housing.

An extended default could cost the Commonwealth nearly 200,000 jobs, slash payrolls by 4.7 percent, and throw the State economy into a recession, as well as the American economy.

A default jeopardizes Medicaid reimbursements to rural hospitals, Federal grants awarded in the Commonwealth, over 4,000 federally funded State employees, and millions of Virginians who receive Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' benefits. It is time to raise the debt ceiling.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at the ex-

treme MAGA Republicans in this House who are fighting to take food out of the mouths of children, medicine out of the hands of seniors, and relief out of the pockets of working people, all to fund their tax cuts for the billionaires and corporations that fund their campaigns.

Make no mistake: That is what this entire Republican manufactured debt crisis is about. It is not about cutting spending.

If it was about cutting spending, they would support President Biden's plan to cut \$900 billion from the deficit by negotiating with the drug companies for Medicare and Medicaid. But, no, they don't want to upset their Big Pharma donors.

It is not about avoiding default. If it was about avoiding default, they would sign the discharge petition and end this whole thing today.

This is about one thing and one thing only: taking money out of the pockets of the working people who I represent and putting it in the pockets of the millionaires, the billionaires, and the corporations.

These reverse Robin Hoods on the Republican side who seek to steal from the working people to benefit the rich need to stop this craziness and end this thing today.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, the obvious solution to this threat to our economy is for the U.S. to join the rest of the world and simply repeal the debt limit.

For years, I have been introducing legislation to do just that. House Republicans now insist that they want to drag budget negotiations into this discussion. Fine.

Both parties agree that default is unacceptable. Both parties agree that our national debt must be dealt with.

There are two basic ways to do this: First, by cutting tax breaks that allow billionaires to pay lower taxes than middle-class Americans or by cutting programs that help ordinary Americans: retirees, veterans, students, or just families that are trying to get their kids through school.

As long as Republicans insist that the only thing that they will consider to solve this problem is 100 percent on the backs of the middle class and zero percent on the backs of the billionaires who fund their campaigns, then they are not negotiating. That refusal is putting our economy at risk.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss Speaker MCCARTHY's