

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

irresponsibility with the debt ceiling negotiations. It is very dangerous to play games with the American economy.

While Speaker MCCARTHY haggles over the debt ceiling, millions of Americans are wondering if they are going to have a job after next week. The stock market is wondering if this is going to lead to a recession or a depression.

Speaker MCCARTHY does not feel these concerns are important. He thinks they can wait. They cannot wait.

America's bills are coming due, and now we need to pay them and pay them now. This is not the time to relax and enjoy the weekend like Speaker MCCARTHY wants to do.

This is the time to roll up our sleeves and do the work we were elected to do and increase the debt ceiling to help Americans nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I hope the American public is watching this because this will be the moment when your benefits will be cut, and veterans' benefits will be cut. Remember who was not here on this day.

□ 1115

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my Republican colleagues to come back to work now to responsibly avoid a national default, just like they did three times under President Trump.

Instead, as the U.S. is on the brink of defaulting for the first time in history, House Republicans have recessed for the weekend, holding the global economy hostage and threatening a catastrophic recession if they don't get to impose cruel cuts on American workers, families, veterans, and seniors.

The mere threat of default will cost workers close to \$20,000 out of their retirement savings. It would also send interest rates skyrocketing, cost small businesses \$2,500 more per month for capital, and force Californians to pay almost \$300 more per month on their mortgages.

Republicans already voted to spend the money. Now they are trying to walk out on the bill and leave the most vulnerable Americans out to dry. That is inexcusable.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise against the Speaker of this House sending Members of Congress home on a break as he is taking our economy hostage in service of his dangerous, MAGA Republican agenda designed to gut social programs that save lives.

We are on the brink of economic disaster because of a fabricated Republican ultimatum, and the Speaker has decided to send everyone home.

This is not a game. Real people and real lives hang in the balance, but the Speaker seems intent on holding our economy hostage and rewarding himself with a break, as he is bringing us to the brink of a default that would devastate communities like mine in St. Louis.

Just over 2 years ago, the Republican Party tried to hold our democracy hostage. Now they are holding our economy hostage. They are gambling with Social Security checks, with Medicare and Medicaid benefits, with food for children, and with people's rent money, and that is a bad deal.

The Dems are here. The Dems are here. The Dems are here, and we are saying: Where are the Republicans? Sign the discharge petition.

Madam Speaker, will you sign the discharge petition? Where are the Republicans? Sign the discharge petition.

The Speaker needs to do his job.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, the Speaker has sent Congress home with default looming. Only Congress can raise the debt ceiling; and if we don't, we fail.

However, the Republicans are trying to get their radical cuts, holding our economy hostage. These are cuts they can't get on the merits, like eliminating farm disaster relief, cuts to veterans' benefits, laying off firefighters and air traffic controllers, interrupting cancer research, stopping payments to nursing homes.

Instead, they threaten default, which could cause a worldwide economic recession, cuts to regular Americans, millions of jobs lost.

We would lose our preeminent spot in the world economy. China and Russia would win.

Forty percent of all U.S. accumulated debt since 1789 happened during the Trump years.

Yes, we can get our fiscal house in order, but not the way these radicals have proposed. We need to do our job and end this self-imposed threat of chaos.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, Republicans are refusing to raise the debt ceiling, manufacturing a crisis to push their extreme agenda. They are ready to allow our government to default on its debt for the first time in our history, even though Republicans raised

the debt ceiling three times during the Trump administration after passing almost \$2 trillion in tax cuts for large corporations and the ultra-wealthy.

The default should matter to average Americans because if the government runs out of cash, it won't be able to make Social Security payments to seniors who rely on them; families on food assistance will go hungry; veterans won't get the care and the benefits they have earned.

Defaulting on our debt will destabilize the U.S. financial system resulting in a recession, job loss, and spiking interest rates. This means it will be more expensive for people to get loans to buy cars, buy homes, attend college, or invest in their small businesses.

It is time for Republicans to stop holding our economy hostage and to do their job.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to step up to the plate, come back to work, and pay our Nation's bills.

Defaulting on our debt would be catastrophic. In my district alone, this will kill some 6,700 jobs, jeopardize Social Security payments for 91,000 families, put health benefits at risk for 388,000 people, and threaten the retirement savings of 99,100 people near retirement. This is in my district alone.

Look around. House Republicans went home and dodged their responsibilities, hurting everyday working people in the process. I stand firmly united with my Democratic colleagues and the American people to pay our debt without playing games with people's lives.

I urge the Republicans to put on their big boy pants and big girl pants and come back to work. Do the right thing. Do the right thing for the American people because the American people deserve better.

Let's do our jobs.

#### REMEMBERING TINA TURNER

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the queen of rock and roll, the incomparable Tina Turner.

She passed away yesterday at 83 years of age after a career so bold and sparkling, we are unlikely to see another star so bright.

What did love have to do with it? Everything.

Tina Turner loved and owned her own story. She unveiled the trauma of domestic violence and turned it into a strength felt by women across the