

world. She was a true ambassador of the Buddhist practice, showed female artists how to take ownership of their brand, and she used music to speak and captivate us.

She was a constituent of the 37th District, having lived in View Park, the heart of my district. Her passing is a true loss to the global community.

In this moment, she would probably say to Republicans: Don't hide this weekend. Stay and do your job. The American people deserve more from you. They work hard and don't deserve to be blamed, lied to, and defaulted on by a dysfunctional Republican Party who can't get its act together. Lead, don't bleed the American people.

No, wait, I said that.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to reject the Republicans' reckless default on America act and to protect the progress that we have made in the very important transition to clean energy.

The Inflation Reduction Act is a significant investment in our country's clean and healthy future. We are on the cusp of a major clean energy expansion, generating billions of dollars in private clean energy investments and thousands of clean energy jobs.

In northwest Oregon, the Inflation Reduction Act has brought millions of dollars in funding for climate-resilient infrastructure, low-emission public transportation, and clean schoolbuses.

Benefits are flowing to red, blue, and purple States, bringing cost savings to our constituents. Texas and Iowa, for example, are leading the U.S. in solar and wind production. It would be foolhardy and fickle to disrupt or delay this important work, just like it is foolhardy and fickle of the Republicans to try to force draconian budget cuts by threatening default.

We must put our constituents first by passing a clean debt limit increase so we can turn our attention to the real work at hand, creating jobs, cutting energy costs, growing our clean energy economy for the sake of our vulnerable communities, future generations, and our planet.

Madam Speaker, it would only take five brave Republicans to put country over party and sign the petition.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the cowardice of my Republican colleagues, who should be standing across the aisle right now but have fled D.C. and their sworn duty to their constituents to avoid forcing our Nation onto default on our debt.

A catastrophic default should not, under any circumstances, delight MAGA Republicans, but these horribly bad actors are in contempt. They can hardly contain their excitement as the Nation stands on the brink of ruin.

Make no mistake, the MAGA movement has abandoned all pretext. They are not here to govern.

Eight million American jobs will be slashed in the blink of an eye.

Retirement savings will be devastated overnight, and there will be an all-but-certain recession.

This catastrophe is not just looming, but primed to collapse on our communities, and Speaker McCarthy refuses to keep the House in session.

Are he and his party really so eager to preside over our Nation's default on her debt? The answer is a resounding, yes, they are. Remember, their cruelty is the point.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Madam Speaker, my Republican colleagues love to pray but can't stay, stay and do the job we were elected to do because, frankly, they aren't capable of governing.

Don't believe me?

Just think back to the first few days that we were here, the days in which they were so dysfunctional that they had to go through 15 rounds before we could get to a Speaker.

Now, mark my words, he is dragging this out, and, unfortunately, the entire country is going into a tailspin not because they care about being fiscally responsible but more so because he cares about his precious Speakership.

We have seen the words of the radical right Republicans and what he said last week, and this is all about holding us hostage.

Let me tell you something: My constituents deserve better. My constituents deserve to have a House that functions and stays and does the job instead of deciding that it is time to go and play.

I have a constituent that has called my office in north Texas talking about the fact that he could not get his Federal retirement for months. Well, guess what? We finally got it pushed through, but leave it up to this House, and he won't get what he deserved and what he worked for.

Working families deserve a House that will stay instead of play.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on House Republicans to stop the partisan politics and pay our bills.

It is my top priority to ensure everyone in Ohio's 13th Congressional District feels safe and secure at every stage of their lives, but the Republicans' manufactured crisis, forcing an impossible choice between devastating cuts or devastating default, directly undermines the safety and security of the people of Ohio's 13th District.

House Republicans' demands would jeopardize Social Security payments for 110,000 seniors in places like Stow, Hudson, and Twinsburg.

It would cut Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans Affairs health coverage benefits for 322,000 families in cities like Barberton and Akron.

It would threaten the retirement savings of 109,000 northeast Ohioans who worked so hard so that they could retire securely. That is over half of my district, Mr. Speaker.

Republicans' demands significantly cut Federal support to local law enforcement agencies and slash crime prevention grants heading into the summer.

Law enforcement agencies in my district, in Stark County, are already understaffed and struggling to fill more than 80 positions across the county.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. SYKES. Why, Mr. Speaker, do you want my people to suffer? Ohio's 13th District cannot afford these cuts. They will make our communities less safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has again expired.

Mrs. SYKES. I will not yield back while the Republicans are holding our communities hostage and making our communities—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

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DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I always say that Vermont is held together with duct tape, twine, and hundreds of hours of volunteer service.

The other thing that we know about Vermonters: They pay their bills. They also stay when you are in the midst of an emergency, which is where we are right now.

Mr. Speaker, I led my senate chamber. When you are facing a budgetary crisis, you don't leave. You stay. You engage. It doesn't matter if it is 1 o'clock in the morning, 2 o'clock in the morning, or overnight, you stay.

We are public servants.

I can't believe that not five so-called moderate Republicans—because we hear about them all the time, that there is a group of reasonable Republicans. Where are they? We need just

five to sign the discharge petition and be done with this.

Pay our bills, that is what we are talking about—pay our bills and not be held hostage and make dramatic cuts that are going to affect veterans, going to affect students, going to affect working families. That is what we are talking about.

Where are they? Where are the five moderate Republicans that we always hear about?

They are not here. They left.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, the leader they worship, Donald J. Trump, is the “king of debt,” as he described himself.

Spellbound, whenever he commands, they would crash our government and default on America.

Never concerned with the soaring Trump debt that they supported, their sudden interest now in deficit reduction is really about undermining education, health, environmental protection, and social service initiatives that they never supported in the first place.

Their plan is not about debt reduction. It is only about making room for another round of tax cuts that they have already scheduled for June to benefit the superrich, the giant multinational corporations, those who refuse to pay their fair share of our national security and other vital public services.

Don't make Americans pay for Republican hypocrisy.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. Republicans want to drive us over the cliff into default and catastrophe, cut off healthcare and Social Security payments, and drive up interest rates so more people are homeless and hungry.

Five Republicans could join all 213 Democrats and lift the debt ceiling right now, but they went home.

My constituent Amy called me absolutely terrified that she is going to miss her Social Security payment. If that happens, then she can't pay her rent and won't have a place to live.

Amy heard Republicans yesterday say the quiet part out loud. They said: We don't want to negotiate with our hostage.

Well, Amy is your hostage. She and millions like her—teachers, firefighters, seniors, veterans—are demanding that Republicans stop playing games with their lives.

Donald Trump presided over the third largest deficit increase in the debt ever because they spent almost \$2

trillion on tax cuts for the wealthiest billionaires, and now they want poor and working people to pay that bill.

Stop it. Pass a clean debt ceiling right now.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the extreme MAGA Republican effort to default on our debt, crash the economy, and trigger a job-killing recession.

From the very beginning of this Congress, House Democrats have been focused on putting people over politics. Lower costs, better-paying jobs, safer communities, fighting for reproductive freedom, defending democracy, ensuring an economy that works for everyday Americans—people over politics.

We have made clear from the very beginning that we are willing to find common ground with the other side of the aisle for the good of the American people whenever and wherever possible. We have also made clear that we will fight extremism whenever necessary.

So, we are here on the floor today because this default crisis is before the American people as a result of extreme MAGA Republicans making the political calculation that they will benefit in 2024 if they crash the economy, if America defaults, if we fail to pay our bills, if millions of people are made to suffer—not our words. Those are the words of former President Donald Trump, the words of the chairman of the Republican National Committee, the words of extreme MAGA Republicans at the very far right of their Conference.

It is a political calculation that we are going to take hostages, the American people and the economy, and threaten to crash the economy, to hurt these hostages, if necessary, or extract painful cuts—painful cuts to our veterans; to disabled children on Medicaid; to people who rely on nutrition assistance, including our veterans; to children; to teachers; to public safety; and, of course, to our military families.

These are the stakes that are before the American people. That is why House Democrats are here on the floor fighting.

How we know that the other side of the aisle has made the determination that they are willing to default on our debt to crash the economy is because this default crisis is before the American people. On June 1, America may run out of the ability to pay our bills, and extreme MAGA Republicans have chosen to get out of town before sundown, to flee Washington, D.C., to risk a dangerous default in a crisis that they have created.

These Republicans are going to say that Joe Biden refused to sit down with them. That is a fake narrative that they have continued to try to put into the public domain. They said that

President Biden refused to talk for 97 days, a fake, false, fraudulent narrative.

How do we know? The timeline is pretty clear.

On February 1, President Biden sat down with the Speaker of the House. They had a conversation in the Oval Office. President Biden said that we will produce our budget on March 9 so that the American people know our values, know the types of investments that should be made for their health, their safety, and their economic well-being, and challenged the extreme MAGA Republicans to do the same thing.

On March 9, President Biden produced his budget, a budget that will strengthen and protect Social Security, a budget that will build an economy from the middle out and the ground up, a budget that will cut the deficit by an additional \$3 trillion on top of the \$1.7 trillion that has already been cut by the Biden administration over the last 2 years.

Then, we waited for Republicans to produce their budget.

Early March, no budget.

Mid-March, no budget.

Late March, no budget.

Early April, no Republican budget.

Mid-April, no Republican budget.

Then, on April 25, they didn't produce a budget, but they produced the default on America act—not a budget, a ransom note, threatening to hurt the well-being of the American people with draconian cuts.

They introduced it on April 25. On April 26, they voted on it, and they passed it simply because GEORGE SANTOS, a serial fraudster, provided the deciding vote.

This is who they are.

Then, on April 27, they got out of town. Some of them were overseas for 10 days, and then as soon as they got into town, Tuesday, May 9, President Biden, on the first opportunity he had, reconvened all of us in the Oval Office.

Mr. Speaker, that is the timeline.

From the very beginning, Democrats have been willing to do two things: one, that America must pay our bills—period, full stop—in a manner consistent with what has been done under Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents, including by House Democrats making sure we avoided a default three times under the previous administration, notwithstanding the fact we had strong policy disagreements. What Republicans were doing at the time included passing the 2017 GOP tax scam, where 83 percent of the benefits went to the wealthiest 1 percent, sticking us with an additional \$2 trillion worth of debt. Why? To subsidize the lifestyles of the wealthy, the well off, and the well connected.

We had strong policy disagreements about what was going on in the Trump administration, but we never threatened to default on our debt. That is the patriotic thing to do.

We helped make sure we avoided a default three times, notwithstanding