

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

the fact that, in our country's 247-year history, 25 percent of the Nation's debt was racked up under the 4 years of the Trump administration.

How dare Republicans lecture America about fiscal responsibility with that shameful record. Notwithstanding the fact that Republicans have racked up unprecedented amounts of debt to subsidize the rich, the richest amongst us, and big corporations, we never threatened a default.

Yet, here we are, a few days from America being unable to pay our bills because you have made a political calculation that you will be successful in 2024 if you crash the economy.

That is wrong. That is cruel. That is un-American.

Republicans will be hurting veterans, hurting children, hurting seniors, hurting young people, hurting everyday Americans.

That is why Democrats are here today in Washington, fighting hard against this unreasonable, manufactured default crisis. This is a default crisis that is manufactured MAGA madness.

It is repugnant, reckless, and reprehensible.

It is unacceptable, unconscionable, and it is un-American.

That is why House Democrats have remained on the House floor fighting hard for everyday Americans. That is why we are here and will continue to fight for working families; continue to fight for middle-class folks; continue to fight for all those who aspire to be part of the middle class; continue to fight for young people; continue to fight for older Americans; continue to fight for veterans; continue to fight for military families; continue to fight for people in urban America, rural America, suburban America, small-town America, and the heartland of America; continue to fight for the people in Appalachia; continue to fight for the poor, the sick, and the afflicted; continue to fight for the least, the lost, and the left behind.

House Democrats will continue to fight for everyday Americans to avoid a default, and we will not rest until victory is won.

REPUBLICANS ADJOURNING

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, let me just start by saying thank you to our leader for his moral clarity and leadership for all of us.

As Memorial Day weekend approaches and we remember those who gave so much, the last full measure of devotion, Republicans are adjourning the House and scurrying out of town, leaving behind the mess of their own making, walking out on paying our bills, turning their backs on gun violence crises, walking away from a broken immigration system.

Democrats are ready to work. It is clear Republicans are not.

Empty promises and messaging bills for the purpose of getting on FOX News or Newsmax is not real work. The real work is legislating solutions for America's families.

We need leaders, not someone afraid of his own caucus, not folks who punch out in the middle of an unfinished workweek, but leaders willing to serve the American people, not a corrupted base.

That is what I signed up for when I ran for office.

I challenge the Republican majority: Be public servants.

When Republicans adjourn, I am not going home. No, I am heading to the border with many of my colleagues right here in this Chamber to see how we can best develop a more humane, secure border. Democrats are not walking away from the hard issues.

Republicans, come on back and do your job.

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DEBT CEILING IMPACT

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, when I was running to serve in this place back in 2018, I distinctly remember a telephone call that I got from a sitting Member of Congress right before the July Fourth holiday. He said to me: "Are you ready to take a job where holidays may not be holidays anymore?"

I thought about it, and I said, "Yes, I am."

Well, here we are. We are on the eve of Memorial Day weekend and let me just let the American public know that when we finished votes this morning, the Republicans rushed off the floor to fly home without getting this job done.

The reasonable people are the ones who are still here, and they are all Democrats sitting on this side of the room.

Where are the rest of the grownups?

Many of my colleagues across the aisle seem unable to grasp the gravity of defaulting on our debt. Paying our bills is not something we should have to negotiate. It is a necessity of governing.

A default will cause an economic catastrophe. For Pennsylvania's Seventh Congressional District, default means 7,600 jobs killed, 105,000 families with Social Security payments in jeopardy, 282,000 people with Medicare, Medicaid, or VA health coverage at risk.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to stop playing games and protect working families from financial ruin.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, nearly 6,000 people participated in a telephone townhall of mine on Tuesday night. It allows me to understand what is most important to the people of my district today. One issue came up over and over.

Cheryl from Moline asked about access to food stamps and what will happen to Social Security payments if we default.

Stacy from West Peoria was worried about what a default would mean for middle-class families. "We are the forgotten ones," she told me.

Gayle, a veteran from Morrison, told me that she hates that politicians are about to take away her VA healthcare, something she uses every day.

Celeste in Bloomington wonders what this means for mental health care.

These are real people in my district who are scared, and rightly so. We can either choose to pay our bills or we can put the lives of working families and seniors at risk.

Real people told me what the right answer is. It is not scoring political points, and it sure as hell isn't driving our country's economy off a cliff.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the Republicans to come back to work.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, at 10:15 a.m. on Thursday morning, with the U.S. on the brink of a devastating default, our colleagues across the aisle decided to call it a week. Turning their backs on the American people to beat Memorial Day traffic is a new low for House Republicans.

House Republicans have left town while America speeds toward a devastating default, and they chose that route. They are willing to drive our Nation off an economic cliff and trigger a global recession, cutting veterans' benefits, taking food from hungry families, and laying off first responders.

The American people didn't send us here to play chicken with their retirement plans. House Republicans created this crisis, and they can end it. There is an off-ramp from this highway to hell. The overwhelming majority of Americans don't want the far right driving our national agenda.

Responsible Republicans need to come to the table for the American people, not skip town with the MAGA extremists.

REPUBLICANS' BROKEN PROMISES TO VETERANS

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, let's shed light on the Republicans' broken promises to our veterans.