

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.

□ 1145

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.

I have the privilege of serving as the ranking member of the normally bipartisan Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. However, this year, my Republican colleagues plan to slash medical care for toxic-exposed veterans, rolling back a promise this body made just last year when we passed the bipartisan PACT Act into law.

The PACT Act created the Toxic Exposures Fund, which is a pledge in law to provide a dedicated funding source to ensure the care related to toxic exposures will always be set aside and not have to compete with other veterans' priorities at VA and other agencies.

As you can see in this chart from the Republicans' VA budget report, President Biden honored this promise by carefully calculating the need and proposing \$20.3 billion for the TEF in his fiscal year 2024 budget. The Republicans' bill only provides \$5.5 billion, a quarter of the request. Not only do they shortchange the TEF by \$14.7 in 2024, but Republicans completely eliminate it, they zeroed it out in 2025.

Republicans can protest all they want, but their broken promise to our veterans is right here in black and white. We must keep our promise to our veterans, just like Joe Biden and the Democrats do.

REPUBLICAN FAILURE TO ACT ON DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because after weeks of pointing fingers on the debt ceiling negotiations, House Republicans have finally shown their true colors.

It is Republican leadership that controls this Chamber. It is Speaker MCCARTHY who controls the floor. Yet, instead of working overtime to make sure that we don't default on our Nation's debt and send the economy into a tailspin and stop the benefits of millions of Americans, Members of Congress are going home this weekend.

The interesting thing is that many of these folks, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, are the same people that clowned me on Twitter for not having the best credit after my campaign and being denied an apartment here in D.C.

Imagine the hypocrisy of poor-shaming working people for trying to pay off their debts, and then turn around and refuse to pay the country's debt to pay for tax cuts for billionaires. It is distasteful, disgraceful, and we have to do better.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, on a day like this, the last day of the week when Members get to vote by 11 o'clock, and then they start running out that door, I used to be envious.

Today, I am actually astonished; astonished at the problem before us and that people have decided to take a break for Memorial Day. When I go home, I have to go home and face 700 families, veterans and their families, and their question is going to be: What is going to happen to our benefits?

You might have to fill out extra paperwork to get it. People will lose access to their food benefits and their health benefits. Teachers, firemen, first responders, and police officers, these are the individuals who are going to lose access to the benefits that they usually get either from Social Security, from their VA checks, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should all come back tomorrow and continue the work we have before us. It is too important to allow us to go home.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today we are in the midst of a manufactured crisis that would have very real devastating consequences for the American people.

The extreme MAGA Republicans have taken the American economy hostage and presented the country with two disastrous choices: default or draconian spending cuts.

A default would erase millions of jobs, trigger a recession, devastate retirement accounts, and increase borrowing costs.

On the other hand, the cuts being promoted by the extreme MAGA Republicans would take Medicaid away from millions, snatch food assistance away from families, and even slash veterans' healthcare.

We need five moderate Republicans to sign the petition. New York State sent five moderate Republicans to the House.

Where are they today?

New York State, please take notice. When we needed them, they were not here doing right by the American people.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues—although I don't see them—to put people over politics. I invite five of my Republican colleagues to simply sign the petition to raise the debt ceiling.

This will directly impact my Queens' families if action is not taken. It would kill over 7,000 jobs in my district, jeopardize Social Security payments for

over 85,000 families, threaten retirement savings of over 100,000 people.

This Memorial Day weekend, it is not enough to march in parades and post pictures on social media. Republicans are risking benefits for over 300,000 people in my district alone that rely on Medicare, Medicaid, or veterans' health coverage.

Smiling and posing for pictures with veterans as they work to cut veterans' benefits and lay off first responders, that is unacceptable.

We just need five Republican colleagues to save our country.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe it has come to this. It is astonishing and, frankly, angering that Republicans have chosen to take Memorial Day weekend off, when they spent the last 3 weeks working overtime to shortchange our veterans and military members.

Let's be clear about what has happened here. Republicans are walking away because they can't get their way because President Biden won't cave to their anti-servicemembers and anti-veteran demands.

Instead, we are teetering on the verge of a default; a default that would disproportionately harm our Nation's heroes.

When the government runs out of money on June 1, guess whose benefits are on the chopping block?

Veterans.

It is all because Republicans decided to play with fire without stopping to think who might get burned. Our servicemembers and their families deserve so much better. We all do.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I know I am new here, but I came here to work—to work across the aisle and to actually get things done. But here we are on the eve of our country's default, and my Republican colleagues aren't even here to work with.

This isn't difficult. The United States Government contracted for and received goods and services. Now it must pay for them. We must pay our bills.

Default would be catastrophic for the people in Louisville, Kentucky. New car loans would go up by \$800. Mortgages for new homes would increase by \$38,000. There are 317,000 families, seniors, and veterans who are at risk of losing their benefits, not to mention the long-term damage to our currency and reputation around the world.

The alternative proposed by extreme Republicans is that we slash benefits to