

our veterans and to needy kids instead of closing tax loopholes for billionaires and megacorporations. This is fiscally irresponsible, and it is morally wrong.

Do better. Sign the discharge petition and get this done to save our economy.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, I am GREG CASAR. I am a brand new Member of Congress representing Texas, and I am standing over here on the Republican side of the aisle; not because I am a Republican, I am a Democrat. I want the American people to see that there aren't any Republicans in the seats here behind me on the eve of our default.

Where are the Republicans?

This is not a simple political disagreement. This is a dire crisis being imposed on the working people of America.

The American people could lose millions of jobs. You could lose your house. Your kids could lose their jobs. People could lose their savings. They aren't even here.

They want to burn the House down and blame the firefighters for the flames. They are listening to Donald Trump who is saying: Do a default. That is shameful. It is dangerous. There is no patriotism in this. There is no morality in this.

We just need five Republicans to sign the discharge petition with us to save the American people. We need the American people to speak up about why the Republicans are not in these empty chairs.

The American people can save us. The Democrats are aligned and ready to avoid a default and make sure that billionaires pay their fair share and folks aren't kicked off their healthcare or deprived of food.

□ 1200

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, where are our Republican colleagues? They are in charge in this Chamber. They manufactured this crisis. If any of my neighbors left work before noon, they would be fired.

The country is on a deadline, and the Republicans that are in charge in this Chamber just simply left. The real mind-boggling part is that these same MAGA Republicans that manufactured this crisis voted not once, not twice, but three times under the previously forever-impeached President with no issues.

Republicans love to talk about fiscal this, spending that, but not when it

comes to tax cuts to mega-billionaires or when it comes to funding bombs and wars that our country and our world doesn't need.

They are so completely disconnected with the American people and what the lives of the American people are like. A delay in Social Security checks would hurt our seniors. Creating instability of whether or not they are going to have healthcare coverage next week is just simply wrong.

A default on our debt for the first time in our history would be devastating for the American people, and they just left.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the Republicans have skipped town. They are leaving behind a ransom note on the full faith and credit of the United States. One Republican Congressman said: "My conservative colleagues don't feel like we should negotiate with our hostage," but the real hostages are American seniors, veterans, and working families.

Donald Trump said: "If they don't give you massive cuts, you are going to have to do a default," but that is not what he said back in 2019. Back then, he said the debt ceiling was, "a very sacred thing in our country that we can never play with."

He was right then.

Instead of cutting costs on the backs of working people, we should require billionaires and corporations to pay their fair share, but Republicans in Congress would rather put veterans' healthcare on the chopping block. Most Americans, most Republicans, don't support that. Let's get serious and get back to work.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the children in Georgia's Fighting 5th Congressional District at risk of going hungry in the face of this cruel Republican default.

Extreme MAGA Republicans are proposing cuts to 200,000 Head Start slots and 180,000 childcare slots nationwide. You all, that is more than 300,000 families who will be thrown into a devastating bind.

When families don't have access to care, they can't get to work, making it harder to put food on the table every day. This is a real-life dilemma facing parents like Chelsea and Dorian in Clayton County, Georgia, two mamas who are looking for jobs, but facing one major roadblock: Childcare.

Now, extreme MAGA Republicans are threatening to make their childcare

search even harder. That, or risk a disastrous default on our debt. Republicans are headed home for barbecues and hanging out with their families making their priorities clear.

A great speaker once said: "Sometimes you have to take a punch and give a punch for the children." You all, I am ready to fight for a solution on behalf of our children, and I am waiting for my Republican colleagues who are brave enough to fight alongside me for the children putting people over politics.

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fight for our Nation's servicemembers and push back against the extreme MAGA agenda wish list that will yank the rug out from under American families, small businesses, and our enlisted military members.

Pay for our soldiers, benefits for our veterans, military readiness, and more are in serious jeopardy. We risk America's health and safety, and we risk hurting America's middle class all because the MAGA wing continues to control the GOP.

This manufactured crisis jeopardizes national security and will ruin our economy. My colleagues across the aisle, who clearly aren't here right now, must choose. Will they crash the economy on purpose? Will they destroy jobs and American livelihoods, or will they stand up for our troops, veterans, families, and seniors? There is a word for people who take hostages, "terrorists."

#### DEBT CEILING CRISIS

(Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Republican plan to destroy our Nation's economy. Right now hundreds of Republican Members of Congress have rushed out of town to go on vacation with their friends and family. Democrats are here ready to work.

Americans are facing the reality of losing their retirement savings, jobs, and healthcare. Here are just some of the extreme demands that House Republicans have made: They want to cut 100,000 jobs for teachers; they want to put health insurance at risk for 21 million Americans; they want to put food assistance at risk for 1 million Americans.

This is cruel and shameful.

Let's be clear: House Republicans want to tank the economy and they want to give tax cuts to billionaires and large corporations. We have a default on our debt coming because House Republicans would rather be on vacation than get to work.

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, we are just days away from catastrophic economic default. House Republicans are playing politics with the lives of the American people to further an extremist agenda.

Putting the American economy at risk is reckless and dangerous. In my district, default would eliminate 7,300 jobs, jeopardize Social Security for 93,000 families, and put health benefits at risk for 281,000 people who rely on Medicare, Medicaid, or VA health coverage.

Their proposals do not solve any of our economic problems. In fact, the default on America is an egregious bill that puts vulnerable families at risk. Their plan would be disastrous in my State of Connecticut, resulting in 2,800 kids losing access to preschool and childcare, 12,000 mothers would be blocked from food assistance, and it would threaten medical care for 57,000 veterans.

It is a disgrace that leading into Memorial Day, House Republicans have ghosted the city and left.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to come back to Washington, pay our bills, and end this now.

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, we are days away from defaulting on our debt for the first time in our Nation's history. Extreme MAGA Republicans have needlessly manufactured an economic crisis and refuse to release their grip on the American people.

Why do I say the American people? Because the cuts that they want are going to cut 7 million jobs, deprive millions access to Medicare, and slash critical funding for education and food for children. For what? For the shameless protection of tax cuts that they put in their bill that have added \$3 trillion to the debt that they now want to cover off of the backs of the American people.

Shameless. They are shameless.

This flagrant disregard for the lives of everyday Americans and the economic stability of our country demonstrates the House GOP's corrupt and misguided priorities. Do not deprive our elders and children to meet the demands and the insatiable greed of your constituents, the rich American people.

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on my Republican

colleagues to stop playing ideological games and to do the job that they were sent here to do.

As our country teeters on the brink of an economic catastrophe, they rushed out of town and abandoned their responsibilities just like they want the United States to abandon our fiscal responsibilities.

House Republicans have made their message clear: Their needs come before the needs of hardworking families, seniors, children, students, and veterans. They are willing to hold our economy hostage and are willing to risk the livelihoods of millions of Americans with devastating cuts to vital programs that keep folks housed, fed, healthy, and secure.

However, Democrats are united. We stand ready to pass a clean debt ceiling and to do what is best for our country and the American people.

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

(Mr. TORRES of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, the failed wars in Afghanistan and Iraq added trillions of dollars to the debt and both began under a Republican President. The 2001, 2003, and 2017 tax cuts added trillions to the debt and each one began under a Republican President. The great recessions of 2008 and 2020 added trillions to the debt and each one began under a Republican President.

The Trump administration alone accounted for one-fourth of all the debt accumulated since 2000. The Republican Party is like an arsonist who burns down your home and then blames you for the fire while lecturing you on fire safety.

The fiscal responsibility of House Republicans is as fictional as GEORGE SANTOS. The House GOP is threatening to default on America unless it can extract draconian budget cuts against our seniors, veterans, essential workers, and families with children.

Madam Speaker, that is not a negotiation. That is an extortion of the American people. That is, in the words of MATT GAETZ, "a hostage taking." It is a hostage taking that will threaten to transform a Republican-made debt problem into a Republican-made debt crisis.

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise for the millions of American families that will suffer due to the manufactured debt ceiling crisis. Defaulting on our sovereign debt will be a disaster from Wall Street to Main Street to streets in my district and to the kitchen table.

Our economy is being held hostage for so-called "work requirements" that

disproportionately harm women and people with disabilities and people of color. Just one example: Food insecurity is at the highest level in 4 years, but MAGA Republicans will only prevent a financial catastrophe if we cut SNAP benefits for families, for veterans, for students, and for our seniors.

This would only deepen the hardships that vulnerable Americans face. Shame on you, Republicans. There is a simple solution to averting catastrophe: Pass a clean debt ceiling bill. Quit playing games with our country's future and come on back to Washington and do your job.

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Madam Speaker, we are here on the last day of this session and Republicans have decided to skip town, but what this debt ceiling debate really is about is the fact that Republicans have run up a bill that they now do not want to pay. They have run up this bill with extremely excessive military spending. They have run up this bill with extraordinary tax cuts for the wealthiest people in this country and now when it comes time to pay for this bill, they do not want to pay it.

Not only that, but they are accusing Democrats of saying we spend too much. For anyone that wants to entertain that thought, I ask you to think about the last time a person has said in this country that the government does too much for them, that their Social Security check was too high, that teachers are paid too much. When was the last time anyone has heard or seen that?

□ 1215

## DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to demand that Speaker MCCARTHY and my Republican colleagues in the House return so that we can pass a clean bill to prevent a devastating default.

Let me be very clear. We, as Members of Congress, have a solemn obligation to pay our Nation's bills and to protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

We have never defaulted on our debt, but this time, House Republicans are refusing to address the debt limit unless we cut serious programs that Alabama families that I represent need most, like veteran benefits and food assistance for our seniors and children.

Madam Speaker, this is a manufactured crisis. Republicans could pass a clean debt ceiling bill but chose not to. We passed such a bill three times under the Trump administration.

Today, Republicans have chosen to send us home instead of doing our job.