

My Republican colleagues have decided to leave for the weekend, dodging their responsibility to this Nation. All they have offered us is political theater, with a piece of legislation that would bring devastating cuts to 15 percent of the Federal budget and no willingness to reverse the Trump tax cuts that benefited their millionaire and billionaire donors.

Last week, my GOP colleagues used every breath to honor the brave men and women of law enforcement, yet their bill would cut up to \$10 billion from Federal law enforcement funding and result in a 22 percent cut to border security.

Their bill would cut 27,000 wildland firefighters as fire season is starting in the West, putting more lives at risk.

So I ask my colleagues: Stop the political theater and sign our discharge petition. Let's get to work passing a reasonable budget that invests in working families.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the well-being of the American people should never be used as a political bargaining chip, but that is exactly what House MAGA Republicans are doing.

Yesterday, my friend MATT GAETZ, who appears to be the lead MAGA debt ceiling negotiator, let the cat out of the bag when he told us that most of his caucus: "Don't feel like we should negotiate with our hostage."

Who is the hostage that MAGA Republicans have tied to a chair and left in the basement while they leave to enjoy the holiday weekend?

It is none other than the American people and our economy.

Why are they doing it after voting three times for a clean debt ceiling under Donald Trump?

Because they want to ruin the economy, blame it on President Biden, and pave the way to reelect their savior, Donald Trump.

How despicable.

We need five Republicans to sign the discharge petition so the House can vote on a clean debt ceiling bill and continue moving our Nation forward.

□ 1230

DEFAULT IMPACT ON VETERANS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, we are on the brink of defaulting on our debt, and that would be apocalyptic. Millions of jobs would be lost. Mortgage and credit card rates would skyrocket. Retirement accounts would be devalued. A recession would

be triggered. The crazy math being offered by the Republicans isn't adding up.

The Speaker says that the defense budget and taxes are off the negotiating table. That is 75 percent of the budget. Cutting the remaining budget would have an even greater devastating impact on every American.

What is worse is that the Republicans have left town while the Speaker allows us to be pushed toward a default that hurts everybody, including our veterans.

Veterans' VA appointments would be canceled. Veterans looking to buy a home would be hit by higher interest rates. Veterans who have credit card bills will face higher interest rates. If House Republicans cause a default, then more than 7 million veterans and their families will lose essential benefits that they have earned.

Stop this madness. Come back to work. Let's address this problem.

PREVENT DEBT DEFAULT

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my opposition to the House Republicans adjourning for the holiday while leaving the American people in limbo.

I get tired of being lectured by Republicans about debts and deficits. Twenty-five percent of the entire national debt was accumulated under the 4 years of the Trump administration.

Every Democratic administration since Kennedy has left for their Republican successors a better deficit situation than they inherited, and every Republican administration since Nixon has left for their Democratic successors a worse deficit situation than they inherited—all without exception.

Speaker MCCARTHY has presented a false choice: either we default on our debts for the first time in history, or we agree to devastating cuts in education, law enforcement, veterans benefits, food assistance, border security, and healthcare and going into a recession.

House Republicans created this crisis. It is time they ended it by at least five of them signing the discharge petition and agreeing to responsibly pay our Nation's debts.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, people at home who might be listening to this may be wondering: Why is it so important that Speaker MCCARTHY pay our Nation's bills on time?

Why does Speaker MCCARTHY need to do that? It is because of what can happen if he doesn't.

It isn't just that seniors won't get their Social Security checks on time.

It isn't just that veterans won't get their medical care at VA hospitals. It isn't just that Medicare and Medicaid bills won't get processed. It is that interest rates will immediately go up because interest rates reflect the risk of non-repayment.

If we don't repay our national debt, then interest rates will go up on this country. We fall into a recession, and millions of jobs will go away. It is a horrible situation.

Speaker MCCARTHY needs to pay our bills on time.

This is a grotesque negotiation he has going on over at the White House even as we speak because whoever cares least about the well-being of America and America's standing in the world in that negotiation wins the negotiation.

I say to Speaker MCCARTHY: Do your job.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, around the world, our adversaries are watching a manufactured crisis play out.

This is the chaos dictators like Xi and Putin have been hoping for: The leader of the free world on the brink of default is facing the very real possibility that we won't even be able to pay our own troops.

My question for the majority party is simple: Haven't the American people been through enough—over 1 million Americans are dead from a pandemic that hit us 3 years ago, rising costs due to supply chain disruptions, stresses on our education system, George Floyd murdered 3 years ago today, and January 6 that saw our Capitol under siege.

Americans do not need more pain, especially manufactured pain.

The GOP needs to come back to town, deliver for the American people, and end this debt crisis.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I call on my Republican colleagues today to stop holding our Nation's economy hostage.

It is dangerous, and it is unconscionable knowing the devastating impact it is going to have on American working families.

Kim from Van Buren Township in my district called my office yesterday scared. She is in the process of buying a house and thinks she should stop because she is worried that the Nation's economy is going to tank.

She reflects the American people and their concerns, but Republicans will be posting messages of support for veterans on social media this weekend

while advocating for a plan that will abandon all of those veterans and their families at the moment they need their country most.

I am staying. I am missing my god-daughter's wedding because I have a job to do.

Where are Republicans?

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of people in the Massachusetts Seventh District: the single mom in Randolph who depends on SNAP to feed her babies, the disabled veteran in Chelsea who relies on SSDI, and families in Roxbury struggling to pay rent and their mortgages.

My colleagues across the aisle say that they care about seniors, veterans, and children and families, but in the words of James Baldwin: "I can't believe what you say because I see what you do."

The Republicans continue to govern in a way that is clueless, callous, with great contempt, and I would say godless because faith without works is dead.

Republicans want us to make an impossible choice, extreme and drastic cuts in lifesaving programs or catastrophic default on our debt, both of which would impact our most vulnerable.

This is a manufactured crisis. That is a false choice.

Republicans don't have even an ounce of compassion.

Democrats want to change and save lives. Republicans want to play with yours, and the American people are currently in limbo because of it.

Stop playing with people's lives. This is not a game. Pass a clean debt ceiling increase.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, fact: Republicans went home.

Fact: Their side of the Chamber is empty.

Fact: They do not want to negotiate, and they are holding our economy hostage to a ransom note of partisan demands.

Fact: They are taking Medicaid away from millions, firing teachers, removing children from childcare, and ripping food assistance away from our families. They are even slashing veterans' healthcare.

Fact: Their plan would cut jobs.

Republicans are playing political games. They have even said that they are holding us hostage and will not negotiate.

Do you know what, Madam Speaker? It is the American people and our chil-

dren, like those who are in the gallery today, that they are holding hostage.

It is obvious that Republicans are defaulting on our debt.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER). The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mrs. BEATTY. Instead of honoring our sacred obligation to pay our bills—The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mrs. BEATTY. Democrats will not let the bank of justice be destroyed by MAGA Republicans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mrs. BEATTY. We come to this floor today, the people's House, to put people over politics.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, today, ahead of Memorial Day, I am thinking about the 49,000 veterans in my district whose VA benefits hang in the balance due to the risk of debt default.

It is incredibly disappointing that we would leave Washington before this important holiday without resolving the default crisis.

Our veterans who have given so much deserve much better than this. They deserve our unwavering dedication and commitment not just in words but in action. They don't deserve partisan political games.

As we prepare to honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice, let's also honor the veterans still with us by staying true to our duty. Let's remember the debt we owe to them and the responsibility that we bear.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to get back to work and prioritize the needs of our veterans. Let's stay. Let's get to work. Let's find a solution.

EFFECTS OF THE GOP'S CUTS ON NEW JERSEY'S EIGHTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of New Jersey's Eighth Congressional District to highlight how the House GOP's debt limit demands will hurt our families. If the Republicans' bill is adopted into law, then over 20,000 families in our district will be affected by cuts to lifelines like SNAP.

While the House Republicans leave town for Memorial Day, they are at the same time targeting 9,000 veterans in our district whose VA health resources

will be cut, making it more difficult for them to access the care that they deserve.

The Republicans' legislation would also devastate our public schools, cutting Federal funds that help support the education of over 100,000 students in our district.

Meanwhile, the 98,000 households in New Jersey that spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent—working families—would face severe cuts to the Federal housing assistance programs that enabled them to stay in their homes.

While House Democrats support investing in our communities, the House Republicans are looking to burn them with deep cuts to these essential programs.

I stand with House Democrats in opposing the House GOP's reckless and cruel cuts, and I urge Speaker MCCARTHY to bring his Members back to have a vote on this important deal.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my friends in the majority to think about this from a different perspective: It is June, and you all have defaulted on America. Millions of people have lost their jobs. Our economy is in shambles.

Madam Speaker, you would look back and say to yourself: There were things we could have done. We should not have left. We should not have left D.C. We should not have left the Capitol.

There are solutions. There is a discharge petition behind me. Two hundred thirteen Members have signed it. We just need five more, and we have a vote.

There is a bipartisan solution from the Problem Solvers Caucus. We could vote on it early next week. You could lock leadership in a room, negotiate, and finish this thing.

It requires, however, folks to come back to work.

Gavel us back in, and protect millions and millions of people from losing their jobs. Come back.

□ 1245

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Madam Speaker, once again I am standing here today while House Republican leadership has failed to do the bare minimum.

Where are they?

The Republican side of this Chamber is vacant while House Democrats have remained at the ready to do their jobs and pay America's bills.