

It is fiscally responsible to pay our bills. Doing so would protect my friends, neighbors, and constituents in west Michigan from disastrous consequences.

Defaulting would kill nearly 8,000 jobs in my district alone, jeopardize Social Security payments for nearly 90,000 families, and mean financial chaos on an unprecedented scale, hurting working families across the country.

House Republicans' solution?

Cut nearly 30,000 law enforcement jobs. The party that says that they back the blue wants to take their jobs away.

This is a false choice. There is a bill sitting right here that needs just five more Republicans. We invite them to sign it.

We can and must act now. It is Congress' job to get this done.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, we stand here today, 7 days away from the X-date, the date that our Nation will default on the full faith and credit of our Nation's financial debt for the first time since the War of 1812.

Madam Speaker, it is not too late for us to stop such a catastrophe by passing a clean debt limit bill just as Congress has done 78 times since 1960.

Interestingly, the President who signed the most debt limit extension bills was Speaker MCCARTHY's hero, Ronald Reagan; 18 times in 8 years.

I ask Speaker MCCARTHY to heed Reagan's words that he said in 1987 when he signed one of those bills at the height of the Cold War.

He said, "The United States has a special responsibility to itself and the world to meet its obligations. It means we have a well-earned reputation for reliability and credibility—two things that set us apart from much of the world."

In 2023, we have adversaries, China and Russia, who are watching with glee as we as a Nation are about to, for no good reason, not maintain our financial debt.

They are waiting and want to pounce in terms of de-dollarizing world currencies that rely on international trade. Pass a clean debt limit bill for the sake of our Nation and free democracies.

DEBT LIMIT CRISIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we have heard claims from Republican leadership that they passed a bill to lift the debt ceiling.

That is laughable. What they did was pass a wish list to reassure their most

extreme Members. Make no mistake: They have no plan.

I just consulted with the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. They haven't even agreed on the top-line numbers for this year's appropriations process, let alone move forward to implement the extreme cuts that they imagine are going to happen.

I just left a Trade Subcommittee hearing where a parade of witnesses from both parties said we need to invest more in Customs and Border Protection to protect Americans from fentanyl.

Without a plan, they will continue to target the poor and protect the privileged and get nothing done.

America deserves better. Let's pass a clean debt ceiling proposal and get back to work.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, extreme Republicans are driving our economy toward a devastating default. They are holding the economy hostage.

Holding our economy hostage hurts all Americans, especially communities of color and low-income communities.

Republicans don't want to close loopholes for billionaires. Instead, their ransom demands are that we kick families out of their homes, that we rip away food assistance from grandma and grandpa, from women, infants, and children, that we cut access to childcare and make it easier for industries to pollute our communities.

Democrats are united. We agree that America must pay its bills and continue to lower costs for working families, not default. Republicans must stop these dangerous games and come back to work.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, my Republican colleagues are presently fiddling while Rome burns, but I come to praise my Republican colleagues, not to bury them.

I come to praise my friend PATRICK MCHEMRY for his wisdom just 6 months ago when he said that he opposes Speaker MCCARTHY's plan to use the debt limit to cut spending; when he said that it is important that Congress raise the debt limit; when he said that Treasury markets are the lifeblood of the global economy; when he said it is an important function of the government for us to make good on the checks we cash.

I come to praise the July 2019 version of Speaker MCCARTHY when he said that we should not leave here without doing something on the debt ceiling.

Where are those brave, principled souls now?

The answer, Madam Speaker, as you know, not here. Empty, inconsistent rhetoric does not pay the bills.

The American people know that, and I hope the American people will remind my Republican colleagues of the work requirements of this job during their upcoming 11-day vacation.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, with Memorial Day on my mind, I rise today to call on House Republicans to stop playing dangerous political games, manufacturing a crisis that has driven the American economy to the brink of default.

To our veterans and for our veterans, a default would have severe consequences. It would mean wounded warriors losing out on physical therapy sessions that could get them back on their feet, for Purple Heart recipients missing a disability check that they use to make ends meet, for a student veteran coming up short on paying tuition.

Our servicemen and women have stood up for us, and now it is time for us to stand up for them. Defaulting on our debt would be a dereliction of our duty. The dangerous game playing must stop.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, today's Los Angeles Times column: "When KEVIN MCCARTHY's spending cuts get spelled out, even Republicans balk."

My friends, the Republicans do not have the votes to pass their shameful cuts. What House Republicans have done is they have manufactured a crisis and a false choice.

Inflict pain and harm on hard-working American people, on children, families, seniors, veterans, or we will crash the economy.

Why? Because they believe it will help them politically.

In my State of Connecticut, cuts would lead to 2,800 kids losing access to preschool and childcare and 12,000 mothers blocked from food assistance.

This is my plea to the American people: Get on the phone. Call Republican Members of this Congress. Tell them to raise that debt ceiling and to stop hurting American families.

Let us make sure that they do not have the votes to pass these shameful cuts.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rushed down to the floor because I just read a headline that said that the Republicans are not headed to negotiations today. In fact, all of the Republicans have quit here on a Thursday morning and have left town.

Meanwhile, back home in Tampa, I know that one of my neighbors is expecting their Social Security check at the end of next week, and that is at risk.

I have another neighbor in St. Petersburg on a fixed income watching their retirement savings, expecting machinations in the market and worrying about the ability to pay rent.

Republicans have left Americans wondering: Why do you want to inflict job losses?

Why do you want to risk a recession?

Meanwhile, Democrats are here because we want to avoid those kinds of things. We want to avoid job losses, avoid falling into a recession, avoid harm to veterans, avoid harm to our neighbors, higher costs, harm to our small business owners.

Enough of this manufactured MAGA crisis. We have to put people over politics for a change and stop this careening from one crisis to another, with chaos inflicted by the GOP.

Put people over politics. Get back to work. Let's fix this for the people we represent.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I say to the ladies and gentlemen all over the country: Welcome to the United States Congress.

Only today, while we are facing a debt crisis, all of the Republicans have left to go out of town. They have gotten into their cars and their limos, and they are catching planes to go home while we are teetering on the brink of disaster.

What kind of leadership is that, KEVIN MCCARTHY?

We have heard the list. We know what the cuts are going to affect. They are going to affect law enforcement, veterans' affairs, food assistance, education, 401(k) retirement plans, pension plans, and cuts to Social Security payments.

How can you leave town and not be here to deal with this?

All we need are five Republicans to sign this discharge petition, and it goes away. It is over with.

Everybody else has left. So what you see here today are Members of the Democratic Party making an American argument that we have a responsibility to pay our debts.

They are gone. "Beam me up, Scotty." There is no intelligent life on that side of the aisle.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, House Republicans are playing political games and threatening to default on our country's debt.

The extreme MAGA Republicans have taken over the House of Representatives, and they are creating a crisis. It is a crisis that they created, they manufactured in their minds, and now they are trying to convince the American people what they are doing is right.

It is not right for them to make cruel cuts to hurt children, seniors, veterans, and teachers, threatening a devastating default on our debt.

Ladies and gentlemen, Madam Speaker, the Republicans gave billions of dollars in tax cuts to the biggest corporations and the wealthiest people in America. That was step one.

Now, step two, they are coming after you, the hardworking American people, saying now we are going to take away from you after you have actually done so much for your country.

They are stepping into this situation. They want to take food away from children and seniors. They want to see us lay off 100,000 teachers and take away childcare from children.

They are doing this only to try to score political points.

Let's get back to work, Republicans. Let's do the right thing.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask, where are they? Where did they go?

Where are they?

Did they leave us for a recession, allowing revenues to fall and borrowing costs to skyrocket?

Where are they?

Capital markets alone will be out of reach, and many small businesses won't make their payroll at the end of the month.

Where are they?

The world is looking at us and questioning our leadership and where we are going to move and how we are going to save our own people and our values.

Where are they in this time of need?

I know where the Democrats are. They are right here talking about how we will stand for them and not allow this Republican-made default on America last.

Where are they?

They need to get back here and get back here now for the sake of the American people. The world is watching us. They are looking.

They are saying that we may not have to worry about our competitors.

We don't have to worry about them. We have to worry about our MAGA Re-

publicans who have decided to leave and not address the issues that are most important to America today.

Where are they?

Come on back here and get to work.

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DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise; and I rise today with a very simple message. The debt ceiling has outlived its usefulness. It is time to eliminate the debt ceiling.

We have to do so because these issues that we are dealing with currently are only the genesis. The revelations will lead us to other issues involving the social agenda. Budgetary items will not be the only items on this extortion agenda.

It is time to end the debt ceiling and let us move forward and negotiate as we appropriately should and have done to these many years.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, as a co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, I am so proud to hold the floor today with the united House Democratic Caucus.

Let's be crystal clear: The only reason we are here right now is because Republicans are playing politics with people's lives.

This crisis has been engineered to rip food out of the mouths of hungry families, take back the benefits our veterans have earned, and kick children out of childcare, or—they tell us—we can default on our debt and march right into a global economic disaster.

Now they have gone home for the holiday.

Madam Speaker, 87 Democrats spoke before me over the last several hours; 87 Democrats have pleaded with you on behalf of our constituents to keep the House in session, to prevent a default on our debt. Democrats held the floor.

I ask the Chair and Speaker MCCARTHY: Will you join us?

HOUSE REPUBLICANS DID OUR JOB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, we just heard a lot of speeches at a very high volume on the topic of the debt ceiling, and many of them had an accompanying visual that said, "House Republicans are forcing a default on our debt."