

Hampshire: “At least 1,800 NH federal workers to be furloughed or fired during shutdown.”

They are not statistics. These are families. These are our troops. These are seniors. These are veterans. These are mothers with young children, working families, patients all across the country. And the stresses upon American families are mounting as a result of the Schumer shutdown.

Paychecks for our servicemembers—well, they run out in days. Reports already show there are signs of financial distress. Every day this shut down continues, the damage drags on. Financial stress will lead to financial crises for many families. Temporary hardships will lead to lasting harm. The American people don't want it. They can't afford it. They want it to end.

Democrats have now voted five specific times to keep the government closed. Now all you need to do is read their ransom note. Democrats are demanding taxpayer-funded healthcare for illegal immigrants. And who do they want to hurt in the process? They want to cut the funding for rural hospitals in my State and yours. That is how they want to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. That is their price to reopen the government, to get back to the normal workings of Washington and our government. As a result, the Democrats are holding the American people hostage.

There is a simple solution to the shutdown. The House passed a clean continuing resolution—current spending levels, bipartisan support—to fund the government through November 21. Why November 21? Well, I just heard the minority leader say there has been no discussion between Republicans or Democrats on the continuing resolution. Well, in fact, there has been, and it is the deadline date of November 21 because the chairs and the ranking members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee all said they needed 7 weeks to finish the bipartisan work on the appropriations bills. So, yes, Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY worked together on the clean continuing resolution.

It is interesting because what we see are the Democrats fearing the wrath of the far-left wing of their party. That is why they are not voting to open the government.

The clock continues to tick. Every day Democrats hold out is another day wasted, another day we ought to be making sure the government is open. I hear the Democrats say they want to negotiate. Well, open the government. We are ready to negotiate. Every day the Democrats choose to keep the government closed is another day spent ignoring and rejecting the priorities of the American people. If Democrats actually wanted to negotiate, they would reopen the government today. It is that simple.

So, today, we are going to vote for the sixth time on a clean continuing

resolution, something the Democrats approved 13 times when Joe Biden was President. Senate Democrats have a choice: Vote yes to end the Schumer shutdown or vote no, and tell the American people why their pain and their opinion just doesn't matter to the Democrats.

Let me end where I began: 7 out of 10 Americans oppose this shutdown. Americans overwhelmingly say Democrats should accept the clean continuing resolution that we are voting on here today. The American people have spoken. They want their government open, and they want it open now. It is time that the Democrats listened to them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISRAEL

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, today is October 7, 2025. It has been 731 days—2 years—that the war has been raging in Israel.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists stormed through a fence line separating Gaza and Israel, and early that morning, they brutally slaughtered over 1,200 people—men, women, children, moms and dads, grandparents. There were 4,000-plus people injured, and there were 251 people taken hostage. Forty-eight still remain today, 2 years later.

It is hard to process what it is like for those hostages—living in tunnels, stored underground, moved from place to place. Who knows what has happened to them.

Two years—for 2 years, Israel has said one simple thing: This war ends when Hamas, that terrorist organization, is not in charge of Gaza—because, clearly, they cannot be trusted—and when our hostages come home. For 2 years this war has raged unnecessarily because a terrorist organization is determined to drive Jews out of Israel—for 2 years.

I have been in Israel a couple of times during the war. I have been able to visit with senior leadership there to be able to get a status update, but I also took the opportunity to drive south, right along to the Gaza border, to visit the kibbutzim that are now empty, which were previously full of families and children. I was there in the springtime last year and saw the flowers popping up just organically, on their own, in an empty kibbutz, and I realized the horror of what happened that day.

I visited the Nova music festival—just a big, open field with trees around it. You can look across the horizon and see Gaza. The Nova music festival site of that field was just a gathering place

for literally an all-night set of concerts that were running early into the next morning. People were just there enjoying the music, until terrorists came onto that field and started killing as many people as they could, raping as many women as they could, tormenting as many people as they could, and grabbing folks and taking them back into Gaza as hostages.

Elkana was one of those men. He was a husband. He was a dad of a young son. He was actually taken hostage back to Gaza from the Nova music festival while he was literally trying to help the wounded. But he remains a hostage still today, one of those 48.

President Trump has laid out a 21-point plan and has presented it between the folks in Gaza and Hamas and Israel to leadership all along the Arab world and has made a very simple statement: We have to find a way to be able to end the fighting, and when the fighting ends, Hamas cannot be in leadership in Gaza. Not only do they not have the trust of Israel; they don't have the trust of anyone in the region. They have to go. The hostages have to be released. There will have to be restoration in Gaza in the days ahead that should be led by the Arab communities around them. But there has to be a different path, and there has to be a recognition that Israel has a right to exist.

In the last 2 years, we have seen not only Hamas attacking Israel, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad attacking Israel, Hezbollah attacking Israel, the Houthis attacking Israel, and then missiles and rockets being fired and drones being fired from Iran; and all the while, we hear some protesters in the streets of America, out on college campuses, chanting “from the river to the sea,” literally in support of some of those terrorists who are trying to kill as many Jews and drive the Jews out of Israel.

So on this day, October 7, I want to remind this body and Americans that we continue to stand by Israel. We continue to be able to stand by their right to not only exist but to be able to thrive and to live in peace. That is their right as a nation.

As we have faced terrorism and the threats of terrorism that come to us, we as a nation have pushed back against terrorism around the world and said: We will live in freedom and in peace.

Regardless of their opinions of us, we have the right to be able to live in freedom and in peace, and we stand with Israel's right to be able to do the same, to be able to live in freedom and in peace.

Now, we all grieve for innocent civilians that are living in Gaza right now, as Hamas literally uses them as a shield to protect their terrorist ambitions. No one wants to see civilians killed. But leave no doubt, Hamas cannot exist, as an organization and an entity.

And the folks in Hezbollah should hear clearly, and the Houthis should

hear clearly: If you stand with Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, you are a threat to the security of the entire world and the region. You cannot continue to function as a terrorist organization and think that Israel will look away or that America will look away. We will not and cannot and will not.

So I encourage this body to pause and realize what is happening on the other side of the world right now and what has been raging for 2 years today; and for those hostages that are still being held today, that we would remember and we would continue to be able to stand against anti-Semitism and with the nation of Israel.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, we are 7 days deep into a government shutdown—what a ridiculous waste of time; what a painful, ridiculous waste of time for the Nation.

I can't tell you how frustrating it is, because I have been here long enough now to be able to see what the negotiations look like. Let me tell you what it just looks like for the last few years even. Let's go back just through the Biden administration.

Every single end of September, as we approached the deadline for government funding, this body had a conversation: Do we want to remain open and continue negotiating or do we want a shutdown? And every single time, during the Biden administration, this body said: It is harmful to the American people and to Federal workers to have a shutdown. Let's keep things open and continue to be able to negotiate.

So at the end of every September, which is the end of our fiscal year, this body voted to keep the government open and to continue to negotiate.

What happens when the Trump administration comes? Well, during the Trump administration, Democrats have determined that they want to show they are fighting and raging—that they are the resistance against President Trump—and so they have determined that the best way to do that is just to be able to shut the government down.

The same effect happens for Federal workers. The same effect happens for the Nation. We have the same opinions across the world as the entire world looks at the United States of America, the greatest Nation in the world, which is apparently not able to keep its government open because my Democratic colleagues have determined they want to show that they are the resistance.

Well, who gets to pay the penalty for the resistance, and what does that really look like?

We have had several votes that have happened here where we have had what is called a clean continuing resolution. This body knows it well because we voted on 13 of them in the last 4 years—a clean continuing resolution—and passed all of them. It was just a moment to say: Can we keep the gov-

ernment open and continue to negotiate?

The body determined: Yes, let's keep negotiating, but let's not hurt Federal workers and their families and not hurt members of the military and their families. Let's not hurt them, but let's keep negotiating here.

So we did that 13 times in just the last 4 years, until now.

My Democratic colleagues, the President knows full well, have brought forward a proposal, and their proposal is titled "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters." Now, ours is just titled "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions." Theirs is titled "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions and Other Matters." It should make you say: Well, what are the other matters?

Ours just keeps the government open; that is, the Republicans' just keeps the government open. It is status quo, where we are—the same level of spending, the same functionality. That is where it focuses in on.

My Democratic colleagues have brought up their own proposal, which is \$1.5 trillion in spending addition, and they include a couple of new little nuggets in there—their "and other matters." They throw in, like, section 135, which has a new element on carbon management expenditures dealing with fossil fuels. They have a new section on climate change initiatives that are built into their "and other matters." They have section 154, which is getting additional funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

They have section 2306, which allows a new extension of electric vehicles getting access to HOV lanes.

These are the demands that they have put in to say: We will not reopen the government unless we get electric vehicles into HOV lanes and additional money for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and carbon management expenditures.

Oh, by the way, there was a \$50 billion rural healthcare fund that Republicans passed in the One Big Beautiful Bill. They also want to get rid of that \$50 billion rural healthcare fund, saying: We need to wipe that out.

Can I tell you, rural hospitals really need the help. Fifty billion would really be a huge help for them. We have called that the Moon shot to be able to bring rural healthcare up to the standards they need to be across the country. They just wiped that out and included that in their "in other matters" section, to say "Yes, we want to open up the government, but we also want to close down more rural hospitals at the same time."

Listen, we have disagreements on things. It is not just because we are different parties; we come from different States and different areas. We have different perspectives. Welcome to America. We have different opinions on things. That is what this body is supposed to be about. But when we have disagreements, we should be able to ac-

tually sit down like grownups and talk to each other and figure out how to be able to solve them. That is what actually should be done. This is not a radical concept; this is a pretty straightforward concept.

Surprisingly enough, my colleagues have agreed with me in the past on this. Let me give just you some examples.

My colleague Senator BEN RAY LUJAN in September of last year said:

Shutting down the government should be a non-starter.

My colleague Senator MARK WARNER said:

Government shutdowns unleash chaos on Federal workers, delay pay for servicemembers, and weaken our position on the global stage.

My colleague BERNIE SANDERS said:

Shutting down the government is a serious and dangerous action that we must do everything possible to prevent. Shutting down the government would impact tens of millions of our fellow Americans who would be unable to access government services.

My colleague and friend JACKY ROSEN said:

A government shutdown would be devastating for [Nevada] families. [It would] increase housing costs, take away food assistance for seniors & children in need.

My colleague Senator MARK KELLY in September of 2023 said:

A government shutdown would have serious impacts. Servicemembers won't get their paychecks. Airports could have major delays. Nutrition assistance for children could be cut off. We can't let any of that happen.

My colleague Senator ELIZABETH WARREN said:

The least we can do—the bare minimum that we can do—would be to pass a continuing resolution to keep the doors open and the lights on.

My colleague BRIAN SCHATZ said:

I've seen the same thing, over and over again. Shutdowns don't work.

My colleague Senator GARY PETERS said:

A government shutdown will be a disaster for our economy and for people in Michigan and across the country.

My colleague TIM KAINE said:

I'm a senator from Virginia. Some of the hardest effects of a shutdown would be seen in my state.

My colleague DICK DURBIN said:

[Negotiating to avoid a shutdown holds] the livelihood of the American people and the proper functioning of this government hostage.

My colleague AMY KLOBUCHAR said:

Shutdowns are not good for the economy.

How about this one. I have to find my favorite. My colleague CHRIS MURPHY, my friend, made the statement:

There is a time and a place to debate health care, just like there is a time and place to debate energy policy and immigration and education—but not when the funding of the federal government, and all the lives that are impacted by it, hang in the balance.

I could not agree more.

So we have an opportunity just to be able to open the government up. We