

firsthand, the Affordable Care Act is neither affordable nor caring.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to put America first and pass a bipartisan spending plan to prevent a government shutdown.

As the daughter of a small business owner, I learned at an early age that it's impossible to succeed without smart planning and reliable funding. Let's keep this lesson in mind.

Millions of Americans will be left hanging if the government shuts down. Benefits for veterans could be delayed; approval of small business loans would be suspended; and the National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control, which monitor disease, may be forced to scale back their services, leaving us vulnerable to a health crisis.

One of the last government shutdowns in this country cost taxpayers \$800 million, including \$400 million in lost revenue collected by the IRS. We can't afford to go through that again.

It is time to put an end to the partisan games. American citizens aren't chips to be gambled with. Our servicemen and -women, mom-and-pop business owners, and families who show up for America every day deserve a government that shows up for them.

Let's stop grandstanding and start standing up for the American people by passing a CR.

OBAMACARE HURTS AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is unaffordable, unsustainable, and unreliable. An overwhelming majority of the American people agree that this disastrous \$1.2 trillion law must be replaced with a system that protects the doctor-patient relationship, as has been repeatedly introduced by Congressman TOM PRICE of Georgia.

The South Carolina Department of Insurance has estimated that health insurance rates in the Federal exchanges will increase up to 70 percent for South Carolinians. A majority of other States will have premium increases that will skyrocket, destroying jobs.

House Republicans have the best interests of Americans at heart. We know that hardworking families should not be forced to pay higher health care costs in addition to the financial burdens of everyday life.

The Senate should act and adopt bipartisan legislation as the House did last week.

We join with the American people to keep the government's doors open,

defund ObamaCare, and control government spending.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LOOMS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, once again, crucial deadlines loom, and here we are circling the drain, days away from another Republican-manufactured government shutdown due to the irresponsible lack of governing. Instead of forging—or even attempting to forge—a bipartisan compromise, we have another manufactured crisis, putting America on another roller-coaster ride.

Unfortunately, we have been here before, with the other party playing politics and pandering to their Tea Party base rather than doing what we were sent here to do, and that is to govern. It's enough. The American public is fed up with this.

It's time to drop the foolishness and stop pursuing—through threatening means that threaten the economy—what you can't achieve at the ballot box or through legislation.

The implications of this shutdown are real: it will hurt the American economy, and it threatens direct benefits that our veterans and people with disabilities receive. There's just too much at stake.

Republicans should drop this charade and do the job that we were elected to do, and that is govern, pass a budget, and protect the rights of the American people.

WE NEED LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we sincerely need true leadership at this time—great problems, great challenges, great divisions—and yet our President's first call last Friday to House leadership clearly indicated, in his own words, that he would not negotiate. How can this be leadership?

Sixty-one percent of citizens polled recently want spending cuts tied to the debt ceiling bill. Bill, in my town hall meeting yesterday morning, said:

My wife is very sick. I pay \$900 a month for my health insurance. I need that. But I want you to go to Washington and end the spending. Move our country forward. Shut down ObamaCare.

Mr. President, you won't negotiate? You negotiated with Mr. Putin and Mr. Assad. You've negotiated with the U.N. on an arms treaty threatening our Second Amendment liberty. Why would you not negotiate with the people's House and the people who sent us to restore fiscal sanity, economic opportunity, and liberty?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The Chair will remind Mem-

bers that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person.

“GREAT YEAR FOR REPUBLICANS”

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

Ms. TITUS. This week, a leading Nevada Republican said that the 2014 elections will be a “great year for Republicans” because a lot of minorities and a lot of younger people will not turn out. Well, while the GOP plan for 2014 is focused on voter suppression, I'm here to deliver a different message:

Minorities and women are going to be turning out in droves next year because they see what the Republican leadership is doing in Washington. They see the dysfunction the Republicans have created and are apparently so proud of. They see the Republican agenda that's driven by an extremist ideology rather than what's best for Americans.

In fact, voters of all types are seeing—and will see over the next few days—just how out of step their House Republicans truly are. They grapple not with the needs of Americans, but with the two wings of their own caucus: the far right and the further right.

We need a new agenda.

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PASTOR SAEED ABEDINI

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a letter from Dr. Billy Graham to Iranian President Rouhani, calling for the release of an American citizen currently imprisoned in Iran due to his faith. I quote from Dr. Graham:

The announcement on Monday that your country has freed 80 political prisoners is very encouraging. I fear, however, that the current publicity surrounding the continued imprisonment of Pastor Abedini, an American citizen, may further harm the already fragile relationship that presently exists between our two nations.

Today, thousands will attend prayer vigils in more than 70 U.S. cities, calling on your country to release this husband, father, and servant of God. I join them by respectfully asking you to release Pastor Saeed Abedini from prison. Such an action would, I believe, have a positive impact in our Nation, and might well be perceived by our leadership as a significant step in reducing tensions.

Respectfully yours, Billy Graham.

Today, I also wrote President Obama, with other House Members, asking that he call on Iran to free this American citizen and humanitarian. I urge you to join me in this effort.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1