

coverage for the roughly 260 million Americans who have insurance. It will also eliminate preexisting conditions and lifetime limits and makes health insurance available and affordable to roughly 40 million uninsured Americans through State exchanges where insurance companies compete to provide coverage, and through expansion of the Medicaid program.

The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It has been affirmed as constitutional by the Republican-dominated Supreme Court and by a 5 million vote majority of the American people with the defeat of the Presidential candidate who promised to repeal it less than a year ago.

Regardless of where one may stand on the issue of the Affordable Care Act—aka ObamaCare—our Democratic process for enacting laws and setting policy should not be held hostage to the threat of a government shutdown. It sets a terrible precedent for the future.

My Republican colleagues continue to demand concessions with serious long-term consequences in exchange for funding a spending bill for just a relatively few more days, another 45 days or so. They want long-term concessions at their preferred inadequate spending levels.

What unreasonable demands will be made when this latest CR expires in 2 months or 1 month? These attempts to overturn the democratic results of the last election by threat-making and hostage-taking must end now. We should do our job, fund the government, and we should remove the looming threat to the global economy in the form of the expiration of the debt ceiling, which will occur in just a couple of weeks.

Not content with the economic destruction and hardship brought by their government shutdown and their refusal to let the Federal Government play its historic role to stimulate a strong economic recovery, House Republicans continue to threaten the full faith and credit of the United States.

As President Obama noted, if the tables were turned and you had a Republican President and a Democratic Speaker, as you did during the Reagan administration, neither Speaker O'Neill nor the American people would tolerate what is going on today.

In fact, that is the situation that we have today—a broken Congress, a situation where the American people's voices aren't heard or represented. It is time for us to heed the American people, to let the majority of this Congress determine public policy.

Let's stop the extremism. Let's be responsible. Let's pass this continuing resolution clean and go on with the business of the government.

10TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I know that the American people are watching what is happening in Washington these days with a little more than a passing interest. I am sure they wonder sometimes about where is the truth because they hear folks on one side of the aisle saying one thing and folks on the other side of the aisle saying another thing.

When I talk to people at home, I do my best to explain the situation in Washington right now. I try to point out the fact that we have deep philosophical differences in this body and in the Senate. We do have two parts of our legislative branch of government—the House and the Senate. The philosophical differences are pretty strong in both bodies.

They really stem from the beginning of the country. Our Founders felt very strongly—the majority of them, though—that the Federal Government should be weak. We, obviously, had just come off of getting our independence from Britain and we wanted to not have a king and we wanted not to have a strong central Government.

I think the Founders were right. The Founders in the Constitution outlined the duties of our respective branches of government. They enumerated them. People will talk about enumerated powers. They made those powers very few for the Federal Government. They emphasized that with the 10th Amendment. It said: If we didn't tell the Federal Government to do this in the Constitution, then we don't want the Federal Government to do it. We leave those responsibilities to the States and to the individuals. We have gotten along very well, we did get along very well, following the Constitution for a long time in this country.

Then we came about in the 1930s with an era of great involvement by the Federal Government—in my opinion and in the opinion of many of my colleagues—overstepping its bounds by getting involved in things that are not mentioned in the Constitution.

Bring us forward to the 1960s, a period of great activism in this country when many more programs were begun, but in the opinion of many of us, again, had absolutely no place in the Federal Government. We should not be doing things like running the education of this country out of the Federal Government or running health care out of the Federal Government.

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So what we have here is the result of these deep philosophical differences, and I want to say that that's what is playing out here. Those of us who are opposed to the Federal Government's running health care in this country do so not out of pettiness, not out of meanness, not out of a lack of concern for our fellow citizens, but because we want to diminish the role of the Federal Government in our lives. We believe that, once you turn health care

over to the Federal Government, you've basically turned the lives of citizens over to the Federal Government, and that is not a good place to be.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle also act as though no act of Congress has ever been repealed. My goodness, we spend a good part of our days here repealing bad legislation that somehow or another got passed before. So what we are doing and what we have been doing for the last few days is making every effort we can to repeal or to delay what is called the Affordable Health Care Act, which we are finding out is absolutely not affordable. That's what we have been doing, but we have been unsuccessful. So we are trying to keep the government open. We have passed bill after bill after bill out of the House to keep the Federal Government open. We have failed in doing that in a large way, so we are working at doing it in minor ways, by passing individual bills. That's what we are here to do today.

I just came out of the Rules Committee. We had these bills on the floor yesterday—three of the five that we are going to vote on today. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle voted against paying our National Guard even though the President sort of quietly, Saturday night, signed a bill to continue to pay our troops. That was a bill the President said he'd never sign and that he wouldn't compromise, that he wouldn't negotiate. Yet, he did that. Now we want to keep our national parks open; we want to pay our National Guard and Reserve people; we want to provide local funding for the District of Columbia; and we want to keep our promises to America's veterans.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this institution after spending 6 years in the New York State Legislature. It was a very meaningful experience for me, notwithstanding the fact that the legislature in New York is sometimes derided as one of the more dysfunctional bodies in the country; but after witnessing the last few days here in the House of Representatives, it is clear to me that there is no more dysfunctional place in this country than the House of Representatives under the current majority control.

This is a manufactured crisis that has unnecessarily plunged us into a painful government shutdown, a shutdown that will harm the American people. The House majority has placed children in jeopardy—tens of thousands shut out of the Head Start program. The House majority has placed seniors in jeopardy—unable to benefit from the Meals on Wheels program, partially funded by the Federal Government. The House majority with this government shutdown has placed expectant

mothers in jeopardy and individuals who are now unable to get the nutritional assistance that might otherwise be available. You have placed veterans in jeopardy, Mr. Speaker. The House majority has placed families in jeopardy—more than 800,000 hardworking civil servants cast out onto the streets, with the uncertainty to determine when they may be able to pay their bills. The House majority with this government shutdown has placed the economy of the American people in jeopardy.

Enough is enough.

I am trying to figure out who actually is in charge, Mr. Speaker. Are you in control of your conference on the other side of the aisle? Is it the Tea Party that is in control of the House of Representatives agenda? Is it outside agitators or the junior Senator from Texas who barks out orders on the other side of the aisle, and then they're executed in lockstep by the extremists here in the House of Representatives? Mr. Speaker, who is in charge? Who is responsible on your side of the aisle for marching us down this dangerous path?

I have also been struggling in trying to figure out why are you so angry about the Affordable Care Act. What is it that you are so upset about? Are you angry about the fact that tens of millions of previously uninsured Americans will have access to health care? Are you upset about the fact that the law will prevent discrimination against individuals, including children with preexisting conditions? Are you angry about the fact that the Medicare part D doughnut hole will be closed and that seniors all across America will have access to more robust prescription drug coverage? Are you angry about the fact that young people in a difficult economy can stay on their parents' health insurance plans until they are the age of 26? What exactly are you upset about? Are you angry about the fact that small businesses will have access to tax credits—as much as 35 percent—in order to insure their employees in a manner that will help these small businesses grow and prosper?

Enough already.

The Affordable Care Act is the law of the land. It was passed by a duly elected Congress in 2010 with the great leadership of NANCY PELOSI and HARRY REID. You have lost legislatively, Mr. Speaker. The Affordable Care Act was determined to be constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States of America in an opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, an individual nominated by George W. Bush. You've lost legally. Then the President of the United States of America was reelected last November in an electoral college landslide. You have lost politically, Mr. Speaker.

Enough already.

Why are we in this situation? I would simply ask that we pass a clean CR and get back to doing the business of the American people.

A REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PITTENGER. We were elected to be Representatives—to represent our districts, to represent our constituents, to listen, and to respond.

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening. I have been listening to phone calls. I have been reading emails. I have been hearing what my constituents have to say, and I can tell you that they are deeply concerned. They are concerned with the direction of our country. Yes, they are concerned with a body that can't seem to come together, that can't seem to listen to each other. One of them wrote me just today.

He said:

I have watched with great interest the ongoing debate between the House and the Senate regarding the new Federal health care law. Quite frankly, I was of the opinion that an absolute stand by House Republicans to defund ObamaCare was an inappropriate step as compared to less drastic measures . . . However, in the mail today, we received a 92 percent proposed increase from Blue Cross-Blue Shield for our current plan in 2014. The explanation of the increase all boiled down to the changes in the insurance market required as a result of the full implementation of ObamaCare. You can easily understand why we are astounded that this is the best health care direction that our country can embark upon.

I encourage you to take whatever opportunities come your way to stop this disaster that is looming. The financial impact on people who are not a drain on the government will be immense.

Here is another one, Mr. Speaker:

I just received a letter from Blue Cross informing me that my current coverage has been outlawed by ObamaCare and that the premium for my family will increase by 400 percent if I switch to a legal coverage option. This increase is over \$9,000 a year . . . I don't care if you have to risk shutting down the government or defaulting on the debt. It is just postponing the inevitable default if ObamaCare is allowed to exist.

Mr. Speaker, we are not here because we want to shut down the government. We have made every effort possible. We have gone to great lengths—the extra mile—to the other side to present to them alternatives, to present to them ways that we could come together and agree. We had three proposals there on the table. Now we have offered to go and sit down and talk. That's what our body does. When we have disagreements between the House and the Senate, our formal agreement is to meet and we confer. We bring in negotiators. We talk, and we try to reason this out. We do this in our families, don't we? That's what is done in this body in the normal course of business.

However, in our efforts of trying to bring resolution and sound reasoning to this process, we can't get a response. They say, No, we don't want to talk to you. We don't want to reason with you. We don't want to hear what your constituents are saying. We don't want to hear the problems. We just want to ram this through.

Where is that in a representative government? Where is that in being responsive to the American people?

Mr. Speaker, if we really want good policy—and I have to believe that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle truly want good policy—then we need to take politics out of this. We need to take self-service out of this. We need to come together like adults and sit down and talk this through and come up with a reasonable solution that would bring the best outcome for the American people. That's what our hope is.

We invite, still today, the leadership of the Senate to come and sit down and to conference with us—to negotiate with us, to lay out their concerns and their thoughts. Let's be adults. Let's do the right thing for the American people.

POLITICAL BRINKMANSHIP OVER RESPONSIBLE COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I take to the floor with a heavy heart, a heavy heart that is disappointed, frustrated and, frankly, outraged by our government shutdown.

Once again, we have put partisan politics ahead of the needs of the American people; and as I stand before you this morning, millions of Americans are already suffering the consequences at the hands of a dysfunctional Congress. The legislative process that has resulted in this shutdown reflects a neglect of the responsibilities that we were sent here to meet.

The House majority had a chance to avert the government shutdown, but chose political brinkmanship over responsible compromise. In order to avoid the shutdown earlier this week, the Senate sent the House a bill, a compromise spending bill, which accepted the Republicans' lower funding levels. Instead of allowing a clean funding bill to come to this floor, the House majority, once again, attached unreasonable amendments which had no hope of gaining bipartisan support.

Now House Republicans want to partially open the Federal Government, cherry-picking winners and losers. This is no way to run a government. Think about it: if we and all of the small businesses and big businesses out there would run their institutions the way we run this Congress, our economy would be in shambles.

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I hate to play the blame game, Mr. Speaker, but this government shutdown is solely the responsibility and the creation of House Republicans. We have tried to compromise, but Republicans time and time again have been using America's tax-paying money to redebate again and again the Affordable Care Act.

People say that House Democrats, the Senate, and the President should