

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, 10 months ago, I came to Washington, D.C., as the new employee of 705,000 people in western Pennsylvania.

Before I came to Washington, I heard about inside deals that happened in this town. I saw some of these deals when President Obama cut special breaks for Big Business and Senators and Representatives. What the President left out was a break for the American people.

It's just not fair. It's an outrage.

Western Pennsylvanians are right frustrated with Washington, D.C. It seems that HARRY REID and the Senate are intent on keeping the government shut down so they can protect the special breaks they cut for themselves and for their friends and allies.

Mr. Speaker, I'm here to deliver a message from my constituents to the Senate: no special deals. If Big Business and President Obama's friends get a break from the health care law, then so should individuals and families in western Pennsylvania and around the Nation.

It's time for the Senate to embrace fairness for all. It's time to reopen the government.

OPENING DAY FOR THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IN CONNECTICUT

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was opening day for the Affordable Care Act in the State of Connecticut. Despite the hysterical predictions on the other side, where you would have thought the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse would be riding through the streets of New London, Norwich, and Hartford, instead, the headlines this morning were:

Enrollment better than expected on exchange's first day.

Forty-five thousand people contacted the Connecticut exchange. Hundreds enrolled. They didn't wait until January to begin the process of getting health coverage.

One of them was a lady named Elly Banos, 48 years old, who said she's been without coverage for a year and half due to a layoff. She's been holding her breath and "thanking God every day that I don't get sick or get into a car accident." She was excited to learn that she could get good individual coverage for a month or qualify for the expanded Medicaid coverage.

Another, Babz Ivy, said that she has gone to bed "with a prayer on my lips, asking God to keep me healthy and in no need of medical attention."

"Today was amazing," Ivy said. "I felt so empowered and in control of my health."

The fact of the matter is these are the targets of the shutdown effort. It's not President Obama or Democrats in Congress. It's people like Elly Banos

and Babz Ivy that we need to protect by keeping this government open and allowing people to get access to health care for the first time in American history.

TIME TO TALK

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, President Obama is willing to negotiate with Syria's dictator. The President made a phone call last week to open negotiations with Iran's new leader. But yesterday, the President held a press conference in the Rose Garden to talk about why he's not willing to talk to House Republicans about ending this shutdown.

The President should follow President Kennedy's example. President Kennedy famously said:

We should never negotiate out of fear, but we should never fear to negotiate.

If we talk, we can surely find a solution that reopens the Federal Government and protects the American people from ObamaCare; but we need the President and our Democratic colleagues at the negotiating table.

PASS A CLEAN FUNDING BILL

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is shut down today for one reason: we in the House have been denied any chance of voting on the clean funding bill passed by the Senate.

Four times now, House leaders have demanded that we dismantle a democratically enacted and Supreme Court-upheld law as their ransom, but not once have they allowed us to vote on the Senate's bill.

This recklessness has real consequences. At military installations in my home State of Massachusetts, thousands of civilian employees who support our Nation's servicemembers have already weathered furloughs. Now they and their families are being punished yet again.

The path forward is clear: vote on the Senate-passed CR and send it to the President today, put the government back to work, negotiate on a long-term budget, and work together to fine-tune the Affordable Care Act. With yesterday's opening of the exchanges, we saw the tremendous need and response.

I urge the Speaker to do the responsible thing: bring us a vote on a clean funding bill.

DEMAND FAIRNESS

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, moments ago, I joined veterans from all

over Missouri's Show Me State at the sacred grounds of our Nation's World War II Memorial. This memorial is a monument to the spirit and sacrifice of our veterans, and yet HARRY REID and the President decided to slam the door on the American people and block the House from providing benefits to our Nation's heroes and keeping our national treasures open.

Time and time again, the House has voted to keep the government open and provide fairness for all Americans—fairness from an administration that believes they can pick and choose which laws to enforce, while subjecting the American people to the heavy burdens of ObamaCare; fairness from a President who thinks ObamaCare doesn't apply to Members of Congress or the White House.

As a result of partisan bickering and gridlock, I have waived my salary for the duration of the government shutdown because Congress didn't get the job done. Those who make the laws should live by the laws, and I will continue to fight for the people of Missouri's Second District.

FAIRNESS IS NOT SHUTTING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, so often we hear our colleagues saying, We come here to Congress to protect and to represent the American people. Well, the American people have spoken. They have asked us to open the doors of government, not shut them.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you that we cannot let you have a few of your Republican Members hold the government hostage because they dislike this President or they dislike the Affordable Care Act.

We cannot piecemeal this funding cycle, because fairness is not letting children starve. Eleven States will not be able to have grants for Head Start. The NIH has announced that they are not going to be able to have clinical trials for hundreds of patients. Thirty of those cancer patients are children.

Fairness is not starving small businesses. Fairness is not piecemealing it. It's like having a large family and asking the parents to pick three children to feed and let the others starve before their eyes.

We are starving America, we are starving government. And I say to my Republican colleagues, fairness is not shutting down the government.

ANTI-GOP VANDALISM

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, the 25th District of Texas is home to the Texas State Capitol, the University of Texas, the Comanche Peak nuclear