

plant, the Barnett shale, the dairy farms in great Texas, and the largest military installation in the country, Fort Hood, Texas.

It's a shame that the level of discourse in our Nation has come to this—that my district office in Cleburne, Texas, would be the victim of hateful anti-Republican vandalism by anonymous individuals.

House Republicans have been called extortionists, terrorists, drunks, kidnappers, anarchists, and the list goes on.

I understand that this government shutdown has caused uncertainty and tension for hundreds of thousands of Americans, but this type of behavior cannot and will not be tolerated.

We are the United States of America, and it's time for the Senate, the White House and the House to come to the negotiating table, unite and figure out this problem we have for all Americans. The sooner the better.

In God we trust.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, we're now in our 37th hour of the House Republican shutdown; 800,000 Federal employees have been furloughed from their jobs; 800,000 Americans don't know how they'll be able to pay their bills and provide for their families because Speaker BOEHNER refuses to stand up to the extremists in his own party.

I keep hearing people say the Speaker is just doing what he has to do because of the Tea Party, but the fact is that a real leader wouldn't jeopardize the jobs and livelihoods of 800,000 Americans to save his own.

That's what this is all about. This is about one man standing in the way of ending the shutdown.

It's time for Speaker BOEHNER to find the courage to end the Republican crusade against health care reform and Federal workers by bringing a clean funding bill to the floor, which will pass with bipartisan support, and demonstrate to the American people we can work together to get things done.

It's time for the Speaker to do what's right for our country: reopen the government and be the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, not simply the Speaker of the Republican Party.

VETERANS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, right now we have wounded warriors and veterans needing medical care, wondering whether they will receive all the care they're entitled to. These are men and women who have suffered for our Nation to keep us free and safe.

It is a shame that last night we could not agree to fully fund operations for Veterans Affairs. The House passed a full Veterans appropriations bill in June, with a vote of 421-4. That bill was never taken up in the Senate.

If we cannot have our conferees negotiate on a full bill to open back up the government, we will act to protect the most vulnerable.

Today, we will again consider this bill. I hope that the dozens of my Democratic colleagues who supported this sensible measure last night will continue to stand with us. We have to make sure that we are serving those who served us on the field of battle. Wounded warriors should not be used as pawns in this political bickering.

BIPARTISAN APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, instead of working with Democrats and Republicans to find a bipartisan budget solution, Monday night the Speaker made the reckless and irresponsible decision to shut down the government. This did not have to happen.

There is bipartisan support in the House for the Senate-passed legislation. Let's come together and solve this crisis now. Every moment we wait, it hurts small businesses trying to apply for startup loans; it hurts our veterans applying for pension, disability, education, and job training benefits; and it could send our very fragile economy back into a recession.

I came to Congress to create jobs, to grow our economy, and to move my county, Ventura County, and my country forward.

The Speaker must allow the House to simply vote on the responsible Senate-passed plan to get the government working again for the American people.

□ 1230

GOVERNMENT CAN OPEN TODAY

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

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, better than a day ago this House acted in a bipartisan manner to be able to fund government, to make sure that Members of Congress have to abide by the same laws that they pass, to make sure that individuals, just like big businesses, are going to be treated fairly under the Affordable Care Act, and to fully fund government. This passed with bipartisan support out of the House of Representatives.

The offer is there. Government can open today. Senator REID just needs to pick up the phone and answer the call to make sure that we're working together in that bipartisan fashion, as we

demonstrated in the House of Representatives, to work for the American people.

Government can open today. Senator REID just needs to pick up the phone and listen to the voice of the House of Representatives. Let's make sure that the laws that we pass apply to Congress and that all Americans are treated fairly.

THE TEA PARTY IS WORRIED

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, so the Tea Party has successfully shut down the operations of the Federal Government. And why have they done it? Well, they've done it because they're worried:

They're worried about the danger that the Affordable Care Act is going to work and people are going to like it;

They're worried about the danger that people with preexisting conditions are going to be covered;

They're worried about the danger that women are going to qualify for preventative health care services;

They're worried about the danger that children living at home up to age 26 are going to be covered under their parents' insurance policies;

They're worried about the danger that seniors are going to save money on their prescription drugs as the Medicare part D doughnut hole closes.

What they're worried about is that the Affordable Care Act is going to work and people are going to like it.

Mr. Speaker, the Tea Party thinks these things are dangerous, so they shut down the government. But with all respect, I say to you, it is the Tea Party—it is the Tea Party, itself. They are the danger.

THE HOUSE WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD TO FIX PROBLEMS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last night I voted to stop shutdown policies that are delaying veteran benefit applications and shuttering national parks and memorials. But those measures failed to pass because the President threatened a veto and more than 160 Democrats voted to stop them. That dumbfounds me.

Days ago, the President signed similar legislation to protect pay for Active Duty military members throughout any shutdown, why not now?

Surprise. Republicans and Democrats have policy differences, but we shouldn't differ here. Correcting problems for veterans, military families, the National Institutes of Health, and visitors to national parks—including the World War II Memorial and North Carolina's Blue Ridge Parkway—is common sense and provides common