

their back on our veterans, National Guard, and Reservists.

Today, we will act again to provide immediate funding for a critical program that takes care of low-income women and children—the WIC program. HARRY REID's Senate has already refused to step forward and provide funding for sick children, and it would be inexcusable for them to not take up this legislation.

HARRY REID's government shutdown continues to last, and there is still no sign of willingness to sit down with House Republicans to negotiate. President Obama has even canceled his trip to Asia; but, Mr. Speaker, I have my doubts he will actually use his time to continue the important conversations that must happen to end this government shutdown.

I urge my Democratic colleagues in the House and HARRY REID's Senate to do what's right for the American people and pass these important funding bills immediately. America needs to be America again.

END THE SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, in the early hours of the morning on Tuesday morning, I, along with a number of my colleagues, left our offices to walk over to the House floor to vote after the government had already been shut down. We passed on our way a cleaning crew who was down to half staff—half of her team not here to clean our offices.

We are not the ones that make this Chamber function. Yet we are clearly sending home those that do. They're not a line item in a budget. They've got rent and mortgages to pay, mouths to feed, and children to clothe. But because some of my colleagues have decided that it's better to shut down this government than to provide millions of Americans access to safe and affordable health care, here we are.

As you all know, the Affordable Care Act was modeled upon the health care reform we have already conducted in Massachusetts. So it's worth taking a quick look at where that Massachusetts health reform stands.

We have 100 percent of all kids covered. We've got 98 percent of all adults covered. We've made certain that no person is now one bad accident or one bad gene away from medical bankruptcy. Regarding cost containment, our rates have increased for individuals, and premiums are at a 1.8 percent increase this year.

We need to get this bill done, and I ask for your help.

WHAT AMERICANS WANT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, what the American people want from their elected representatives is very much the opposite of what this body has been delivering. Americans didn't want this shutdown, but here we are. They didn't want to lose the health care plans they have, but a very large number will in the future. They wanted lower health care costs, but insurance rates continue to escalate.

In Pennsylvania, the Children's Health Insurance Program provides good-quality, low-cost, market-based health care coverage. My constituents don't want their children forced out of this program and into Medical assistance, but that's now happening.

If the legislative process worked, we would have amended the so-called Affordable Care Act's fatal flaws. If it worked, the repeal of the medical device tax, which has bipartisan support in the House and Senate, would have been sent to the President's desk long ago. It hasn't. It remains chained up in the Senate leader's office.

My constituents know that I don't run all three branches of government. They know it's not my party in the White House or in control of the Senate. Mr. Speaker, what they do expect is for me to be their voice in Washington, to solve problems, fix government, and put forward solutions.

REOPEN GOVERNMENT TODAY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, every day that our Federal Government is closed, our economy gets weaker and necessary services that the American people depend upon are not available to them.

But what do we get? Rather than taking up the Senate-passed continuing resolution, we get a series of bills for PR value that are purportedly intended to reopen government, but nobody is fooled. We know that there's no real intent on the part of the other side to reopen government because you don't want to give up your leverage to try to defeat or repeal or defund the Affordable Care Act.

You lost in the House of Representatives. You lost in the Senate. You lost the campaign for the White House on this question. You lost in the Supreme Court. If this were baseball, you hit for the cycle and you lost all four.

We know that if these bills continue to come to us one or two a day, you'll have the Federal Government reopen sometime next spring. Let's do it this afternoon. When we come to this floor, you'll have a chance to vote on a clean CR, if you bring it up.

Let's reopen government today and stop this charade.

□ 1215

SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, as the oldest Member in the history of this body, I rise with more concern today for our country than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I was a Member when we had the last shutdown. It spawned a balanced budget. Today, unfortunately, we have a President and a Senate who so far are unwilling to negotiate on a budget that will accomplish these same goals.

We need to rein in Federal Government, cut wasteful spending, fix the Tax Code, protect and strengthen Medicare and our national defense, balance the budget, and address the harmful ObamaCare. And now people tell me to continue to object to ObamaCare and don't let up.

The President needs to give the American people the same privileges he's given to big business and small business—a 1-year delay and a mandate on ObamaCare.

The Senate rejected all four negotiation attempts proposed by the House. The result of their refusal? A shutdown of the government. They, with this President, shut this government down.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President and Senator REID to work with us on a responsible budget. We should all work toward the same goal: protect the best possible opportunity for Americans to prosper, the greatest good for the greatest number, our children.

SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, the insistence of some to act irresponsibly and shut this government down is disappointing. But more importantly, it is harmful to the American people, to American businesses, and, if prolonged, to the long-term prosperity of our country.

Because of this shutdown, over 800,000 government workers are furloughed and don't know when they will see their next paycheck. In my district, as but one example, 2,500 people at Naval Station Great Lakes, the Navy's only training facility, have been told not to come to work.

Hardworking people around the country have been locked out of their jobs because some in Congress see fit to hold ideology over good governance.

I remind my colleagues that we were sent here to govern and act responsibly—but at this moment, Congress is doing neither.

The businesses, working families, veterans, and seniors in my district and across this country cannot afford for Congress to continue this game. Let's start putting this country on a long-term, fiscally sustainable path forward, and let's do it together.