

So far, House Republicans have passed four bills to fully fund the government. Since then, that wasn't enough for the Senate, and they shut the government down.

On a bipartisan basis, we have passed bills to ensure our National Guard and reservists are paid, we're funding Federal benefits, reopening national parks, reopening the National Institutes of Health, and allowing the District of Columbia to expend their own local funds. All of these passed with bipartisan votes.

A clean CR is not the answer. A clean CR funds the gold-plated health care plan for Members of Congress. Members of Congress cannot be treated one way and the American people another way. We need fairness for every American and to stop the chaos of ObamaCare.

It's time for HARRY REID and President Obama to come to the table in good faith to work together with House Republicans for the good of all Americans. Let's pass the bills that we have bipartisan support for today.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, here we are on day 4 of a government shutdown that should never have happened.

I'm deeply disappointed that my Republican colleagues have decided that their obsession with repealing the Affordable Care Act is more important than the rest of the country, more important than 800,000 government workers going without a paycheck, more important than children and families of less means going without the nutritional support they rely on, more important than providing cancer victims and survivors with the reassurance that this government is continuing with critical research to find a cure for cancer.

Why are they letting this shutdown drag on when it could be over today? How much longer do the American people have to suffer?

I urge my colleagues to turn this ship around right now and give us a bill that will fund all of the government without any strings attached, that restores critical services to our seniors, to our veterans, and to our families. Enough already.

PAY OUR GUARDSMEN AND CIVILIAN DEFENSE PERSONNEL ACT

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the fact is that I and most of the Members of this House have voted now for five different measures that would have paid our Nation's civilian defense workforce and all of our guardsmen and reservists. The first of

those bills passed this House with overwhelming bipartisan support in July, Mr. Speaker—July. Unfortunately, the Senate and the President have refused to pass four of the five measures.

And in the Pay Our Military Act, the President unilaterally deemed many of the civilian workforce and our National Guard nonessential to our national defense. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, but what the President is doing is wrong. The civilian workers that design, build, and maintain our planes, our ships, and our infrastructure and support our warfighters in everything that they do are essential and should not be furloughed simply because the President chooses to do so.

Every member of our National Guard and Reserve stand ready to defend our Nation, and they should be paid while we wait on HARRY REID and the President to agree to negotiate. That's why I've introduced the Pay Our Guardsmen and Civilian Defense Personnel Act. Our national security depends on these men and women, and they should be paid while we're waiting on the President and Senator REID simply to do their job and agree to negotiate with us.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the good people in my Arizona district are disgusted with this Congress. They see Washington treating this shutdown as a political game.

News reports now confirm that there are enough votes in the House—Democrats and Republicans—to pass a clean funding bill and reopen the government right now. Yet the House GOP keeps bringing up piecemeal bills that are going nowhere, designed to create campaign attack fodder.

This week, the House majority cynically used piecemeal votes on veterans and national parks. My district has the Grand Canyon and many national parks; and as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I'm disgusted with these dead-end, piecemeal games. And you know who else is disgusted? Veterans.

Yesterday, the commander in chief of the VFW said:

We expect more from our elected leadership, and not a piecemeal approach that would use the military or disabled veterans as leverage in a political game.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop the piecemeal games and restart our government now.

□ 1230

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that there is plenty to disagree about in Washington, D.C. The House majority continues to believe that funding special treatment for Members of Congress in the Affordable Care Act is wrong. The House majority continues to believe that the American people need a reprieve from the new government insurance mandate for 1 year—the same reprieve that has been given to businesses, unions, Congress, and other groups. We should all be treated equally and fairly under the law, and Congress should have to follow the same laws it dictates to the rest of America.

But as we continue to negotiate over this divide, let's start funding the things we agree on. Let's fund veterans programs. Let's fund the NIH clinical trials. Let's fund Head Start, WIC programs. Let's open up the World War II Memorial. Surely, even in the divided times we live in, we could set aside our differences and start reopening the doors of government. This shutdown is wrong and the American people are hurting.

Let's please start working together, getting past our differences, finding points of agreement, and let's forge ahead together united as Americans.

HEALTH BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THEIR STAFF

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

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to correct the record regarding the health benefits for Members of Congress and their staff.

Recently, many on the other side have been falsely claiming that Congress is trying to exempt itself from the Affordable Care Act in an effort to distract the public from their failure to do their job and keep our government open. The fact is that Members of Congress and their staff are the only people who are required by law to give up current employer-provided health care and go into the exchanges.

I support this because I know the exchanges will provide all Americans, including Congress and its staff, quality, affordable health insurance. The exemption my friends want to get rid of is ending Congress' employer contribution, which all Federal employees currently receive.

Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues probably have, like many of us do, young staffers working in their offices that make around \$25,000 a year. We are going to ask these devoted civil servants to pay \$5,000 to \$12,000 more per year for health insurance than they currently pay just to score a cheap political point?

Ask the Speaker. He supports maintaining this contribution. Case closed.

MANUFACTURING DAY

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