

2,400 pounds of fentanyl were seized by our Border Patrol last year alone, enough to kill every living American.

The Customs and Border Patrol agency states, in no uncertain terms, a barrier or a wall is essential to do their job.

Even if these facts are trivialized, no one in Congress can seriously claim that we do not have a crisis at our southern border. It is up to Congress to act. The first duty of government is to afford protection to our citizens, and our citizens are demanding it.

I have received hundreds of calls to my office, urging us to follow the plan offered by Homeland Security experts to secure our border, build a barrier, enforce our immigration laws, and do our jobs.

END THE CHARADE AND REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the son of refugees, and the first Eritrean American to be elected to the House of Representatives.

My father, who immigrated to this country 35 years ago, sat in this same Chamber up there in the gallery only a week ago to watch his son be sworn into the people's House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a simple, solemn, and serious request: that this administration stop its demonization of immigrants and reopen the government.

The administration has manufactured a crisis based on fear and is now holding our government effectively hostage, blatantly causing harm to the economic security of American families across the Nation.

Bruce, a constituent in my district, had to close down his small business in Estes Park as a result of the shutdown. As Rocky Mountain National Park remains closed, small businesses have continued to struggle under this burden.

Countless workers in my district—Federal lab workers, national park employees, national firefighters, weather forecasters, and many others—have been furloughed or are working without pay, and \$700 million in national parks' revenue in Colorado has been threatened.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough.

Mr. President, end the charade and reopen the government now.

LET'S STAY AND OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I find it just fascinating that my Democratic colleagues come down here to the well of the House to talk about opening up the government when, indeed, it is

their reluctance to negotiate at all that is keeping the government shut down. On day 1 of the shutdown, it was zero money for new border barriers. On day 20, it is still zero money for new border barriers.

And to suggest to this body and to the Nation that, indeed, they are negotiating in good faith, I just find it incomprehensible.

I can tell you that we are ready to negotiate. In fact, they have been saying, it is their way or the highway. And do you know what? They are going to hit the highway in just a few hours and get out of here.

I think we ought to all stay here, let's negotiate, let's get a result, let's open the government, but, more importantly, let's protect our borders and communities across the country.

LET'S REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this body has passed bipartisan bills to open up the government, yet this shutdown could become the longest one in the history of this country.

My communities in Houston are feeling the real effects of this shutdown. Over one-in-five families in my district depend on food stamps. This shutdown continues to threaten their food security and, in some cases, their health and well-being. This issue hits our seniors especially hard, because over 11 percent of food stamp recipients are seniors and over three-quarters of those live alone.

In Texas, almost 30,000 Federal employees are furloughed or working with no guarantee of a paycheck.

At Houston's Hobby Airport, in my district, we may put air travelers at risk. TSA employees, air traffic controllers, and Customs and Border Protection agents are required to work without pay.

No one should be forced to barter for their rent or food, be evicted from their home, or be forced to work without pay.

We have passed bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown. Let's reopen our government and let's pay our workers.

LET'S PUT A BARRIER WHERE WE NEED IT

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats refuse to open the government. They won't provide more than a dollar. The Speaker said she would give a dollar for a border barrier. That is outrageous.

How many people in this body have walls around their homes and live in gated communities. How many people in this body at night check to make sure their door is locked, not because a burglar can't get around it, but be-

cause they love the people in their home and they don't want burglars having it too easy getting in, even though they could, but it slows people down. That is what a border barrier does.

And for the little girl that was killed by an illegal alien in my district and thrown in a well, this is not a charade. This is life or death for many people.

Let's put a barrier where we need it, and then we can have everybody getting paid.

THE COST OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we are paying a high price for the President's demand for more than \$5 billion to fund his wall.

The shutdown not only hurts those directly affected, it has begun to spread to the broader economy.

The shutdown slows economic growth, weakens business confidence, softens consumer spending, and depresses lending.

JPMorgan Chase estimates the economic costs to be \$1.5 billion per week during the shutdown.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's, says that if the shutdown lasts into February, economic growth could be reduced by \$8.7 billion.

President Trump's own Council of Economic Advisers projects that economic growth will slow every week that the shutdown continues.

In addition, the rating agency Fitch has warned that a prolonged shutdown could lead to a downgrade of U.S. debt. This will raise borrowing costs for companies and consumers across the country.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce states that the shutdown is harming the American people, the business community, and the economy.

Mr. President, you are playing a very dangerous game, and we all will pay the price.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we are here to have a conversation about the situation at our southern border.

The President calls it a border crisis and a humanitarian crisis, yet others call it immoral to give more funding to secure our Nation at the southern border. So what really is the situation?

We are in the 20th day of a government shutdown over the question of: Is the security of the American people at risk because of what is happening at