

Not only are Americans struggling to pay for their day-to-day expenses but veterans and military families are suffering as well.

If the shutdown lasts for more than two or three weeks, the Department of Veterans Affairs has said that it may not have enough money to pay disability claims and pension payments.

That could affect approximately 3.6 million veterans.

For military families, although their pay has continued, the military is suffering in other areas.

For example, changes of station for military personnel will be delayed, medical offerings could be scaled back, and facility and weapons maintenance could be suspended.

Additionally, military commissaries (base grocery stores) have shut down and military families are being forced to shop elsewhere.

According to the Defense Commissary Agency, military families generally save more than 30 percent on average at the commissaries.

Shopping off the base can be pricey, especially for military families living in cities with a high cost of living.

Edith Banda who recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East is among thousands of people in the Houston area feeling the impact of the government shutdown.

Edith has not worked her federal job in downtown Houston since the shutdown 17 days ago.

Making matters worse, she and dozens of others in Houston are unable to seek temporary private sector work because such jobs require permission, and the people who process those requests have been furloughed.

Edith has begun selling her personal possessions to make ends meet, but she said another couple of weeks of no work would be crushing.

There are so many other issues that we could tackle with the money Trump wants to spend on the wall.

With an increase of \$265 million the Department of Justice could hire 2,000 new police officers and make steps towards making many communities a safer place.

With increase of \$99 million the Office of National Drug Control Policy could support community-level efforts to address substance abuse programs in nearly 730 additional communities.

Economic Development Administration with an increase of \$200 million could create or preserve 31,000 jobs for our hardworking Americans.

Small Business Administration grants with an additional \$20 million could support dozens more Women's Business and Veterans Outreach Centers providing business training, counseling and outreach to 47,000 additional US veterans and women.

These are the changes that American citizens deserve.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the President ends this government shutdown and end the unwarranted suffering of American families across the nation.

Carol with the Bureau of Land Management wrote to me sharing her frustrations and anxiety over the Trump Shutdown.

Carol has been a federal employee for over 25 years. She is waiting to find out when she will be allowed to return to work. Carol is one

of 800,000 federal government employees living with constant worry and angst. Hearing that President Trump is willing to keep her and many others furloughed for years has her questioning her career choice.

After reflecting on her two daughters enrolled in college and her fears of no longer being able to help them with their education expenses did she write about how Trump's Shutdown will hurt her.

She, like many other federal employees, has a mortgage, has credit card payments, has federal student loans. The places where she would look for assistance are closed, leaving her to attempt to navigate and negotiate late fees, interest rate hikes, and damage to her credit score that inevitable missed payments will create.

Carol is just one of the 800,000 federal government employees who will not be receiving a paycheck tomorrow.

The President should be ashamed.

Prior to Trump's election the nation heard about his history of refusing to pay contractors for work they had completed. The United States Federal Government does not and will not conduct business in this way. The United State Government pays its workers.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much. I appreciate her sharing their stories and adding the stories of Edith and Carol to those that I shared of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I think this really shows that the harms of the shutdown are being felt in communities around the country, including from her home State in Texas and mine in California.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an end to the Trump shutdown. This Republican-imposed shutdown is threatening job creation, harming small businesses and leaving families with uncertainty and instability.

It is shameful that President Trump and Congressional Republicans are so desperate to secure taxpayer funding for a senseless border wall that they're willing to harm hardworking Americans by shutting down the federal government.

This outrageous shutdown is forcing 420,000 federal employees to work without pay. These dedicated public servants have been doing their jobs and serving the public without pay since December 22. They include about 14,000 FBI agents, 6,000 Forest Service firefighters, and 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents. Furthermore, thousands of airport security screeners and air traffic controllers are working without pay to protect the safety of the flying public at airports throughout the country, including LAX in my congressional district.

In addition, 400,000 federal employees have been furloughed without pay. This includes federal workers at the Departments of Transportation, State, Commerce, Interior and Agriculture.

These dedicated public servants are sitting at home wondering how they will pay their mortgages and buy food for their families. Yet, they want nothing more than to go back to work serving the American people.

As the Chair of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am especially concerned about the impact of the Trump Shutdown on American homebuyers and renters. Millions of

families that rely on Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) rental assistance programs are dangerously close to eviction and foreclosure due to lapses in funding. Families aspiring to become homeowners may see their Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or rural housing loans delayed or be unable to close on their loans altogether during the shutdown. In rural communities, very low-income, elderly homeowners who rely on HUD grants and loans to address health and safety hazards will not receive payments and may be forced to live in dangerous conditions.

In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the agency that investors and the public rely on to police Wall Street and maintain the safety of our capital markets system has furloughed roughly 94% of its staff, leading to a backlog of complaints that could delay enforcement actions. Companies looking to go public and enter the stock market for the first time may also have to delay their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).

Meanwhile, our National Parks are overflowing with uncollected trash, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stopped conducting inspections of drinking water systems, hazardous waste facilities, and chemical facilities.

If the Trump shutdown continues beyond January, about 40 percent of 40 million individuals and families across the country who are dependent upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Food Stamps, will see their benefits reduced.

These are just a few examples of the harm being caused by the third shutdown this nation has experienced since Trump took office. It is time for Republicans to stop jeopardizing livelihoods, the financial system, and our economy by ending this shutdown immediately.

It's long past time to end this Trump shutdown, and put America's public servants back to work serving the public.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 24. An act to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

#### OUR GREATEST DIFFICULTY AS A SOCIETY IS DEMOGRAPHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those opportunities, now that we have the new session of Congress up and running, to come up here and sort of walk through some of the math and the reality.

And, look, it is always fascinating when we hear, you know, the discussion of, well, there is \$5 billion for security and the barriers, but I just want