

now if we want to prevent fires this coming year.

Additionally, again, I would like to note that the bill that we should pass today provides \$1.7 million more than the House Republicans passed last year for the Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management program and \$227 million more for the U.S. Forestry Service in wildland fire management.

Responsibly funding the Federal Government is one of the most important duties of Congress. This previous majority failed to do so with the most basic task of keeping the lights on.

Here we are, day 9 of the 116th Congress. We Democrats are ready to reopen the Federal agencies that have been shut down by President Trump.

This legislation has already garnered strong support—strong bipartisan support, I would add—in the Senate. We need to ensure that the Federal Government is open and that it is working for the American people and that our Federal employees get the paychecks they deserve.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 24) to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 24

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “An officer” and inserting “Except as specified in this subchapter or any other provision of law, an officer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered lapse in appropriations’ means any lapse in appropriations that begins on or after December 22, 2018;

“(B) the term ‘District of Columbia public employer’ means—

“(i) the District of Columbia Courts;

“(ii) the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; or

“(iii) the District of Columbia government;

“(C) the term ‘employee’ includes an officer; and

“(D) the term ‘excepted employee’ means an excepted employee or an employee performing emergency work, as such terms are defined by the Office of Personnel Management or the appropriate District of Columbia public employer, as applicable.

“(2) Each employee of the United States Government or of a District of Columbia public employer furloughed as a result of a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for the period of the lapse in appropriations, and each excepted employee who is required to perform work during a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for such work, at the employee’s standard rate of pay, at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.

“(3) During a covered lapse in appropriations, each excepted employee who is required to perform work shall be entitled to use leave under chapter 63 of title 5, or any other applicable law governing the use of leave by the excepted employee, for which compensation shall be paid at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Montana (Mr. GIANFORTE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we, Mr. Speaker, enter day 21 of the Trump shutdown, it is incumbent upon the House to do everything we can to address the pain and suffering being felt by dedicated Federal workers who are missing their paychecks.

Most of them are living from paycheck to paycheck, and now they approach this day, on Friday, having moved from paycheck to no check.

Today, 800,000 Federal employees will not receive their first paycheck of this new year. Regardless of what Members

think about the causes of the shutdown, every single one of us should agree that hardworking Federal employees who give their blood, their sweat, and their tears to lifting us up as a Nation should not be held hostage to politics as a result.

Mr. Speaker, 380,000 Federal employees have been furloughed and locked out of their offices. Another 420,000 hardworking Federal employees are working without pay.

We will see them at our airports. We will see them working today and tomorrow, as they have been for the last many days, without pay. Some even had to cancel already scheduled vacation days or sick leave to report to work.

These 800,000 men and women include personnel at the Federal Aviation Administration; the Bureau of Prisons; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Department of Homeland Security; the Food and Drug Administration; and the Departments of Agriculture, Treasury, and Justice.

These are the men and women who keep our country safe, ensure the safety of our airports and food, protect our national parks, and, yes, keep our economy moving.

S. 24 would provide back pay to Federal employees furloughed during this shutdown and potential future shutdowns.

The measure also would allow essential employees to use their annual leave instead of having to cancel already scheduled and approved vacation plans.

Many Federal employees are suffering. But not only are they suffering, Mr. Speaker, their children are suffering. They are in pain; they are worried; and they are scared. You see, they have mortgages and car loans to pay, day care expenses to cover, and food to put on the table.

And even while they struggle to pay these bills, furloughed employees face the stress and anxiety of not knowing whether or not they will be paid when the shutdown ends. The least we can do is to relieve that uncertainty.

The President claims that Federal employees support this pointless shutdown. He also had the nerve to say: Why don’t they just adjust.

Adjust with what? And how?

I have not heard from a single Federal employee that they support this shutdown. What they want to do is to get back to work serving the American people, and what they are saying over and over again is: Government, do not hurt us; help us. Do not hurt us; help us.

So, promising they will receive back pay once the shutdown ends is the least that we can do.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill passed the Senate with every single Senator’s consent, and President Trump has indicated that he will sign it. I urge every Member of the House to do the same and support this bill, and let’s end this shutdown and get the government open and working again.