

paid, not because they did a bad job, but because of a temper tantrum from a President whose first allegiance is not to the national interest, but to protecting his fragile ego, and keeping his racist campaign promise to build a wall that no one with an ounce of common sense wants.

The U.S. House has passed legislation to open the government, pay our employees and contractors, and get on with the people's business. It is up to Leader McCONNELL and the President to do their jobs and end this ridiculous Trump shutdown.

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

REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

(Ms. STEVENS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues and the President to reopen the government.

Too many lives are being impacted. Too much is at stake. I cannot sit idly by and watch the impasse that continues to plague our country. I have been in constant discussions with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come to agreement, but to no avail.

This shutdown is hurting our economy, causing distrust in our sacred democracy, and putting the lives of hundreds of thousands of Federal employees in limbo. This is unacceptable.

There are currently 5,730 Federal employees in Michigan who are out of work. This shutdown is seriously impacting our country's safety and health.

There are FDA labs in Detroit that inspect for food and drug safety and oversee the interdiction of items coming into our country. They must be allowed to continue, this work.

The House just voted on the final appropriations bill to reopen the government. I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the President to put an end to this for once and for all, and to pass these bills.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BARBARA YAROSLAVSKY

(Mr. TED LIEU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of my friend, Barbara Yaroslavsky, who died on December 26, 2018, at the age of 71.

Barbara dedicated her life to public service, activism, and supporting her community in as many ways as she could find.

Born in Los Angeles on August 9, 1947, Barbara was raised with the belief that community involvement was the key to making a difference in the lives of those around her. She took a special

interest in education and healthcare issues, championing the welfare of children and families.

She also actively participated in the Jewish community, sitting on several boards at the Jewish Federation of Greater L.A., and ensuring the Jewish community's voice was heard in government and policymaking.

Additionally, Barbara volunteered with many nonprofit organizations. She served on the L.A. Commission on Community and Family Services, the California Board of Registered Nursing, the Advisory Board for L.A.'s Best, and Friends of the Saban Community Clinic. She was also a past chair and member of the California Medical Board.

Barbara and her future husband, Zev Yaroslavsky, met while he was a hall monitor at the L.A. Hebrew High School, and she was at the front desk of the American Jewish University. They married in 1971, 4 years before Zev was elected to the L.A. City Council. Zev then vacated it to run for the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, where he served for many years.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Zev, two children, David and Mina, and four grandchildren.

I hope that Barbara's family takes comfort in knowing that her memory will live on in the lives of people she helped throughout her life.

CONGRESS HAS A CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO FUND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues here and in the Senate to vote to end this shutdown.

Across Texas, there are nearly 30,000 Federal workers who will not receive their paychecks today, many of them still dutifully performing their jobs.

This Congress has a constitutional duty to fund the government so that the agencies can do their important work, the work of and for the American people, and there is much of it.

In my own district in Houston, for example, this shutdown is delaying our recovery from one of the most devastating natural disasters in our country's history. As Members of this body will recall, Hurricane Harvey hit Houston and the Gulf Coast in August of 2017, causing nearly \$115 billion in damage.

This body appropriated funds to aid the recovery from Harvey, but nearly 18 months later, the City of Houston, and Harris County, still awaits these funds. And the funds can be distributed only after the publication of rules from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, funds that are desperately needed.

The shutdown has delayed publications of these rules, and I urge my colleagues to vote to end the shutdown.

I understand that we have differences over issues—including the best way to secure the border—but shutting down the government is neither a responsible nor reasonable approach to our differences.

I urge Senator McCONNELL to take up the multiple spending bills the House has passed this week, which Senators approved with a large bipartisan majority just weeks ago, so that we can open the government and get back to work for the people.

PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

(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, Democrats in Washington continue to urge the President to reopen the government, end the crisis of his own making, and get Federal employees back to work.

Despite this unfortunate situation dragging on, we can celebrate good news out of Richmond, Virginia. Wednesday marked the first day of Virginia's State legislative session. And on day 1, a Senate committee passed a resolution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Thirty-seven States have voted to ratify the ERA since it passed Congress in 1972, two in the last 2 years. Thirty-eight States must ratify a constitutional amendment, and Virginia could get it across the finish line.

I am thrilled to witness this energy to enshrine women's equality in the Constitution where it belongs. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this incredible State effort, in Virginia and elsewhere, to amend the Constitution to finally ensure equality for all women and men in this country.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS HURTING PEOPLE

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

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, the government shutdown is hurting people in Philadelphia right now.

I met a HUD employee this week who is tired of being used as a pawn. She said: "I'm ready to go back to work. I'm ready to serve the people."

Instead, she has to worry about her mortgage and student loans.

She said: "My American Dream is slipping through my fingers. It's really not fair."

Mr. Speaker, she teared up. I understand why.

For the 800,000 Federal workers and Federal contractors, this is not some reality TV show. This is real life.

The workers and citizens served by the government need the President and the Senate to reopen the government first, and then we can have a debate about border security.

The Senate should join the Democratic House in passing the spending bills to reopen the government, bills