

in the world. But we are also strong because we say we care about people with disabilities. We want to make sure if they need Medicaid, they get that kind of healthcare. If they need food assistance, we will get that for them. We care about our seniors, too, because we are America and we are strong, and it is an American value.

These programs are important. When they are shut down, that is not an American value being upheld. When we talk about these programs and about food assistance, this is also real life—literally, today or the day when you lose food assistance. Why should that assistance even be the subject of uncertainty—uncertainty because someone doesn't get their way on a policy matter here in Washington?

I guess it is OK for any Member of Congress because we are a coequal branch of government. It is not like the President is higher than the Congress. We are coequal. I guess because the President wants to shut the government down to make a point about a policy matter, I guess that should be an option that any Member of the House or the Senate should exercise. So the next time, it will be a Member of Congress, when you lose a battle on a policy matter or you don't propose the funding on time, which is what happened here. They didn't ask for the money at the beginning of the year. So they tried to shoehorn it in at the end of the year. I guess if you lose the policy debate or your bill doesn't pass, you vote to shut the government down—take action to shut the government down like the President did.

I don't think that is the way any party or any country should operate. So 200,000 Pennsylvanians may lose access to the Women, Infants, and Children Program, which provides critical nutritional support to mothers and young children—200,000.

So there are the 2 million I talked about. There are 1.8 million people who are getting the benefits of the SNAP program, which, by the way, helps all Americans. People ask: What do you mean by that? It does. If you spend a buck on SNAP, you get \$1.80 back in economic activity because people have to eat, and they tend to spend that money quickly. It helps everybody. So the SNAP program is not just a nice thing to do for people who have disabilities or for seniors or children; the SNAP program helps all of us because it helps to stimulate the economy.

Even if you are disinterested in supporting this program but are interested in having your own American economy grow, you should support the SNAP program. It is also the right thing to do because it is a darned good program. When you add 1.1 million people who are getting SNAP and then 200,000 people who benefit from the WIC Program, you will have gotten over 2 million just in one State.

These programs are not out of money this week or in the month of January or in the month of February, but we don't know about March yet. We haven't gotten any guarantees about March. Even if we get a guarantee about March, what about April? That is far from guaranteed. So that is what we are talking about here. Why should these people have to wait? Why should a farmer have to wait weeks or months to talk to a Farm Service Agency office? Why should families who have food insecurity as part of their lives not be able to get something to eat because we are having a policy debate here? Why shouldn't we give them the certainty that they vote for us to ensure?

It is unconscionable and unacceptable, and I wish I could come up with better words than that because they are not at all adequate. It is unconscionable that children and moms and hungry Americans will suffer because of this shutdown.

The President says he is concerned about crime and the flow of dangerous drugs into the country. I agree with him. A lot of Americans do, of course. Yet the shutdown is significantly impairing the FBI and the DEA's law enforcement efforts. These are part of the list of Agencies that are impacted. Agents are still doing their work to keep the public safe. They are dedicated, and they are going to do their work no matter what.

Yet, with many analysts on furlough, it is getting harder and harder to work effectively to keep the public safe. I want an FBI that has all of the resources it needs, with everyone on duty, with everyone working. If the FBI is undermined because of the shutdown, we are less safe. If the DEA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, is undermined because of the shutdown, we are less safe. You don't have to be a law enforcement expert to say that.

It goes on from there. I have more, but I will not because of the hour. I will go back to the beginning.

There are adverse impacts today with people not being paid as of Friday. That alone is compelling and urgent and insulting, frankly, to us as Americans and is directly insulting to those families who don't deserve this. It is going to get a lot worse, though. That number is going to grow and grow, not just with those who are directly affected with their paychecks and in their livelihoods and their credit ratings and all of that but with people who depend upon the Federal Government for help when they are vulnerable, when they are hungry, when they want an answer to a question, when they want to close on a mortgage or do a long list of other things.

For the life of me, I do not understand why we would not pass a bill that is sitting in this Chamber that would open eight of the nine Agencies—that are closed—until the end of the fiscal year, September 30, so the shutdown will be over for those eight agencies. Then you would have one Agency, Homeland Security, that would get short-term funding, which would be another reason we could continue the debate and another way to focus attention on border security and anything else anybody wants to talk about here. It would focus the attention on that issue and remove the issue that is in front of all of us, which is that 25 percent of the government—and a lot of it affecting a lot of people—is closed, shuttered, not working, not effective, not delivering on results.

There is an easy solution here that not only does not close the debate on border security—effective, expert-recommended border security—but, if anything, enhances the possibility that there will be a more engaged debate on border security. As I said, I hope it will grow into a larger immigration debate.

I yield the floor.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:50 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 10 a.m.