

weeks, maybe for a couple of weeks—to give us the space and the time to be able to work out an agreement.

There are a substantial number of Members from our side and the other side who have agreed to sign a letter along those lines. I am hopeful that can provide at least one opportunity to move forward. It is the only one I see right now.

If there is a better idea, I am eager to hear it, and I know my colleagues are too. More importantly, I know the people I represent are, both those who are directly impacted and those who are watching and saying: Why can't Washington get its act together? This makes no sense.

Yes, we should provide additional security for our southern border. Why can't we agree to that?

We are not that far apart.

Why can't we end the government shutdown in the process and allow the normal operations to go back into place so that families, government workers are not put in this position where, working paycheck to paycheck, they now don't have a paycheck and where taxpayers can get the services they have paid for and not end up paying more money after the fact, which is what typically happens in these shutdowns.

By the way, I do hope we can stop using government shutdowns altogether. I don't like them, as I said, and last week, I introduced legislation, along with eight of my Republican colleagues, that is called the End Government Shutdowns Act. It is pretty straightforward. I have introduced it every single Congress since I was elected in 2010.

What it says is, if you get to the end of the process and the appropriations bill is not funded by Congress—and our fiscal yearend is September 30, so we have been living since then on these continuing resolutions. But if you end up with not getting an appropriations bill done or if you get to the end of a continuing resolution and there is no resolution—you have this impasse—instead of having the government shut down, what you do is just continue the spending from the previous year. Then, after 120 days, you reduce it by 1 percent, and then, after another 90 days, you reduce it by another 1 percent.

Why? To give Congress the incentive to get their act together and to actually fund the government appropriately, to pass these appropriations bills, which should provide not just funding but reforms to government programs. That is the idea. We should every year be looking at all of the government and saying: What is working? What is not working? What are we

going to fund more? What are we going to fund less? What are we going to eliminate? What are we going to create? Something new and good for our country and our constituents. So that is what we want to incentivize by the End Government Shutdowns Act.

I hope that Members on both sides of the aisle can support this and that, looking forward, we will not have government shutdowns. We wouldn't be in this mess today if that legislation were law.

The bottom line is, we have the opportunity before us to reach a fair agreement. Both sides are going to have to move some. The President is going to have to negotiate, and he says that he will.

The Speaker of the House is going to have to move some. According to news reports, Speaker PELOSI flat-out told the press she would not support \$1 dollar for any new barriers, even if the government were reopened and everything that she asked for was granted. That is not serious. That is not the way to have a successful negotiation, especially when Democrats, as I laid out earlier, have long supported more barriers and fencing along the southern border.

So let's act in good faith. Let's move forward to a responsible resolution. That means, yes, we reopen government, but we also secure the southern border. We are not that far apart. We just need to have the will to get it done.

I yield the floor.

ORDERS FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Saturday, January 19; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day. I ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1 with Senator KAINE or his designee controlling 2 hours and, upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate adjourn until 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 22; further, that on Tuesday, January 22, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:04 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 150. An act to modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Acting President pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) announced that on today, January 18, 2019, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 251. An act to extend by 15 months the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 150. An act to modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 192. A bill to provide extensions for community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, teaching health centers that operate GME programs, and the special diabetes programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 193. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to require the safe storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:25 p.m., adjourned until Saturday, January 19, 2019, at 11 a.m.