

of February SNAP benefits is likely to make it hard for many SNAP households to meet their basic food needs as they wait for their March SNAP benefit payment. Some 30 million people in about 15 million households—the vast majority of SNAP households—will not get their March benefit until at least 40 days after they received their February payment. Of these, 8 million people in more than 4 million households will need to wait more than 50 days. This benefit disruption will likely cause hardship for a substantial number of these households. We expect more households to try to turn to emergency food networks and other social services for help as they seek to stretch their benefits across more days.

Mr. MCGOVERN. The crisis already has started. Access to food for SNAP beneficiaries also is being threatened by the shutdown, as reports indicate that 2,500 retailers around the country are unable to take any form of SNAP EBT payments.

As PBS reported over the weekend, the licenses for these retailers are on hold due to the shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the transcript of the PBS story.

PBS NEWS HOUR: WHY MANY STORES CAN'T ACCEPT FOOD STAMPS DURING THE SHUTDOWN
(Jan 17, 2019)

While so far there have been no major lapses in benefits for the nearly 39 million people who depend on food stamps amid the partial government shutdown, 2,500 retailers around the country are unable to take any form of SNAP EBT payments.

Judy Woodruff:

With the government shutdown now in its 27th day, many federal programs have been affected, including food stamps.

So far, there is no major lapse in benefits used by nearly 39 million people each month. That's because of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It found a way to pay SNAP benefits, as they are called, earlier than normal.

February benefits, awarded through a debit-style card used at stores, are being paid out this week. Several states, including California and Florida, are warning users to be careful and make sure they manage to make the money last longer.

For 2,500 retailers, the problem is already here. That's because those stores needed to renew a license for the Electronic Benefit Transfer, or EBT debit card program, and they failed to meet a deadline before the shutdown. Those renewals, required every five years, are on hold.

Sarah Jackson is an employee at one store in Northern Arkansas.

Sarah Jackson:

We have been completely unable to take any form of SNAP EBT payments. Grocery stores need a license to process EBT payments, and ours expired and was unable to be renewed on schedule because of the government shutdown.

Because of an argument about a wall, I have to look people in the eyes every day and tell them they can't pay for their food, for their children's food.

Judy Woodruff:

Sarah Jackson in Arkansas.

We reached out to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a response. A spokesperson wrote back—quote—"Over 99 percent of SNAP retailers are able to accept benefits as usual. There is a small percentage of stores that failed to complete a required reauthorization process that was due on December 21. These stores can take steps to update their status once funding is restored"—end quote.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and on about the impacts here. If we all agree we should end the shutdown, let's just end the shutdown.

Maybe my Republican friends should be calling Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL to say, you know, let's come together and pass a bill to reopen the government without any conditions. That is what the American people overwhelmingly want.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard my friends on the other side of the aisle rushing to congratulate the President for his so-called compromise plan over the weekend. Let me repeat: This is no compromise at all. Just read the fine print.

The Washington Post said simply: "The proposal on the Dreamers was whittled down to the point where it only undoes the disaster Trump himself is orchestrating."

That would be like an arsonist offering you a fire extinguisher to put out the wildfire that they created. That is a compromise? Are you kidding me?

I have an idea. Mr. President, stop causing disasters. Congress should be more than a cleanup crew for your messes and failed policies.

Let me close with this, Mr. Speaker. When I think of the best of the United States, I think of the Statue of Liberty. It wasn't built from within our borders. It was gifted to us by friends from abroad, the French, to represent the freedom that we stand for, to welcome all those immigrants who come to this country, not to transport drugs or crime, as the President portrays, but to live a better life that they can find only here in the United States.

When President Trump thinks of the best of America, he dreams about a concrete wall, something to prevent immigrants from coming here, something that offends our allies, that would make our country, a global leader, turn away from the rest of the world at a time when American leadership is badly needed.

On top of all of that, a wall will not work. It would be ineffective. If we built a 50-foot wall, someone would build a 51-foot ladder.

As I said, it is a medieval idea when we have better solutions here in the 21st century: cameras, sensors, radar, and drones. If anyone doubts that they work, go visit the border, as I have.

Democrats are for border security. The minibus includes \$328 million in new funding to help secure the border. This is what professionals are asking us for. A concrete wall is being discussed as a viable option only at the President's rallies and in the right-wing media.

Here in the real world, hundreds of thousands of people are struggling. They need us to reopen the government today, right now, not years from now, as the President has suggested.

These bipartisan, bicameral bills will get us there. This continuing resolution to fund the Department of Homeland Security will get us there. Let's

end this shutdown and reopen this government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. 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. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.J. Res. 28;

Adoption of House Resolution 61; and Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the order of the House of January 17, 2019, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 28) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 184, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 46]

YEAS—229

Adams	Bustos	Connolly
Aguilar	Butterfield	Cooper
Allred	Carbajal	Correa
Axne	Cárdenas	Costa
Barragán	Carson (IN)	Courtney
Bass	Case	Cox (CA)
Beatty	Casten (IL)	Craig
Bera	Castor (FL)	Crist
Beyer	Castro (TX)	Crow
Bishop (GA)	Chu, Judy	Cuellar
Blumenauer	Cicilline	Cummings
Blunt Rochester	Cisneros	Cunningham
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Davids (KS)
Boyle, Brendan	Clarke (NY)	Davis (CA)
F.	Clay	Davis, Danny K.
Brindisi	Cleaver	Dean
Brown (MD)	Clyburn	DeFazio
Brownley (CA)	Cohen	DeGette