

but Republican, Senate-passed bills which would have opened up the government.

Madam Speaker, because we care so deeply about our constituents who either work for or are served by our government, we will continue to do everything possible to reopen government and share the stories of those being held hostage by the President and Senator MCCONNELL.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for being on this floor to bring their stories of their constituents, of the President's constituents, to his attention, as well as Senator MCCONNELL.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise to call on President Trump and the Senate to reopen the Federal Government immediately.

A legion of Federal workers went to work again this morning with no idea how or when they will be able to pay their bills or support their families, workers like Tracy from my hometown of Amsterdam, New York.

Tracy has worked for the USDA for more than three decades helping upstate New York farmers, with nowhere else to turn, find the funds they need to stay afloat for another season.

She says: "When you start to lose farms, equipment dealers go out of business. Everybody suffers—the charities, the churches. If you can't pay your bills, you can't go to the local pancake breakfast on Sunday" to help a not-for-profit.

This weekend, bitter cold hit New York's capital region. Tracy tells me she hasn't gone down to the basement because she is afraid to see the level of heating oil left in her tank.

Just as tough is the mental toll this shutdown is taking. Until recently, Tracy was furloughed. Now she is working, working without pay. She worries about the farmers who rely on USDA loans to get seed and fertilizer for the coming season.

When asked what she would say if she were standing here in this spot today, she said: "We need to take care of one another. It doesn't matter what party you are. We need to help and uplift each other."

Madam Speaker, I urge the United States Senate to heed Tracy's call, move forward with any one of the many bills that we have passed here in the House to reopen this government, restore paychecks to our dedicated Federal workers and the critical services they provide to our neighbors who need it, who need it most.

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TRUMP SHUTDOWN

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, today, I went to the Jose Andres food bank in Washington, D.C., for Federal workers. I was stunned to see hundreds waiting in line in the rain.

Inside, they were giving a hot meal to everybody, as well as fresh vegetables, diapers, and feminine products. And they were assisting those who were in danger of missing utility payments.

As I served the workers, I asked them what their jobs were. They worked for the FBI, the Department of Justice, and the D.C. Superior Court.

How many of these workers were served by this food bank yesterday? Eleven thousand.

They are like the Federal workers in my district, people like Catherine, who has back problems and now can't afford the copay for physical therapy and epidurals, or Eric, who told me he had to defer car maintenance in order to avoid missing his son's college tuition payment.

This suffering could end right now. But instead of ending their pain, Trump ignores it. Just this morning, his Commerce Secretary, Wilbur Ross, said he could not understand why furloughed workers have to go to food banks. Well, I say: End this shutdown today.

SHUTDOWN IMPACTS

(Mrs. DEMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, this shutdown is causing fear, pain, and stress for thousands of families in central Florida.

Now, this may be confusing to the President and to Senator MCCONNELL, but to Brandon and his wife, who both have Federal jobs in my district and zero income coming in, it is all too clear.

It is all too clear to Ralph, an Army veteran who is trying to juggle expenses for three children, including a special needs child.

It is all too clear to Doug, who keeps sensitive equipment working at the airport, but now he is struggling to cover daily expenses while also taking care of his mother.

It is all too clear, Madam Speaker, to my constituent Jeff, a Coast Guard retiree, now a civilian employee, who is working to raise money to help current Coast Guard servicemen. But Jeff himself is also not receiving a paycheck.

Families like these—and there are hundreds of thousands of them—are real people with real pain.

The President and Senator MCCONNELL need to do the right thing and put an end to this destructive shutdown now.

DO YOUR JOBS, NOT PRESIDENT'S BIDDING

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because what our country is going through is a disgrace: 800,000 Federal workers are going without a paycheck. They are suffering, and their families are suffering, all because the President wants a wall that is nothing more than a monument to hate. The American people are tired of this President's games.

Last night, I called some constituents who had contacted my office because they are furloughed due to the Trump shutdown.

I talked to a Forest Service worker from my district who has missed a paycheck and doesn't want to be used as a bargaining chip by the President.

I talked to another constituent who works at the National Archives and is experiencing the consequences of this shutdown. She knows that the longer this drags on, the more people who will get hurt.

Last night, I received a heart-wrenching message from a constituent who is experiencing hardship and needs to apply for assistance programs, but she can't because she can't even access the information she needs from the Office of Personnel Management.

This has to end. We have voted not once, not twice, but 11 times to reopen the government. Leader MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans have blocked these bills in the Senate every step of the way. To them, I say: Enough. Do your jobs, not the President's bidding. 800,000 workers and the rest of the American people demand it, and so do we.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to heed the gavel.

SHUTTING DOWN GOVERNMENT IS FAILED POLICY

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on behalf of Megan and Rick, and their children, from Pennsylvania's Sixth.

Rick answered the call after 9/11 to join the Air National Guard. He was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2008, and then hired as an air traffic controller on a veteran preference. Currently, the family's only income is Rick's.

In day 34, Megan now is selling items online to try to get income for their family because they have no idea how long this shutdown will last. She has called their daughter's preschool to see if they can withdraw her and get a refund for the remainder of the school year. She now has an appointment with SNAP this week for food assistance for her and her family.

Rick loves his job. He takes pride in what he does, but this is taking a toll on him as well. The family's last-ditch plan is to pull from their 401(k)'s and