

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

incur severe penalties to be able to keep a roof over their heads.

This tragedy is playing out in household after household in my community.

I am a third generation veteran. Border protection is an imperative and a real issue, but a shutdown is not the answer. I rise for the people like Megan and Rick, because shutting down the government is failed policy.

#### END THE SHUTDOWN NOW

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my Republican colleagues, who continue to vote against reopening the government, how they respond to their constituents who are suffering during this inhumane shutdown.

For example, my office was contacted by the wife of a Federal corrections officer from South Carolina's Third District. Her husband works at the Federal prison in Edgefield, and she just had bariatric surgery and is unable to work. She is unable to afford the vitamins her doctor prescribed because they are not covered by insurance. Without these vitamins, she may develop deficiencies that could cause death.

To further add to their financial difficulties, her husband, as a correctional officer, was required to sign a document that he would not get another job. They sacrificed a lot to build the good credit score they have that this shutdown is impacting, and their family's finances will be affected well into the future.

Again, I ask my colleagues across the aisle: How do you respond to your constituents who are suffering?

They need leadership from the President, Leader McCONNELL, and House Republicans to end the shutdown now. Enough is enough.

#### IMPACT OF SHUTDOWN ON SMALL BUSINESSES

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, across my district, the Seventh Congressional District of Pennsylvania, and across our country, this shutdown is hurting small businesses.

One of my constituents is an entrepreneur from Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. He recently emailed me to let me know that he can't get his mandatory employer ID number for the new business he is trying to start because the IRS is shut down. Until he gets that number, he can't set up payroll for his employees or open a company bank account.

Another constituent from Emmaus, Pennsylvania, processes Small Business Administration-backed loans to

entrepreneurs trying to start or expand businesses. But, as he explains, since the SBA has been shut down, no small business loans have been going out. For many, that means no access to capital at reasonable interest rates and having to turn to loan sharks to keep businesses afloat.

And let us never forget that our Coast Guard is still working without pay.

We were sent here to make people's lives better, not make them harder and more stressful than they already are. Members of both parties need to come together to support our military and the small businesses that power our economy, and that means ending this shutdown.

#### LET THEM EAT CAKE

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let them eat cake—Marie Antoinette.

The Secretary of Commerce has indicated that my \$28,000-paid TSA agent can walk into the Nation's banks and demand a loan. Well, right now, in my district, the city and other good neighbors are opening their doors to give free groceries to those TSOs and other wonderful Federal workers. I don't know what bank they can go into.

I can tell you that Edith, who just returned from deployment in the Middle East, is suffering. She hasn't worked for 25 days. To make matters worse, she has to take temporary work in order to help pay for her children. She now is selling personal possessions to make a difference.

Sandra, who recently came to Houston to work at NASA, came to start on January 7 from Nebraska. She hasn't been able to work; she doesn't have a job; and she doesn't have any money.

Or what about Linda, who has been working and now has to work extra shifts to help pay for her children? She, too, is selling her items for rent, groceries, everything that is needed.

Let them eat cake. That is what is being said by this administration.

Open the government. Pay our workers now.

Mr. Republican, join us in the 11 times that we have voted to open the government now.

Madam Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in condemning the President's decision to shut down the federal government, furloughing 800,000 civil servants and forcing nearly half that many to work without pay, and which is costing the economy more than \$1 billion each day in lost productive and economic output.

As the Trump Shutdown enters its thirty-fourth day, the effects of President Trump and Republicans' reckless decision to shutter the government over a wasteful and unnecessary border wall are obvious.

A continuing resolution could be passed that would provide funding for the federal government through February 28, 2019 but it has not been done.

Frontline federal employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, have been working without pay since December 22. So many people have risked their lives in order to serve this country and the way they have been treated

This includes around 14,000 FBI agents, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents, 47,000 Transportation Security Officers, and 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

TSA employees received their last paycheck on December 28, this single paycheck will now have to stretch much further than they initially anticipated.

The shutdown has already forced some employees to look for new jobs or take on extra work, and the pressure is immense for employees and families with no other source of income.

Among those not receiving a pay check for their work are 3,200 Secret Service agents who risk their lives every single day to protect President Trump and his family.

Speaker Pelosi's decision to delay the State of the Union is in defense of the Secret Service agents who would be forced to work without pay.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and NASA have been furloughed without pay, plunging them and their families into uncertainty.

These are real American families that are being put through an unwarranted and unnecessary shutdown, and they are suffering because of it.

With many federal employees being furloughed, and those deemed essential being expected to work without pay American families are now stuck wondering how they are going to get by without an income, especially since things like rent, groceries, children's prescriptions and general day-to-day living costs must still be paid whether the government is fully functional or not.

The Trump Shutdown will end when the President comes to his senses.

The Republican members of the House and the Republican controlled Senate can send a message to the President to end the shutdown by voting a veto proof margin in favor of a short term continuing resolution.

Not only are Americans struggling to pay for their day-to-day expenses but veterans and military families are suffering as well.

The shutdown has lasted long enough that the Department of Veterans Affairs has said that it may not have enough money to pay disability claims and pension payments.

This could affect approximately 3.6 million veterans.

The military is also suffering in other areas. For example, changes of station for military personnel will be delayed and facility and weapons maintenance could be suspended.

Military commissaries (base grocery stores) have shut down and military families are being forced to shop elsewhere, costing up to 30 percent more on average than at the commissaries.

The United States Coast Guard is still without funding.

This is an added expense that adds up quickly, especially for military families living in cities with a high cost of living.

Edith Banda who recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East is