

END THE GOVERNMENT
SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, the time has come for the President to end this shutdown and put our Federal workers above political bickering. Hundreds of thousands of Federal workers, many of them veterans, continue to show up to work every day without pay. TSA employees, FBI employees, air traffic controllers, coastguardsmen and women as well as many others continue to make the security and safety of our Nation a top priority.

One such person that I spoke to is Lupe Mejia. Lupe is a veteran, who currently works for the FBI on counterterrorism issues. Her husband also works for the FBI, and neither one of them is getting paid.

During this shutdown, Lupe has been going to food banks to keep food costs down. Paying the bills has become a struggle, and she is trying to do this all without dipping into their family savings, but it is getting harder and harder each day.

Madam Speaker, I say to the President that his shutdown is causing hardship to families like Lupe's all across this country. Thirty-four days is long enough.

Let's do what is right and pay our Federal employees, especially those who put their lives on the line for our country. They deserve to be compensated for the work they do and the security they provide. Let's bring sanity back to government, and I call on the President to tomorrow end this shutdown.

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

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, the pain from this Trump shutdown is being felt deeply in every corner of my district in New Mexico and across America.

We have farmers and ranchers that are unable to plan for their production. Tribal communities are facing disruptions in their healthcare services. People are not getting urgent questions answered by the IRS, and some families are worried that there are going to be liens put on their homes.

A local health clinic in my district, the Pecos Valley Medical Center had their Federal loan halted, even though the project has been approved, which means they can't draw down on funds. This means they will have to pause their efforts to expand access to mental healthcare and it could jeopardize the project.

Over 800,000 families, individuals across America are not being paid.

Over 150,000 veterans that are furloughed, some of them are working without being paid. Chef Jose Andres is feeding thousands of people who are lining up just down the street between here and the White House.

Madam Speaker, I say to the President, come outside and go see what Chef Andres is doing. These families are hurting. End this shutdown. It can end today.

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

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I was elected to fight for the people of my district, to challenge the way things are done here in Washington, and make sure our government starts working for the people. But it can't work for the people when it is not working at all.

It is not working for Christy, a hardworking air traffic controller, veteran, and single mother of two who is terrified. When she doesn't get her paycheck tomorrow, she won't be able to feed her kids. She works a good job. She shouldn't be afraid of meeting her kids' basic needs, and now she is looking for a job at night as a bartender.

It is not working for Eric, a 17-year career employee at the Federal Aviation Agency. He wrote to me, "As an integral part of the Nation's air traffic control system, my focus has always been, and will always be, on safety."

That is true for so many of the law enforcement officials, aviation specialists, and firefighters who are affected by this shutdown. They are focusing on our safety, and in return, they are not receiving pay for their work. Every day, that safety becomes more and more compromised.

It is not working for Diane, who works for the Angeles National Forest and lives paycheck to paycheck as almost 80 percent of this country does. She is gearing up for the economic turmoil of not getting a second paycheck tomorrow.

It is not working for John, who protects us, as a Federal prison guard, from terrorists, who is now driving Uber after his shifts in order to pay the bills.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues, the President, and our fellow Senators to open the government right now.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this morning, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, the Marie Antoinette of the Trump administration, said he "doesn't understand why Federal work-

ers need to go to food banks." Oh, my God. He might as well have said: Let them eat cake.

This President and his Cabinet are so out of touch, it is pathetic. Here are just a few emails I have gotten this week.

A law enforcement officer in my district says: "We struggle, but pinch pennies so our child can attend a good school. My mortgage company put us in no-pay status. The shutdown is putting us at risk of losing our home."

A Customs and Border Patrol employee says: "We have bills to pay, like nursery school and daycare. What's going to happen to us? I am sick over this."

A Fish and Wildlife Service worker writes: "I am proud to serve the American public. But right now, I can't even serve my family dinner."

Madam Speaker, President Trump's publicity stunt is hurting America's hardworking public servants. It is cruel. Shame on him and shame on Majority Leader MCCONNELL for refusing to end this shutdown. He, along with the President, need to grow up. They need to do their job, and they need to reopen this government now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, at its most basic level, the government should keep us safe. On the 34th day of the longest government shutdown in our Nation's history, hundreds of thousands of Federal workers tasked with keeping us safe are working without pay.

As the men and women of TSA, air traffic control, the FBI, the United States Coast Guard, and many other government agencies continue to perform their duties, many live with the uncertainty and fear of not knowing how they are going to pay their mortgage or feed their families.

In less than 2 weeks, millions will come to Atlanta, Georgia, the district I represent, and they will be flooding in for the Super Bowl. Having been a flight attendant for 30 years, I am very afraid. I am deeply concerned for the Atlanta airport's TSA agents, air traffic controllers, and for the Federal agencies tasked with ensuring the public safety during this event.

President Trump said he would shut down the government for a wall that he claims will make us safer, but, in fact, his shutdown has made us less safe. I will continue, along with my Democratic colleagues, to support bipartisan funding packages to reopen the government.

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, I want to share the story of Doris, a constituent from Palmetto Bay, Florida. Doris works as an investigative program officer for the Department of Homeland Security. For over 27 years, she has devoted her life to the safety and the security of our community. Today marks the 34th day of this irresponsible shutdown. It also marks the 34th day that Doris is going to work without getting a paycheck.

She has received notice that her department will miss a second pay period; something that her supervisor has told her will affect her retirement status.

This nightmare has affected her financially, mentally, and emotionally. She is terrified about having to default on her mortgage and not having enough money to cover her car payments or put food on the table.

Later today, Doris is planning to stand in line at a nearby parking lot to receive a head of lettuce and some tomatoes from a local food bank. Is this what the administration thought of when they initiated this shutdown? Is this what the greatest country in the world has succumbed to?

It angers me to know that Doris is being used as pawn to fulfill a campaign promise. Madam Speaker, I say to the President that we do our jobs and he does his. Open the government.

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

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, across this country and in my hometown of Sacramento, President Trump is inflicting unnecessary harm to our Federal workers, our economy, and the health and safety of the American people.

I have heard from my constituents across my district that this shutdown is disrupting their lives. Many Federal workers are frustrated. They just want to return to work. Yet, now they can't work, or they are working without pay. They can't pay their bills. The consequences of this shutdown affect us all.

I have heard from a U.S. Coast Guard veteran who answered the call to serve his country for over 20 years and retired with honors. Now, because of the shutdown, his pension isn't being processed. He is worried about his bills, and is heartbroken that this country he served for so many years is not honoring its promise to take care of him in return.

Another person who is a TSA agent working without pay at Sacramento's airport said it is hard to concentrate at

work when she is thinking about the bills stacking up. She is able to pay for January's rent with savings, but if this shutdown continues through February, she will not have enough money for rent, leaving her to choose between being evicted or moving out on her own and becoming homeless.

Our Federal workers deserve an employer that honors its promises and provides for its workforce. It is time for President Trump and Majority Leader MCCONNELL to fully fund the government and put an end to the pain and suffering of the American people.

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(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Nevada's Third District, I rise again to say it is time to end this shutdown. My office is currently working with a couple, both of them Federal workers, one of them a veteran, who are furloughed and now being evicted because of this unnecessary shutdown.

Nevada's SNAP and housing authority are preparing to draw on their reserves to make up for the lack of Federal funding. Over 400,000 Nevadans will face devastating consequences if these programs run out of money.

Our Governor just asked our higher education board to step in and protect Nevada's college students from penalties, and the speaker of our legislature just introduced a bill to protect Federal workers from debt collectors and landlords. Get the picture?

We are now stressing our State and local governments because our President and our Senate cannot step up and do their job. This shutdown has gone on far too long. My colleagues and I just voted for the 11th time to reopen the government. I ask the Senate and the President to do their duty and open it up now.

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THE SHUTDOWN STRUGGLE

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, Federal workers should not have to struggle to pay their bills just because my colleagues across the aisle and the President refuse to end the Trump shutdown. They should not be in a position of having to apply for unemployment while continuing to work without pay, which is exactly what one of my constituents from Westchester County, New York, has been forced to do.

Others in my district, nonprofit employees, working reduced hours because of the shutdown, have been forced to rely on food donations to feed their families.

It is inexcusable that Republicans have rejected 11 opportunities to end the Trump shutdown, pay workers, and reopen government. I urge them to come to their senses and reopen government without further delay.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IMPACT
ON WORKERS AND CONSTITUENTS

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, a week ago, we had a roundtable in my district, and we invited, including Madam Speaker today, to come and listen to the workers.

Tamara, who works for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, said that she is trying to figure out how to tell her son that he is not going to be able to have his birthday party. She is a young widow, single mother.

Veronica said that she has to take care of her parents and has to pay for their medicines and their copays, and it is really hard.

Lori said that workers at the IRS are trying to figure out how to pay for gas to get to work, parking, and childcare. And the taxpayer assistance office is closed, even though we have a new tax bill.

Kevin said the morale at the Bureau of Prisons is really tough. He lives 50 miles from work and is just about out of gas money.

Crystal said: We are public servants. We are not public slaves.

And Florence, who helps people get food stamps, is applying for them herself and waited 3 hours at a food pantry.

Madam Speaker, we need to get rid of the shutdown and pay the workers now.

SHUTDOWN STORIES

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to echo the pain and suffering experienced by Federal workers and their families in my district during this reckless McConnell-Trump shutdown and also the important work that they do as public employees.

One is a constituent who is a proud African American TSA agent out of the Oakland airport, who has been working without pay for more than a month. He must pay to get to work, though, buy his own lunch and gas, but has no paycheck coming in. He can't borrow from his family because eight of his relatives also work for the Federal Government.

His story resonates with so many African Americans who work for the Federal Government. But now with this shutdown, the Black community has been deeply affected, like everyone else.

While African Americans account for 12 percent of the population, 18 percent