

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.