

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(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 will be 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