

of the Federal workforce is African American. This is, of course, due to discrimination against African Americans in the private sector. The Federal Government has provided good-paying jobs and a path into the middle class.

My grandfather worked for the Postal Service. He was a letter carrier. My mother worked for Social Security.

Another constituent has been furloughed from the Food and Drug Administration. He told me that he and his husband both rely on their incomes to afford rent on their one-bedroom apartment.

I urge President Trump and Senator MCCONNELL to stop playing games with people's lives. Let's reopen the government and get workers the paychecks that they deserve.

THE SHUTDOWN HURTS NEW JERSEY FAMILIES

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, 34 days into the Trump shutdown, New Jersey families are hurting: 5,000 Federal workers have lost their paycheck; millions more are being harmed by the closure of critical services.

In my district in Edison, many EPA employees are being prevented from doing their jobs. These dedicated public servants help clean up contaminated sites. They keep our drinking water safe. Meanwhile, at the NOAA lab at Sandy Hook, they are unable to conduct urgent research on climate change.

One of my EPA workers said: "Mr. President, please open the government. Do your job so we can do our job." I couldn't agree more.

Members of the Coast Guard at Sandy Hook in my district are going without pay. These are the men and women who risked their lives to keep us safe during Superstorm Sandy, and they deserve a paycheck.

An IRS worker from my district said: "This is the first time in my life that I have ever had to go to a food bank for food. Not knowing where food is coming from is scary." And she went on to say that she fears being evicted from her apartment. This is an IRS worker.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats have voted 11 times on bipartisan legislation. It is time to open the government, Mr. President.

THE IMPACT OF THIS UNPRECEDENTED SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today for the people suffering the consequences of this shutdown. I rise today for our great country and for the belief in our great government. I rise for our neighbors, our friends, and all our taxpayers.

The impact of this unprecedented shutdown, the longest in our history, has had real and deeply concerning impacts on our families, particularly in Michigan. It is also posing serious threats to our national security and safety.

Tim Mach of Waterford, Michigan, a professional aviation safety specialist, has been working diligently throughout this shutdown. He is doing the best he can with the materials he has to ensure our airplanes are safe, but he is unable to access the parts for the planes that are damaged.

The longer this shutdown drags on, the more dire these types of operations become. For the well-being of our public servants and the safety of our country, the government must open today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today from this body as his voice, imploring the less than 600 among us who have been elected to this Federal Government to open this government now.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SUFFER THROUGH THE SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, on this, the 34th day of the longest shutdown in American history, I sat down with a group of air traffic controllers in my office today.

These workers told me about how an already stressful job has been made even worse by this shutdown, that many of them are working 6 days a week, 10 hours a day with no pay.

They know that their work requires no mistakes because it is life and death, but to make matters even worse, 30 percent of them are already stretched thin and currently are eligible to retire, and many are considering retiring earlier so that they can at least get a paycheck.

In the words of Ranika, one of the air traffic controllers: This shutdown is the perfect storm for a national emergency.

Madam Speaker, the collateral damage of this shutdown is difficult to fathom, but this much is clear: Every day that goes by, we are less safe, our economy is more weakened, and all Americans from all backgrounds suffer.

This must end. Open the government.

HUNDREDS HURT BY SHUTDOWN

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AGUILAR. Madam Speaker, we are now in day 34 of the longest shutdown in American history.

Over the course of this shutdown, I have heard from hundreds of people in my community who are being hurt by this reckless shutdown. Today, I would like to share the story of Graciela, who wrote to me from my hometown of Redlands.

Graciela has worked for the IRS for over 40 years, and her Federal job allows her to care for her daughter, who is suffering from thyroid cancer. Graciela wrote to me and said: "Each missed paycheck is another 2 weeks that my daughter will go without medication and treatment."

It is outrageous that, in the face of this type of suffering, real human suffering, our President can remain so callous.

We have voted 11 times to reopen this government, but instead of working with us to end this shutdown, the President and Leader MCCONNELL continue to move the goalpost and insist on funding for their ineffective and wasteful border wall and cuts to legal immigration.

Our country deserves better than leaders who are willing to hold their people hostage.

Graciela concluded her message to me by saying this: "The President's misconceived notion that this country needs a wall more than its own citizens need to go back to work or to be paid for the work they are doing is mind-boggling."

Madam Speaker, Americans are suffering and deserve better.

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

END THIS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise to demand, insist, and beseech President Trump to end this shutdown now and open the Federal Government.

I represent the fifth largest number of Federal Government employees. Every day I see, I hear, and I feel the pain and suffering of the Federal Government employees and contractors in my neighborhoods and my communities. One out of every ten residents in my Maryland district live in a household headed by a Federal Government employee or contractor.

This Monday at a community event supporting our Federal employees, I met a woman with her 2-month-old infant child. She is an essential employee at the Food and Drug Administration. She needs to be and wants to be on the job, but she simply can't. She can't because she can't afford to pay for childcare for her infant daughter.

She is having difficulty paying for groceries, providing lunch money for her two elementary school-aged boys, and is on the verge of not being able to pay either her rent or her car note.

She was sobbing uncontrollably. She was weeping painfully, and pleading for you, Mr. President, to open the government, to let her work with dignity, to support her children, and to do her job.