

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.

President Trump, end this shutdown now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, it is day 34 of the Trump shutdown.

Tomorrow will mark the second missed paycheck for 800,000 Federal workers and for many Federal contractors, as well.

I have spent parts of 2 days at the Philadelphia airport meeting with the workers and seeing the needs. These people in the groups are stepping up.

Everyone is looking to the Republicans and the President to step up. We must reopen this government.

Pay these workers now.

Pay these workers now.

Pay these workers now.

Pay these workers now.

Pay these workers now.

Pay these workers now.

SHUTDOWN HAS TURNED LIVES UPSIDE DOWN

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

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, my district in Northern Virginia is home to tens of thousands of Federal workers, and even more contractors who work alongside them.

I have heard from hundreds of constituents about how the shutdown has turned their lives upside down, like Teresa, who is a furloughed Federal worker.

She and her husband recently sold their home and signed a contract to purchase another one in my district. The mortgage financing for their purchase was all set and approved before the shutdown. Their closing date is set for next Monday, the 28th, 4 days from now.

But just a couple days ago, they learned that the mortgage company is now denying their mortgage application because she is furloughed. She was told by the lender that they consider her unemployed and too much of a risk to finance.

This is a Federal employee who will receive backpay when this shutdown eventually ends, but that isn't enough for the mortgage company. It isn't enough for any of their other creditors, and now she and her family, instead of celebrating moving into their new home, are essentially homeless, all because of the reckless Trump-McConnell shutdown.

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, today, thousands of air traffic controllers, who we know are essential to our safety and work in one of the most stressful work environments, have had to work without being paid for 34 days.

Unions for air traffic controllers, pilots, and flight attendants released a letter today describing the impact of this shutdown. This is what they wrote: "We have a growing concern for the safety and security of our members, our airlines, and the traveling public due to the government shutdown. This is already the longest government shutdown in the history of the United States, and there is no end in sight. In our risk-averse industry, we cannot even calculate the level of risk currently at play nor predict the point at which the entire system will break. It is unprecedented."

This is unconscionable.

Mr. President, you took credit for this shutdown. You said you would accept the responsibility. You said you own this shutdown. Are you going to own and take responsibility for the loss of lives for a catastrophe that will be caused in the sky because you are holding the American people hostage for a political agenda that has no credibility whatsoever?

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, it is time to end this shutdown, which is hurting working Americans and damaging the overall economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce says that the shutdown is harming the American people, American business, and the economy.

So far, it has cost the United States economy about a half percentage point of overall economic growth. That is about \$25 billion.

JPMorgan Chase estimates that the shutdown is now reducing economic output up to \$10 billion each week.

Even the administration has doubled its estimate of the economic cost. It says that, if the shutdown lasts through March, we could have zero growth this quarter. Some forecasters even project that growth could turn negative.

Mr. President, open this government for the people. The people are hurting. Enough is enough.

REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT NOW

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

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, America is in crisis. What will it take for the President to reopen the government? Will it take families across America to not get their tax return? Will it take Federal employees going without a second paycheck or without healthcare?

Will it take millions of families who are going hungry without SNAP, without food assistance?

Maybe it will take Customs and Border Patrol walking off the job or uninspected planes falling from the sky due to mechanical failure—or worse.

I have here a letter from Doug Lowe, one of my constituents, who is an aviation specialist, and he talks about how these planes aren't even being inspected right now.

Or, even worse, for all the President's bragging about the economy, we could be going into a recession in what would otherwise be a boom period.

So I ask again: President Trump, what will it take? What disaster will it take for you to reopen this government now?

OPEN THE GOVERNMENT NOW

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Federal employees in my district and around the Nation.

For over a month now, 800,000 coastguardsmen, TSA agents, and air traffic controllers have been held hostage by President Trump's shutdown, a shutdown with far-reaching consequences.

Due to staffing shortages at Dallas' two major airports, shortages that have resulted from the TSA agents being forced to live the last 34 days without pay, aviation experts have warned that flying today is less safe than over a month ago.

Madam Speaker, since President Trump irresponsibly shut government down, I have heard from countless TSA agents and the national air traffic controllers in my district. They have all indicated that, while they are committed to their duties, they are also suffering financially and need the government reopened now.

I stand with them. Every member of our Caucus is standing together, calling on the White House to open the government now.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I also rise to share a shutdown story from my district in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Vanessa Thomas, a resident of St. Thomas, shared a heartfelt story with me on her personal experience with the government shutdown.

In 2017, less than 2 years ago, she lost her home in the two hurricanes that we had. Her home insurance is through the USDA Rural Development program.

Prior to the shutdown, she did not receive homeowners insurance payments regularly. Now, with the shutdown, she is forced to use her own money to pay