

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.

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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.

□ 1700

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