

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

for materials and labor to repair her home. She has to choose between having her daughter sit out a semester in college or saving her home.

This is one among many stories that are threatening residents of our country.

Today, I strongly urge the President to end this shutdown now, immediately.

Today, we cannot continue using Federal employees and Federal funds as pawns in a political game.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

(Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the devastating impacts this shutdown is having on families throughout Oklahoma's Fifth District.

Over the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend, I went back to my district and visited with impacted Federal workers. The stories of the impacts were heartbreaking.

One of the things that stuck with me was speaking with a woman named Tammy, who reminded me that it is not just the government that is shuttered right now, but that families' lives are also being shattered. That is, too often, the forgotten part of this conversation. We should never use Federal employees, contractors, or their families as pawns in a political disagreement.

So, while we are analyzing the current negative effects of this shutdown, we also need to look at the long-lasting effects on families, on our communities, and on the economy.

Simply put, we will be suffering the negative consequences of this shutdown for years to come, and the stories I have heard from Oklahoma families are the reasons I will continue to work to reopen the government.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise following our 11th vote earlier today to reopen government and end the senseless chaos and the pain of this shutdown.

Why won't the Republicans take yes for an answer? Why won't they provide relief for the hardworking Americans suffering in their own communities?

It is important to note, Madam Speaker, that on every occasion we have presented to the floor initiatives that had been passed by the Republicans in the Senate, just their own bills, sending them back to them, and they have said no, or their bills acted upon by a bipartisan group in the House, our most recent contribution to send over to the Senate, and they have said no.

And today, in the simplest—the simplest—of resolutions, we said please vote “yes” for \$12 billion for disaster assistance—we all know that we have to do that—and open up the government for 2 weeks in order to have a discussion of how best to protect our borders. And they said no.

Madam Speaker, \$12 billion for disaster assistance and 2 weeks of opening up government to allow the debate to continue so that people can come to work and those who are working already, all of them, can be paid:

Americans like Brenda from Maine, whose family can no longer pay for heating fuel this winter, while temperatures remain below freezing;

Americans like Julie from rural Iowa, who says that farmers, already hit hard by tariffs, will feel the squeeze even more now;

Americans like Sarah from Colorado, whose new job at the VA is on hold, adding to wait times for veterans who need healthcare services; and.

Veterans, who comprise nearly a third of our Federal workforce, 31 percent. Our veterans' security clearances are at risk. You can lose your security clearance if you lose your credit rating, and you can lose your credit rating if you cannot pay your bills on time—your mortgage, your rent, your car payment, your credit card bills, and the rest. If your credit rating goes down, the vulnerability of your security clearance is increased.

So it is harmful to our veterans to be doing this, and it is important for everyone to know how they are affected because our veterans, who have donned the uniform of our country to protect us and then carry on their commitment to public service in the public sector as Federal employees—in some ways still continuing to protect us, in other ways meeting our needs in another way—all of them are affected by this shutdown.

Or like Lila from Georgia, who says: “Food stamp recipients will go hungry. Many will lose subsidized housing. State and local services will be overwhelmed trying to make up for the losses.”

One woman, Vivian, from Maine, asked: “How is a wall more important than families?”

This senseless shutdown throws the American people's safety and security into peril.

This week, FBI agents released a report warning of the dire effects of the shutdown on nearly every aspect of their work.

The FBI writes: “We don't have funds to get drugs and guns off the streets and to prosecute the violent gang and drug traffickers. . . .”

“We aren't able to take child sexual exploitation cases to grand jury to seek indictments and warrants in order to get our most violent offenders arrested. . . . This just puts our children in jeopardy. . . .”

“We have no funds” to pay sources that provide cybersecurity intelligence

to protect the country “against our foreign adversaries.”

And they conclude: “The fear,” during this disastrous shutdown, “is our enemies know they can run freely.”

The FBI talked about children, putting our children in jeopardy. This shutdown is putting so many children and the families of our Federal workers in jeopardy as well.

Those of us who have had the privilege of serving those in food lines and the rest, to listen and hear their stories, can tell you firsthand that this is making enough impact that it is material for sure. It is about their financial security, but psychological as well.

We are doing serious damage to our country, totally unnecessarily.

The President and the Republicans either do not notice or do not care about the real effects of this shutdown on real people. They say: Oh, you will get paid later.

Well, they have to pay their bills on time, not sometime later.

This morning, when told that many Federal workers were going to food banks, Treasury Secretary Wilbur Ross said: “I don't quite understand why.”

As hundreds of thousands of workers are about to miss a second paycheck tomorrow, Secretary Ross does not know why people without a paycheck have to go to food lines.

This Marie Antoinette attitude of “let them eat cake” is pervasive in the administration. The President thinks, I guess, that they can call their dads for money.

Hours after Secretary Ross made his statement, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow doubled down on this administration's “let them eat cake” attitude, saying that the shutdown was “just a glitch.”

Just a glitch? Maybe to you it is a glitch, but it is a paycheck to our Federal employees and the work they do for us.

□ 1715

So they are being harmed by not getting paid. The people they serve, the American people, are being harmed by not being served.

Our economy will suffer a downturn. It does, at these times. The President's own economic advisers can tell them that.

This shutdown is not a glitch. It is a crisis that the President alone created and that the President alone can end. The Republicans in the Congress have been accomplices to the President's irresponsibility in just ignoring the consequences of his actions. Either he doesn't know or he doesn't care, but, nonetheless, the Trump shutdown goes on.

Once again, we call on the President and the Republicans in Congress, especially in the United States Senate, where they are holding this up, to reopen government now for the sake of the health, the safety, and the well-being of the American people.

I thank our Federal employees for what they do to meet the needs of the