

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.

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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

American people, for the role they play in providing the public-sector promise that we make to people to meet their needs, to provide the services of the courts and the protections of our security in terms of the FBI, of TSA, of the Coast Guard.

The cost of this shutdown—the Coast Guard is the only defense entity that is not being paid. Because this is a 25 percent shutdown, 75 percent of the workforce is at work. The Department of Defense is at work, but the Department of Homeland Security is not, and that is what the Coast Guard falls under.

Imagine those responsible for search and rescue and emergency situations having to go to food banks to get food for their families. How does that keep them as strong as they can possibly be, as strong as they can possibly be to search and rescue and to protect us? They are a line of defense in securing our borders.

A lot of the discussion is about secure borders. Well, our borders extend to the seas, and our Coast Guard is our line of defense there. In our proposals for the opening up of government, we have funding for our Coast Guard for assets that they have asked us for.

This is a tragedy in so many respects. It shouldn't go on any longer. We should at least be able to discuss and compare the merits of our different proposals, and we should be able to do that with government open and not holding the American people hostage, Federal employees hostage, the security of our people hostage, and the safety and well-being of our children hostage to an idle campaign applause line that the President seems committed to at this time.

EFFECTS OF THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased we are able to be here tonight to have an hour with some of my colleagues to continue this conversation about the hardships people are facing due to this shutdown and the impact it is having on our country.

We have had so many interesting stories and tragic recollections of exactly what people are going through. As our Speaker, Speaker PELOSI, just said, we are holding Federal employees hostage; we are holding the safety of our country hostage; we are holding the American people hostage; and it is time to get the government going again and resolve our differences.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Maine?

There was no objection.

Ms. PINGREE. So today is the 34th day of the longest government shutdown in history. It is a shutdown that has no excuse, and it has taken a great toll on dedicated public servants and their families across America.

Americans who have jobs are actually standing in line at food pantries here in Washington and back home in my State of Maine.

This Chamber, as of today, has voted 11 times to fund the government, to pay 800,000 workers, and to restart essential services.

President Trump's unwillingness to reopen the government is tone deaf to the financial circumstances of working Americans. Most are living paycheck to paycheck, pay mortgages and healthcare premiums, and need to keep food on the table. Government workers and contractors cannot afford these weeks being held hostage.

People who rely on government programs like SNAP and housing vouchers are feeling the stress. They cannot afford these weeks of being held hostage.

Businesses that are losing opportunities to expand and grow their businesses cannot afford these 3 weeks of being held hostage.

The consequences of this shutdown have rippled through our State and national economies. Members of Maine's Coast Guard, who protect us every single day, are about to miss their second paycheck while actively serving to protect our working waterfronts.

The USDA's partial closure in Maine has put Maine farmers in financial limbo, and SNAP benefits for Maine's most vulnerable are on the verge of a lapse. Many of Maine's craft brewers, who added \$260 million to our State economy last year, have had to put new products and their businesses on hold.

At this time, I will share a few of the stories about what is happening and what we are hearing from our constituents in Maine as a result of this shutdown. I will read just a few clips from letters I received and the stories Mainers have shared with the local news, and I will outline some of the broader problems this historic shutdown has created for real people.

We heard from a brewery in the process of expanding to a second location. They had all their paperwork in with the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau in the Department of the Treasury when the shutdown began, but now that brewer is waiting with an empty storefront.

Another brewery is just waiting for approval to open six new types of beer, all sitting and ready to be sold. As the owner says:

January is already a tough time in Maine, as I hope you know, and to lose out on weeks of sales because of the shutdown may cause us to close our doors. Please, I implore you, do what you can to get the shutdown over with.

We hear from a lot of Federal employees in our State. Here is one that says:

Please do whatever you can to reopen the government. I have 28 years of Federal service and do not appreciate my financial security being jeopardized by the President.

Another says:

Please do everything you can to help end the government shutdown. As a furloughed Federal employee, the anxiety of not knowing when or if I will be paid grows with every day of the shutdown. I have savings to cover a few months of living expenses, but I know many in this situation don't. We just want to get back to work, and we don't want to be used as pawns.

Another says:

I am exempted from furlough, and I am mandated to work without pay. This shutdown is crushing me. I am a single father of three who just went from a one-income household to a no-income household. I keep hearing the President insist that Federal workers support this. I must have missed that poll. No one has asked me for my input. Please help end this shutdown soon. This is not sustainable for me.

Another says:

This shutdown is the worst one that I have been involved with since joining the Federal Government decades ago. Earlier this week, I went to my credit union to take out a personal loan to pay my bills. It is the first time ever in my life I have had to do that.

Another says:

I work under a government contract, and I have just been informed that I cannot come back to work until this government shutdown is over. This is a terrible time of year for myself and my fellow coworkers to not know when we can continue our work, not that there is ever a good time for a shutdown.

Well, the good news is, I have a lot more stories like this, but I want to share some of the time with my colleagues, and I will get back to reading them more.

So I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, this week, we voted for the tenth time to end the shutdown. For people in the 14th District of Illinois, the effects of this Trump shutdown are real, and they are painful.

This weekend, I visited a family shelter for survivors of domestic violence that does incredible work serving my community. This shelter would like to expand to serve even more people, but funding uncertainty around reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act makes that impossible for them. Domestic violence survivors are casualties of this shutdown.

This weekend, I also met an entrepreneur who is working to open a pet care company with her husband. He even left his job so they can realize their dream, but they are currently waiting on a Small Business Administration loan they need to open their business. It is sitting on a furloughed worker's desk. Entrepreneurs are casualties of the shutdown.

This week, I met with air traffic controllers in my district, people who keep passengers and freight moving safely