

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