

it will have on their life, the impact it will have on their behavior and on their families?

Veterans' service benefits would be delayed. Pay for our troops and their families would be delayed. And on the other side, you hear a lot of rhetoric about our troops and that we should pass this budget. But they don't talk about, they are not willing to cut any of the rich, or the millionaires and the billionaires. They want to protect the rich. They want to protect the oil companies. They want to protect the outsourcing of companies that go outside, but aren't willing to make the cuts that are necessary. I think everybody has got to have cuts.

It will also impact our Social Security claims that would go unprocessed. Federal vendors and contractors, their employees would go unpaid. Government housing assistance would be halted, and millions of tax refunds would go unspent.

In my home of San Bernardino County, a shutdown would mean no paychecks for 22,000 Federal employees and retirees. Think about the economic damage this loss of revenue would cause.

But instead of working on a compromise, I say instead of working on a compromise, because it takes two leaders and it takes other individuals, and HARRY REID is doing what is necessary in leading, it's the other side that has to compromise as well. It's not a one-sided team; it's a two-sided team. And when the chemistry is good on both sides, we should be able to come up with a compromise that is good for our Nation and our country.

But instead, Republicans have introduced a long-term budget that devastates our seniors and ends Medicare as we know it. The budget shouldn't be about flexing our political muscle. It should be about doing what is right for the American people, and this Republican budget makes all of the wrong choices.

The GOP plan increases suffering, I state, suffering for our seniors and young people while protecting tax breaks for the wealthy, while protecting tax breaks for the wealthy. The Republican budget eliminates guaranteed coverage for our seniors under Medicare which currently serves 48 million elderly Americans. It slashes Medicaid for seniors in nursing homes and Americans with disabilities. It increases college education costs for 10 million middle class students. And we need to invest in education. They are our future. If we don't invest in our students and their education, they cannot provide for us. We need to invest in them, not cut them. And, of course, it gives tax breaks to the big oil companies and companies that ship jobs overseas.

Seniors in my district live on a fixed income. Can you imagine living on a fixed income of \$1,900 a month or whatever income you have? It is very difficult to make your mortgage pay-

ments, put food on the table, and know how you are going to get by the next day. Or if you have any other emergencies.

We are a country; we are America. We are the greatest country in the world, and we should provide for every American that is here, regardless of who they are or where they come from. They can't afford to pay more health care or see cuts in Social Security benefits. We all agree, and it has been stated, we all agree that we must get our deficit under control.

But remember, Republicans had 12 years to do this and went out of control in their spending and didn't do anything when they had control.

CONTROLLING WASHINGTON SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind the American people why we're here. We're here today because of the failure of the 111th Congress to pass a budget for the first time in decades. You might think that for one party that controlled the White House and both Chambers of Congress, this would be a relatively easy thing to do, but you have to try. In an effort to protect a few powerful committee chairmen and other incumbents in their own party, they made a political decision not to pass a budget because it had a \$1.5 trillion deficit attached to it. You can't run and you can't hide from the American people.

Now, even after the people have spoken in November, they are continuing to protect the status quo, protecting out-of-control Washington spending, and offering no solutions of their own other than raising everyone's taxes and demagoging anyone who puts forward a plan. Again, I would like to see their plan.

I began running to represent Indiana's Eighth Congressional District in October of 2009, an endeavor I had never undertaken before. I was a practicing physician, cardiothoracic surgeon. I decided to seek public office because of our government's inability to control spending. Let's remind everyone where the status quo has led us. It has led us to historic unemployment and a mounting debt that is mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren.

But yesterday, our counterparts in the Senate and the White House showed different intentions. I can't stand before you today in good conscience not advocating for the men and women who have volunteered to wear the uniform of our great Nation. A notion that a bill to fund the troops for the remainder of the fiscal year is being threatened by a veto is preposterous.

This challenge to fix our government's spending habits is above politics and talking points. While I stand

here today in the people's House, individuals are playing petty politics while we offered a solution yesterday that pays our troops and avoids a government shutdown.

We passed H.R. 1 with a modest \$61 billion down payment on controlling Washington spending, and we have been criticized in the face of a \$1.5 trillion deficit. I implore the Senate and the White House to join with us here in the House and act to significantly reduce spending and avoid a government shutdown.

And I offer one last observation since I am new to Congress, a continuing frustration that I am finding here in Washington, D.C., and that is I am amazed by the resistance of some in Congress to tackling this problem, especially the fact that some continue to find excuses why we can't even consolidate programs and downsize government and make things more efficient here in Washington, D.C. at the very least. But I found this at a committee hearing the other day when the Democrats continued to make excuses after a Government Accountability Office report showed the excesses that we have here in Washington, D.C.

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This is a serious issue we face together as a Nation. I began this conversation when I began running for Congress almost 2 years ago, and it's a conversation I continue to have with my constituents. This is an adult conversation about facts and our future.

Until we come to a solution that will put hardworking Americans and Hoosiers back to work and our government begins to act in a responsible manner when it comes to our Nation's fiscal issues, I will continue to have this conversation with my constituents and with the American people.

A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS NOT ABOUT MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, there's a joke going around in Congress: the difference between a Boy Scout troop and the House of Representatives is that a Boy Scout troop has adult leadership.

Now, I predicted a shutdown of this place more than a month ago, not because I'm some kind of prophet but because I saw the movie of the Gingrich shutdown in 1996. The same elements are here today that were there then. I don't want a shutdown. I know what it does. I think it's silly and stupid and hard on the American people and a lot of people are going to suffer, but the elements are there.

First of all, a number of Members came in new, a lot of them, who were absolutely sure that they knew what was right. Secondly, they had no experience in governing. They didn't understand compromise. "Compromise" was