

the Nazi regime when talking about health care reform.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of hyperbole and this kind of plainly inflammatory rhetoric has no place in a serious discussion about the future of our country. For weeks, we've heard that the Republicans would refuse to fund the government until it dismantled or defunded the Affordable Care Act. This became their party's mantra until 2 days ago, because 2 days ago the Republicans stopped trying to defund ObamaCare for the first time and started to try to carve out programs to fund one by one. The very reason they brought this government to a screeching halt and closed it down was all of a sudden gone.

So I ask my colleagues today: What's the problem now? What's the hold up on passing a clean funding bill to reopen government and then go to conference to work out all of the differences on many important policy issues?

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my Republican colleagues, my friends on the other side of the aisle, to do what's right for our country and demand that the Speaker bring a funding bill to the floor to open government and pass this resolution today.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIANS WANT FAIRNESS FOR ALL AND NO SPECIAL DEALS IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, it's day three of Senator REID's government shutdown. The American people are frustrated, western Pennsylvanians are frustrated, and I am frustrated.

Make no mistake: there is a choice here. The House's solution embraces fairness for all. The Senate's spending bill protects special deals for Washington, D.C.

The House passed four reasonable compromises to keep the government open. Our latest solution ends the special deal that President Obama cut for Senators and Representatives. It also gives individuals and families the same break from the health care law that President Obama gave to Big Business.

Senator REID could reopen the government today. Unfortunately, he refuses to compromise. In fact, he said yesterday that he is "locked in tight." Senator REID is "locked in tight" on those special breaks for Big Business, Senators, and Representatives. This is an outrage.

Mr. Speaker, as I answer the phones in my office, I hear from constituents who tell me that there should be no special deals; there should be fairness for all. The American people deserve better from their Senators. It is time for the Senate to end special deals, embrace fairness for all, and reopen this government.

□ 1030

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, this is day three of a completely unnecessary government shutdown. About 800,000 people don't know if they'll have a paycheck at the end of the week. Basic government services are being denied, hundreds of millions of dollars wasted. Moms who count on WIC to feed their kids are being hurt. Head Start providers are closing. Families trying to buy a home are turned away. Small businesses needing loans are told to wait.

This could all end in about 20 minutes if we could just vote on the compromise that already passed the Senate. Is it perfect? No. It funds the government at levels below the budget passed by Democrats in the Senate and proposed by Democrats in the House. It keeps in place the across-the-board cuts triggered by sequestration, which I didn't vote for and do not support. But I am willing to support this bill, this compromise, this so-called clean continuing resolution because we are damaging the country by this shutdown, and we need to reopen the government.

And why is the government shut down? People don't understand this. Well, because some of my colleagues want to defund, delay, and deny the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, we took an oath here. When we were sworn into the office, we took an oath to support the Constitution. And according to the Constitution, when a bill passes both Chambers and is signed into law by the President, it becomes a law. We learned that in basic civics. The Affordable Care Act is a duly-passed, signed by the President, and upheld by the Supreme Court law.

So if you don't like a law, how do you change it? Again, think back to civics. Through the legislative process. Draft legislation, have hearings, mark it up, put it up for a vote. That's how this body ought to function.

How not to change laws? By shutting down the Federal Government. Who on Earth could be proud of what we are doing here? Who could look at this and be proud? I tell you, the American people, in fact people around the world, are watching. They have seen bitterness and rancor, they have heard oversimplification, and a lot of misinformation.

It is time to stop governing by cynicism and crisis. It's time to realize that what is happening here is beneath the dignity of this Chamber and this body. It's time to restore democracy.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the American people do not deserve this shutdown. There are enough Members of the Republican and Democratic caucuses to open this government right now.

Mr. Speaker, let us vote. Let's pass the Senate amendment to the continuing resolution, let's reopen the government of this United States of America, and let's do it now.

REAL WORLD PEOPLE AND OBAMACARE

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about what real world people in Texas District 17 are saying about ObamaCare. Leonard from Waco writes:

Government is too big. No one knows how to lead. Government needs to get out of our lives. Repeal ObamaCare. Whatever the cost, it will be less than the negative effect it will have here on this country and on all Americans.

Lance and Tamara of Thorndale write:

We would like to express our disdain for the Affordable Care Act, also known as ObamaCare. Although we have health insurance that meets the standard of care, we also know that this health care program will adversely affect many young people who are just now starting out in life and may not have adequate care that meets the standard.

While we do not believe that taxpayers or health care providers should fund the bill for those who do not have health care, the ACA is clearly not the solution. Any program that federally mandates health care and involves punitive sanctions by way of the IRS on tax returns should be considered a crime. It will neither help the poor nor the wealthy that will suffer the negative impact of this plan, but rather the young, working, and taxpaying family that earns just enough to survive.

We believe that a bad plan is worse than no plan, and Congress should continue to oppose and repeal the ACA, even if it means a continuation of the government shutdown. We received a letter from President Obama in which he clearly blamed the U.S. House for the shutdown, and where he accepted no responsibility. We cannot abide by this President, and do not support him or his self-serving ideologies.

John from College Station writes:

No to ObamaCare.

Mike from Hewitt writes:

Please hold the line against the Affordable Care Act. Do not give in.

Barry from Pflugerville writes:

As you know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was passed in the middle of the night, and without the support of the American people. I am calling on you, as one of your constituents, to stop this legislation by defunding its implementation until the law can be repealed and replaced with legislation that benefits the citizens of the United States of America.

You were elected into office to represent the values and needs of those of us who live in your State and your district. The passage of this legislation was an abdication of the oath the lawmakers took when sworn into office, and I hope that you will do the right thing now and stop the law from being fully implemented, and will work to enact real reform for our health care system based on free market principles, not government interference. Americans enjoy the best health care system in the world, and this legislation harms the very people it is intended to help.