

shutdown, I rise on behalf of Lauren, an El Pasoan in my district on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Lauren is married to one of our DEA agents, and he is one of nearly 10,000 Federal employees in El Paso. Every day, her husband puts his life on the line to serve El Pasoans and our Nation, and, last week, he missed his paycheck.

Lauren describes the shutdown as discouraging and scary. They are struggling to make ends meet for their family of three small children.

Lauren and her family, and the hundreds of thousands of Federal employees in America, should not have to face this dire reality and don't deserve this treatment.

We must reopen the government now and give our public servants the pay they have earned for their honorable work.

And I will repeat what I know to be true: The border has never been more secure or safer.

Madam Speaker, we, in the House, have voted on a number of bipartisan bills to reopen the government. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to come together, end this absurdity, have some compassion, and do the same.

MARCH FOR LIFE

(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, America is great because America is good. But I ask the question: What is good about terminating the God-given, sacred life of unborn Americans?

Madam Speaker, on Friday, thousands of students, pastors, priests, and patriotic Americans from all across our great land will gather here in our Nation's Capital to take part in the 46th annual March for Life.

Madam Speaker, written into the Declaration of Independence is our founding faith and principle that all are created by God, created equally, endowed by a creator, created as a gift, created as an American, to have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

However, since *Roe v. Wade*, we have fallen short of that national ethic by not acknowledging that life at every stage is precious, valuable, sacred, and ought to be protected.

Madam Speaker, this March for Life is a call to conscience, and it is a challenge for all of us to work toward a future where every life, born and unborn, is celebrated, cherished, and protected.

May God continue to bless those who are marching for their passion and their love for the unborn, and may God continue to bless these United States.

REOPEN GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, the House will vote again today to reopen the United States Government and end President Trump's government shutdown.

It is unwarranted and wrong to force our Coast Guard, TSA, Customs and Border officers, air traffic controllers, and others to work without pay.

One of my neighbors who runs a small business in Tampa in her retirement years to support her son with mental disabilities advised me that: As a tax preparer, I cannot get responses from the IRS that affect my clients.

Another neighbor, who hoped to retire by year's end and is also running out of hope, says: We are told there is no more funding after January 18 for the courts, and our colleagues in the U.S. Attorney's Office were not paid today, although they stay on the job prosecuting criminals.

Our TSA officers, Customs and Border officers, and air traffic controllers at Tampa International Airport are outstanding. Twelve-year Officer Luis Mendoza advised me that: I have experienced previous shutdowns and close calls, but I really feel that this one is going to be a tough one to get through. The officers in Tampa are trying to hang in there because we do believe in the oath we took to protect the flying public and guard against threats. But many are trying to figure out how to get through this.

Madam Speaker, I urge our Senate colleagues and President Trump to take up our bipartisan bill and reopen this government.

MARCH FOR LIFE

(Mr. RUTHERFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 46th annual March for Life.

In Congress, I believe I have the responsibility to support life beginning at conception, which is why I voted last Congress to defend life and defund Planned Parenthood. However, I am disheartened this legislative body continues to funnel taxpayer money to the abortion industry.

The often repeated talking point that Planned Parenthood exists as a woman's health organization has now been refuted by its very own president. She had this to say about Planned Parenthood: "Our core mission is providing, protecting, and expanding access to abortion and reproductive healthcare."

Madam Speaker, I am a proud co-sponsor of the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, which reroutes Federal dollars to community health centers, where women can still get the care they need while protecting the sanctity of life. An organization whose core mission has taken the lives of 61 million unborn children should not be receiving taxpayer funds.

BE OUTRAGED

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I stand here today on behalf of southern Arizonans and all our Federal employees. I stand here as their public servant because I work for them. They have called, sent letters, and shown up in our offices, pleading for action. They are scared, and not because of immigration. They are scared they can't pay rent, and they are scared they might not be able to feed their children.

To our constituents at home, I am sorry, but be outraged.

It is outrageous that John from southern Arizona, a Customs and Border Patrol agent, is furloughed and worried about how he is going to keep the lights on.

It is outrageous that Cochise County Community College students, many of whom are veterans, are worried they may not receive their financial aid.

It is outrageous that over 900,000 Arizona participants in SNAP, 72 percent of them with children, are in jeopardy of losing their nutrition assistance.

Madam Speaker, the majority in this House has publicly stated our willingness to work with the President. We must reopen government. Be outraged, because I sure am.

DISASTER RELIEF AND RECOVERY FUNDING

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 2018 was a tough year for so many Americans. We had families and farmers and people all across California whose homes were destroyed, people who lost their lives, lost their farms, lost their businesses. In other parts of the country, there were storms and hurricanes that similarly devastated communities.

My home State of Hawaii was one of them. We were battered by natural disasters of all types last year on nearly all of our islands, from major flooding and landslides on Kauai and Oahu in April, an erupting volcano throughout May and June, and flooding and wildfires on multiple islands in August.

But, time and again, in Hawaii and across the country, people have proved their resilience and strength, living aloha, taking care of each other, even when they have lost everything.

Today, we are voting to pass funding that is sorely needed by communities like mine, where people are still struggling to get back on their feet with limited resources.

This bill provides funding for things like crop insurance, reconstructing facilities, water infrastructure projects, crisis counseling, rebuilding homes, small businesses, and more.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this necessary funding