

President Trump has asked Democrats to work with him to find a way to reopen the government and pay our furloughed employees, but Speaker PELOSI didn't even listen to the President's proposal before she rejected it this weekend.

This is ridiculous. The President offered a legitimate proposal with the compromises that Democrats asked for, the same priorities that Speaker PELOSI talked about just last year. In return, he wants the funding to solve the crisis at our border.

This is bigger than partisan games. This is the lives and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of Americans. Let's stop stonewalling, stop the theatrics, and do our jobs.

#### SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, what my good friends have not heard is the outrage and cry of the desperate Federal workers, some sending their children to relatives because they cannot support them, museums shut down costing \$4 million, TSA officers not able to come to work, and air traffic controllers suffering.

Today, Democrats did again what they have done over and over again. The message is: Mr. President, open the government, pay the workers now, and let us sit down at the table of reconciliation and iron out the question of border security.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I have voted time after time as a Democrat for border security—barriers, drones, technology, jeeps, and laptops. I know what it is. I am from a border State. I have been to the borders in the daylight and in the dark.

Today, we voted to open up Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, financial services, environment, Transportation, Housing, and all of the law enforcement we voted for.

Our simple cry is: Mr. President, understand the pain of America. Open the government, pay the workers, and let's get down to the business of negotiating on behalf of the American people.

#### HONORING AL AND CHERYL HODGE

(Mr. GRAVES of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Hodge, Jr., and as anyone who knows Al will attest, my remarks would not be complete without a recognition of Al's talented wife, Cheryl.

Over the past 21 years, Al has served as president and CEO of the Rome, Floyd County, Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to his hard work, employers—including Suzuki, Pirelli, Neaton, and

Lowe's—have brought more than \$1.2 billion of direct investment to our region and thousands of jobs.

But Al's success would not be possible without Cheryl. Cheryl is not just a supportive wife, mother, and grandmother. She is a Rome institution in her own right. A talented artist active with the Rome Area Council for the Arts, Cheryl is best known for her beautiful water colors, one of which is hanging in my office right here in Washington, D.C.

I pray for the best for Al and Cheryl, wherever life takes them. They came to Rome over 20 years ago, and it is certainly a better place today because of them.

Al and Cheryl, thank you and God bless.

#### WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New York State Legislature for passing the DREAM Act. States have had to step up because of the Trump shutdown, because of our inability to move forward and recognize that this continues to be a nation of immigrants.

So States like New York today had to pass the DREAM Act to allow in young people, many of whom are nurses, doctors, members of our Armed Forces, and teachers who are contributing to our communities across the country. All they want is a shot to be part of the American Dream, because this is a nation of immigrants.

The DREAM Act today in the New York State Legislature was named after my good friend who passed this year, unfortunately, Senator Jose Peralta.

I congratulate New York. That lady still stands in the harbor with her torch lighting the bay for everyone across the world, because we are a nation of immigrants.

#### SCHOOL CHOICE

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate National School Choice Week. Every child and family is unique in their own way, and when it comes to learning, it is no different. National School Choice Week shines a bright spotlight on effective educational options for children.

At the heart of our American values is the belief that we can all pursue happiness through hard work and dedication on the path to achieve the American Dream. This path starts at a young age, and school choice empowers parents and families to choose the best educational environment for their child, ensuring that the American Dream can become a reality.

In the town of Dublin in my district, school choice starts in elementary school where students are encouraged to find their passions early on and are provided with the tools to succeed. And it has worked. Dublin City Schools have a 90 percent graduation rate, with Dublin High School reaching almost 97 percent.

As a proud school choice supporter and member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I look forward to continuing my work highlighting the effect of school choice in Georgia and throughout the Nation.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN'S IMPACT ON CENTRAL VIRGINIANS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share another story of how this reckless shutdown is hurting real people in real communities, including in central Virginia.

Chesterfield, Virginia, resident Donna Ingram has worked for the U.S. Department of the Treasury for 15 years. She is a mother of two, and because of the shutdown, she is worried about her ability to make ends meet. Earlier this month, Donna's pay stub showed the word "furloughed," and her paycheck showed the number zero.

Donna is currently in the middle of medical treatment, but because of the shutdown's financial harm, she has been forced to discontinue her treatment. Donna said her livelihood is at stake and that she could lose everything she has worked so hard for over the past 15 years.

Donna said that Federal employees like her want to work; they want to serve our government and our communities; and they want to continue their service.

Yet this is how we treat our public servants here in the United States? Are they bargaining chips?

I will continue to push for an immediate end to the shutdown, because I do not think they should ever be used as bargaining chips. There are hundreds of thousands of hardworking Federal employees like Donna who are depending on us, their elected officials, to do our jobs, to open this government, and to restore the function of our government.

#### END THIS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I am new here, but I am almost speechless. We just had, moments ago, a vote that would have provided pay to the Federal workers who have not received their paychecks this year.

Americans agree that we must provide for our border security, reopen the