

### AVOIDING A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are willing to work as long as possible and as long as needed to avoid a government shutdown. As evidence of our good faith, Republicans have been working with the other side since the spring to make sure that the government can remain operating while our differences are resolved.

The differences between the two parties are real, despite the constant efforts by some to portray disagreements between conservatives and liberals as partisan politics. In fact, Democrats and Republicans have profound philosophical differences about government's role in society that make conflict inevitable and healthy in a democracy.

Vigorous debate with each side fighting for its beliefs is the hallmark of democracy, and suggestions to the contrary are mistaken. Republicans believe that the Federal Government is too big, too powerful and too intrusive in our lives. Liberals strongly disagree and, in fact, propose new government programs each and every year. We might disagree, but we do not wish to shut the government down.

Mr. President, do not shut the government down.

### THE FAILED REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is absurd. The Republican-controlled Congress has had this session of the Congress shut down for the last 2 years. They have failed. For 10 months the leadership has stalled, dallied and wasted the American people's time and money.

Republicans are running scared out of town this week, and they will leave without having delivered anything for the people of this country: no small class size for grades 1 through 3, no classrooms connected to the Internet, no guaranteed access to emergency rooms, the right to choose your own doctor, no guaranteed access to specialty care, and no accountability for HMOs for making medical decisions that they are making today, and nothing by way of reform to help Social Security except to raid the Social Security Trust Fund.

They have done a hit and run on the American people. They killed tobacco reform on behalf of special interests, and they killed campaign finance reform for special interests. This Congress, this Republican-controlled Congress, has failed, and the American public knows it.

### OCEAN ROUTING

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

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade, residents of Northern and Central New Jersey have been forced to endure intolerable levels of jet aircraft noise 24 hours a day. Recently the FAA experimented with a route change, but my constituents found that this test of the 260-degree turn was an unmitigated disaster, subjecting them to even more noise. It is time for the FAA to finally test a citizen-driven alternative, ocean routing.

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Computer modeling has shown that routing planes over the Atlantic Ocean would be safe and would dramatically reduce aircraft noise for hundreds of thousands of residents.

This plan has widespread support from the New Jersey congressional delegation. I urge the FAA to stop stonewalling and finally give ocean routing a thorough and legitimate test. I call on the FAA to approve a 90-day test of ocean routing so we can determine once and for all whether it can bring peace and quiet to New Jersey communities, while keeping the flying public safe.

### REPUBLICANS SHOULD STOP SPINNING TRUTH ABOUT WHO IS TRYING TO SHUT GOVERNMENT DOWN

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, the American public is watching Members of Congress trying to put a spin on why we have not done our work. In the final analysis, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. We have either completed our work or we have not.

We have not completed our work. That is for sure. We are here, and we have not passed all of our appropriation bills. We see people coming to this floor talking about, oh, Mr. President, please do not shut the House down. Well, the buck stops at the top. The Republicans are in charge of this House. They make every decision about how the committees work or when we come to this floor.

I fly all the way from California almost every week. No votes are up. Sometimes, we only work a day and a half. I fly all the way back home, and I come back thinking we are going to work on a Monday. Guess what? No votes.

We do not need to tell the American public about who is going to shut the government down. The American public is smart. They know who is in charge. They know who has not done their work. Let us stop spinning and tell the truth.

### REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS HAS HAD GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN LAST 2 YEARS

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I look back over the last 2 years, and I have listened to a lot of rhetoric on the left side. And coming from the left there are a lot of those who have said, they just cannot do it. Two years ago, they said, Republicans cannot balance the budget. They said, the Republicans cannot balance the budget and cut taxes for the middle class. They said, the Republicans cannot reform the welfare system. They said, the Republicans cannot fix the IRS; and they said, the Republicans cannot balance the budget and help schools at the same time. Well, we did.

In the last 2 years, this Republican Congress has had great accomplishments: balancing the budget for the first time in 28 years, cutting taxes for the middle class for the first time in 16 years, reforming welfare for the first time in a generation, taming the tax collector for the first time ever; and when we balanced the budget, we increased funding for education by 10 percent.

Today, we have the lowest student loan interest rate in 17 years. We doubled Pell Grants for low-income students who qualified, twice what they gave. We increased funding for Head Start, for Special Ed. We can save Social Security, and we can help our schools.

### SINCE 1977, CONGRESS FAILED AT LEAST 11 TIMES TO PASS AT LEAST ONE APPROPRIATION BILL AND SHUT DOWN GOVERNMENT 9 TIMES SINCE 1990

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, we are now in the midst of another battle over the budget. The President remains steadfast in his unwillingness to meet and try to find a way to work out a compromise so we can keep the government running.

The President expressed dismay that all 13 appropriation bills had not been passed by the Congress and signed into law. Yet, since 1977, when the Democrats controlled Congress, the Congress failed entirely to pass all 13 appropriation bills 11 times. That is right. At least 11 times a Democrat Congress failed to pass at least one of the appropriation bills at all.

Since 1990, the Democrat-run Congress has shut down the government nine times, the last time in 1990 when they forced President Bush to accept a compromise with them over the budget, which resulted in Mr. Bush breaking his "no new tax" pledge.