

Nation? A Nation that was formed to be of the people, by the people, and for the people. This concept and the freedom that comes with it requires a level of responsibility in order to sustain it.

Pope John Paul II, when visiting America in 1995, spoke of the freedom that we enjoy and the responsibility that comes with it. And he summed it up by saying, "Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." I pray that the rule of law, and equality for all Americans, our fundamental principles that are etched in all of our hearts, with the foundation of these principles and the civility that accompanies such, we are obligated to come together to find common ground and to talk to one another. And, Lord willing, we will.

#### SHUTDOWN CONSEQUENCES

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

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in the run-up to the government shutdown, and now into day three, I have sensed a gamut of emotions coursing through the veins of this institution, including emotional fatigue, and frustration, and outrage.

You can tell there is outrage because of the elevated decibel level. And for some of us as well is the emotion of sadness. I don't know how you can help but feel otherwise if you keep in mind what the consequences of our inaction are having beyond the doors of this Chamber. They are affecting real people, and they are having real consequences.

I have the unbelievable privilege to represent Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State, and the tens of thousands of servicemembers and civilian employees who support them there. The civilian employees already experienced furlough days. Just a few weeks ago I spoke to one of those individuals. As a consequence of the furlough, she lost her car. I am not sure what the consequence of government shutdown will be on her life.

You know, we tend to think of those people, I suspect here, often as what we would call GS-10s or -12s or -14s, but that's not the case. The preponderance of them are GS-2s and -3s and -4s. And a protracted shutdown will materially alter their lives. Real people, real consequences.

Yesterday, we received an email from a woman who is the WIC, Women, Infant, Children, provider in our area. She has already had 16 phone calls from moms who are scared they are not going to be able to feed their children. Women, infants, children. Real people, real consequences.

And as well, the wheels of commerce are grinding. We have been in contact with a commercial real estate person who is helping another person start up a propane distribution business in one of the communities in my district. He has one step left to go, that's a success-

ful SBA application, which appears likely, except for he needs one more data point to submit. One more, from the Internal Revenue Service, which is not available to him now. He cannot submit. He cannot start his business. He cannot grow the economy. Real people, real consequences.

So I am sad. I am sad because I know this does not have to be. I know, Mr. Speaker, that sitting up on that desk is a bill passed by the Senate last Friday, a clean, comprehensive bill which would reopen the Federal Government. And you know what else I know, and every single Member of this Chamber knows as well? It has the votes to pass if we would but bring it up for a vote.

And then, Mr. Speaker, we could reopen the Federal Government and we could take into account the real people and the real consequences of our inaction. We could put out the "Open for Business" sign on the Federal Government and help those that we were sent here to help.

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#### REOPENING GOVERNMENT FAIRLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we all remember hearing the promise "if you like your health care, you can keep it." We also remember hearing that ObamaCare would reduce insurance costs for families by about \$2,500 a year. That is not what we are hearing now.

Ronald, one of my constituents from Advance, North Carolina, just received a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield informing him because of ObamaCare his month monthly premiums are tripling from \$400 per month to \$1,200 per month. His deductible also skyrocketed to \$11,000.

William in Rural Hall, North Carolina, tells me the same story. His premiums are also tripling from \$400 to more than \$1,200. Dianne, one of my constituents from Clemmons, tells me that her health care premiums are slated to rise from \$193 per month to \$553 per month beginning on January 1, 2014, again due to ObamaCare. William from Winston-Salem recently informed me that his son's 2014 renewal rate came in. His premiums are rising from \$314 to \$821.96.

Mr. Speaker, until now we have been forced to debate ObamaCare in the abstract, using economic predictions and common sense to explain why this ill-conceived law is going to be, as one of its key proponents in the Senate predicted, a train wreck. But now the verdict is in. Families from across my district are receiving letters from insurers explaining that the so-called Affordable Care Act is driving their premiums sky high.

My constituents don't want to be forced to change their health care

plans or risk losing access to doctors they trust. Again, they were promised that if they liked their doctor, they could keep their doctor and if they liked their health care plan, they could keep it. Those promises were broken. These aren't abstractions or predictions; these are real people whose health and livelihoods are being threatened by this law.

Mr. Speaker, the proponents of this disastrous scheme keep reminding us that it is "the law of the land." They implore us to simply give up and move on. We will not give up on our constituents. We will not move on when they need us to seek fairness on their behalf.

The other side acts as if this bill which they hastily cobbled together and passed on a party-line vote against massive popular opposition is so firmly entrenched in American law that it can never be amended or repealed. This is nonsense and they know it.

ObamaCare is the law. But what do we do in Congress every day? We work to change bad laws, and we certainly work to make sure laws treat all Americans fairly. And as Rich Lowry recently pointed out:

If this were consistent principle rather than opportunistic advice, Democrats would have been content to leave a number of policies they vigorously fought in place out of deference to duly constituted policy and law.

Mr. Speaker, this is about basic fairness. The President has given special treatment to Big Business, Congress and his well-connected political allies; but he refuses to offer the same relief to working families. That is wrong. That is not fair. Ordinary Americans deserve the same exemption that the President has given businesses.

Let's reopen this government. Let's reopen it fairly.

#### THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE IMPACT ON THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday was a bittersweet day. It was an unfortunate day because of the government shutdown, but it was a good day because of the millions of Americans who live in the States and Washington D.C., who finally had the opportunity to leave the ranks of the uninsured when they logged in or called the toll-free number and enrolled in affordable quality health care coverage through the health insurance marketplaces.

However, October 1 was bittersweet for other reasons for me, and I rise today as a Congresswoman from the United States Virgin Islands because on October 1 my constituents, who are also Americans, were largely left out in the cold on this key part of the law.

As a member of the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce, I was at the table and an active participant in the drafting, negotiation, and