

my ovarian cancer had not been diagnosed and caught in stage 1, I might not be here today, but many women are not so lucky as over 15,000 die every year from ovarian cancer. While I survived by that off chance of luck in that diagnosis, no one should have to survive by luck, which is why my Democratic colleagues and I worked hard.

We worked very hard to make sure that prevention and wellness are such a critical part of the Affordable Care Act. Before we passed this transformative piece of legislation, one in five women over age 50 had not had a mammogram in the past 2 years, mostly because she could not afford one. Now mammograms are covered—they are covered for all Americans—with no out-of-pocket costs. So are annual checkups, colonoscopies, diabetes, and other cancer screenings—at no cost. Let me repeat that. They are the beneficiaries of lifesaving treatments.

Preventive care not only helps to keep Americans healthier; it also helps to drive down the cost of health care so that people can get access to the services that they need. Chronic and often preventable diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes, cause seven out of 10 deaths in the United States of America, and they account for 75 percent of our health spending. Preventive care can help Americans avoid these ailments or to catch them before it is too late.

That is what the Affordable Care Act does. That is what the people of this country need to know. There are countless stories, after stories, after stories of people's lives being saved because they have the opportunity to get a treatment or something that says you may be at risk for a particular disease, and you can get that identification not by luck but as a routine checkup. No one in the United States of America should survive by luck. Now we have an opportunity through the Affordable Care Act, which is the law of the land today, to make sure that everyone—man and woman—can get those services.

If you expand access to preventive health, it drives the costs down, but most importantly, it saves lives. Isn't that worth doing, to be able to save someone's life? That is what the Affordable Care Act is all about. It is just one of the many ways that it is good for men, for women, for families in this Nation, and it is good for America to move in this direction.

NONEXISTENT REPUBLICAN BUDGET

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

Ms. KAPTUR. So, here is a "Jeopardy" question for you, Mr. Speaker:

How many days is the Republican majority now overdue in getting its work done to produce a budget for the Nation for 2014?

Our Nation needs a budget to operate the Government of the United States

for the upcoming year, and by law, April 15 was the deadline by which the budget was to have been completed, but that hasn't happened. Now it is December 4, so that means that their bill is 234 days overdue. In fact, technically, the Federal fiscal year began on October 1. The majority's bill is actually 7 months and 20 days overdue. A parking ticket that old might land you in jail. Not making your car payments for 7 months might likely result in your car's being repossessed, right? The Budget Committee is supposed to finish its one bill by April 15, but it just can't seem to find a way to do it.

Then, if it were to have done that, the Appropriations Committee, which depends on the Budget Committee for a total budget number, could get its work done to produce not just the one but the 12 bills it is mandated to move through to passage to run the Federal departments of the Government of the United States of America—everything from the Forest Service, to the veterans' clinics, to the Social Security Administration, department after department.

The American people are waiting for this House, led by the Republican majority, to get the job done of producing the 2014 budget. America doesn't need any more beauty pictures of committee chairs prancing and posturing in front of cameras. They need to go into the committee rooms and get the work done. The majority is 234 days overdue. Tomorrow, it will be 235 days overdue.

My goodness. There are only 26 days left in this calendar year. Even Santa Claus must be shaking his head in disbelief. Talk about running the ship of state aground. Let the majority produce the budget bill. It is way over time.

Don't hold up our Republic anymore. You are 234 days overdue, and we are all counting.

OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore you and the House majority to reach across the aisle to find common ground, to reach out their hands to fix our broken immigration system.

Last summer, Republicans and Democrats in the Senate came together and passed comprehensive immigration reform with a strong bipartisan vote, a vote of 68-32. That is like a super-duper majority. In fact, one poll last month showed that 63 percent of Americans—two-thirds of Americans—support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Business leaders, chambers of commerce, labor unions, faith groups, immigrant families, law enforcement officials, and Americans of every race, creed, color, and ethnicity all across our country applauded our Senators for reaching

across the aisle. For many, it really gave hope and a belief in our government that we are still capable of putting aside political posturing and of building consensus around the difficult issues that face our country.

But today, as I speak, Americans are asking: What happened? They are confused as to why the House of Representatives can't do the same thing that the Senate did and pass immigration reform. They are even more confused as to why the House can't even dignify the issue with a simple up-or-down vote.

Those people have not gone away, Mr. Speaker. Oh, no. In fact, today, the call to action is still as loud and clear as it has ever been.

Just yesterday, I visited the Fast for Families movement on The National Mall, where faith leaders had actually been fasting for 22 days—22 days with no food. Some were hospitalized to safely break the fast per the doctor's orders, but others pressed on. Replacement fasters stepped up, including our own Representative KENNEDY, who, in the legacy of his grandfather, Bobby, acknowledged the need to embrace the immigrant issue.

So I ask my colleagues in the majority, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: What are we waiting for? Our job creators want reform. Our workforce wants it, and our spiritual leaders say it is the right thing to do. Overwhelmingly, so do the American people.

The facts are so clear that reform will tremendously benefit all of our country. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has followed the money, and it estimates that immigration reform will increase the gross domestic product by \$700 billion in 2023 and by \$1.4 trillion in 2033; but here we are today, facing government shutdowns and sequester levels that eviscerate services that so many vulnerable Americans rely on.

This is where we are stuck. It has been 5 months since the Senate passed its bill; yet we have only 6 days scheduled until the end of the year, and we haven't had one serious vote on immigration reform. Americans have put their differences aside for the common good of our country, and they expect us to do the same thing in this, our beloved democracy.

Once again, I want to reiterate that I stand here, ready to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in order to move our country forward. I applaud my brave colleagues on the other side who have already taken a stand and have put politics aside, and I encourage more of my colleagues to answer that calling and meet us halfway.

The American people are fed up with the status quo and gridlock here in Washington. Let's come together and strengthen our businesses, our economy, our workforce, and our families.