

through, it would mean a 20 percent cut in discretionary spending over just 5 months, so that must mean we increase spending by 20 percent in 1 fiscal year of discretionary spending.

Madam Speaker, how many years can you keep increasing spending by 20 percent? Not 1, 2, 3, or 5, but a 20 percent increase. How do we afford that going forward?

It is incredibly amazing we think that should be the route we should go and keep adding to our debt.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is an unfortunate reality that hypocrisy has become a guiding principle of the leadership of this body.

Three times we raised the debt limit under the previous President. Those three times the American people never once had to worry that we would not pay our bills or that their retirement was in danger.

This is a manufactured crisis by House Republicans. It is an act of calculated cruelty that would put millions out of work and force families across the country to wonder where their next meal will come from.

In my district, an estimated 95,600 households with Social Security checks are at risk.

My constituents are not alone. Madam Speaker, think of the people back home who elected you to represent their interests faithfully. It is in no one's interest to manufacture an economic crisis.

We can fix this crisis right now. All we need are five brave Republicans, five Republicans who care about veterans, five Republicans who care about Social Security, five Republicans who care about Medicare, and five Republicans who care about our future.

It is time to do our job.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Madam Speaker, Ben Franklin said that necessity never made a good bargain.

This is necessity. For the first time since 1789, our MAGA GOP friends are putting us at risk of default.

However, we have a solution, and it is sitting right here, right next to me. It is a discharge petition, and we only need five of you.

Madam Speaker, I see about 80 of my Democratic colleagues in front of me, and I only see one Republican, you.

We only need five. So, I welcome you back to Washington. Come on. Join us. Sign the petition. We will keep the lights on, but will you?

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DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, this is why the American people get frustrated with Congress. They get frustrated when folks here play politics. They get frustrated when there are unnecessary crises created.

Rather than vote to pay our bills, as was done three times under the last President, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have us on a path to a disastrous default. That is, unless this body agrees to gut programs that working families in my State depend on.

The American people get frustrated when these issues are treated like a game and when our constituents are the ones who lose. There will be 4,800 kids who will lose access to preschool and childcare; 37,000 women, infants, and kids who will lose help with food; 89,000 college students who will see their costs go up.

I don't say this in a partisan way. These are just facts. The cuts proposed by my Republican colleagues would cut law enforcement, food safety, and vital support to families across our State.

That is not a good idea. We can do better. We should do better.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, in 7 days, our country will face one of the greatest self-inflicted threats to national security in our lifetime.

In 7 days, our country faces default while House Republicans continue to play partisan political games with the debt limit.

In these Chambers, we talk a lot about keeping Americans safe, strategic competition, and national security.

We point a finger at foreign threats and international bad actors but let us be clear: The biggest threat to American lives and livelihoods is House Republicans holding everyday Americans hostage for partisan political gains.

If we as a Congress are serious about ensuring national security, then we must stand up against this House Republican manufactured crisis.

We must do the right thing, invest in our country, and recognize that:

Financial security is national security. Health security is national security. Food security is national security. Housing security is national security. People's security is national security.

I will not support lifting the debt ceiling on the backs of working families, our veterans, or our seniors. Know this: As Democrats, we will continue to do the right thing and put people over politics.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS IMPACT ON VETERANS

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

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Republicans holding our economy hostage and planning to slash billions of dollars from veterans' services and benefits in return for maintaining the full faith and credit of the United States.

Republicans are delivering a one-two punch to veterans. First, their default on America act would slash \$30 billion from veterans' services, eliminate housing vouchers for 50,000 homeless veterans, and cut 81,000 jobs from the Veterans Health Administration. They can say whatever they want, but this is what they voted for.

Second, Republicans just released a bill to gut the healthcare funding we promised to toxic-exposed veterans in the PACT Act.

How about instead of cuts to veterans' services and benefits, we reduce our deficit by ending tax loopholes for the ultra wealthy and by ensuring the largest corporations pay their fair share?

House Democrats are united in opposition to Republicans' veteran funding cuts, and we will not go back on the progress we have made.

As we all head into this Memorial Day weekend, we must do better. We must not default on our debts. Let's keep our promises to our veterans.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are the most powerful country, and we are less than a week away from defaulting on our debt. We should all be outraged, and we should all be here.

Constituents in North Carolina's First Congressional District will feel the impact immediately and long term if we default.

North Carolina's First Congressional District has over 174,000 residents who would lose Social Security payments, and nearly 50,000 veterans, our heroes who protect our communities and defend our freedoms, would see payments slashed.

As we prepare to honor those who died in military service, the best way that we can help their surviving family members and those that they served with is by Congress fulfilling its obligation to pay its bills now.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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