

It is fiscally responsible to pay our bills. Doing so would protect my friends, neighbors, and constituents in west Michigan from disastrous consequences.

Defaulting would kill nearly 8,000 jobs in my district alone, jeopardize Social Security payments for nearly 90,000 families, and mean financial chaos on an unprecedented scale, hurting working families across the country.

House Republicans' solution?

Cut nearly 30,000 law enforcement jobs. The party that says that they back the blue wants to take their jobs away.

This is a false choice. There is a bill sitting right here that needs just five more Republicans. We invite them to sign it.

We can and must act now. It is Congress' job to get this done.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, we stand here today, 7 days away from the X-date, the date that our Nation will default on the full faith and credit of our Nation's financial debt for the first time since the War of 1812.

Madam Speaker, it is not too late for us to stop such a catastrophe by passing a clean debt limit bill just as Congress has done 78 times since 1960.

Interestingly, the President who signed the most debt limit extension bills was Speaker MCCARTHY's hero, Ronald Reagan; 18 times in 8 years.

I ask Speaker MCCARTHY to heed Reagan's words that he said in 1987 when he signed one of those bills at the height of the Cold War.

He said, "The United States has a special responsibility to itself and the world to meet its obligations. It means we have a well-earned reputation for reliability and credibility—two things that set us apart from much of the world."

In 2023, we have adversaries, China and Russia, who are watching with glee as we as a Nation are about to, for no good reason, not maintain our financial debt.

They are waiting and want to pounce in terms of de-dollarizing world currencies that rely on international trade. Pass a clean debt limit bill for the sake of our Nation and free democracies.

DEBT LIMIT CRISIS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we have heard claims from Republican leadership that they passed a bill to lift the debt ceiling.

That is laughable. What they did was pass a wish list to reassure their most

extreme Members. Make no mistake: They have no plan.

I just consulted with the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee. They haven't even agreed on the top-line numbers for this year's appropriations process, let alone move forward to implement the extreme cuts that they imagine are going to happen.

I just left a Trade Subcommittee hearing where a parade of witnesses from both parties said we need to invest more in Customs and Border Protection to protect Americans from fentanyl.

Without a plan, they will continue to target the poor and protect the privileged and get nothing done.

America deserves better. Let's pass a clean debt ceiling proposal and get back to work.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, extreme Republicans are driving our economy toward a devastating default. They are holding the economy hostage.

Holding our economy hostage hurts all Americans, especially communities of color and low-income communities.

Republicans don't want to close loopholes for billionaires. Instead, their ransom demands are that we kick families out of their homes, that we rip away food assistance from grandma and grandpa, from women, infants, and children, that we cut access to childcare and make it easier for industries to pollute our communities.

Democrats are united. We agree that America must pay its bills and continue to lower costs for working families, not default. Republicans must stop these dangerous games and come back to work.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, my Republican colleagues are presently fiddling while Rome burns, but I come to praise my Republican colleagues, not to bury them.

I come to praise my friend PATRICK MCHENRY for his wisdom just 6 months ago when he said that he opposes Speaker MCCARTHY's plan to use the debt limit to cut spending; when he said that it is important that Congress raise the debt limit; when he said that Treasury markets are the lifeblood of the global economy; when he said it is an important function of the government for us to make good on the checks we cash.

I come to praise the July 2019 version of Speaker MCCARTHY when he said that we should not leave here without doing something on the debt ceiling.

Where are those brave, principled souls now?

The answer, Madam Speaker, as you know, not here. Empty, inconsistent rhetoric does not pay the bills.

The American people know that, and I hope the American people will remind my Republican colleagues of the work requirements of this job during their upcoming 11-day vacation.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, with Memorial Day on my mind, I rise today to call on House Republicans to stop playing dangerous political games, manufacturing a crisis that has driven the American economy to the brink of default.

To our veterans and for our veterans, a default would have severe consequences. It would mean wounded warriors losing out on physical therapy sessions that could get them back on their feet, for Purple Heart recipients missing a disability check that they use to make ends meet, for a student veteran coming up short on paying tuition.

Our servicemen and women have stood up for us, and now it is time for us to stand up for them. Defaulting on our debt would be a dereliction of our duty. The dangerous game playing must stop.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, today's Los Angeles Times column: "When KEVIN MCCARTHY's spending cuts get spelled out, even Republicans balk."

My friends, the Republicans do not have the votes to pass their shameful cuts. What House Republicans have done is they have manufactured a crisis and a false choice.

Inflict pain and harm on hard-working American people, on children, families, seniors, veterans, or we will crash the economy.

Why? Because they believe it will help them politically.

In my State of Connecticut, cuts would lead to 2,800 kids losing access to preschool and childcare and 12,000 mothers blocked from food assistance.

This is my plea to the American people: Get on the phone. Call Republican Members of this Congress. Tell them to raise that debt ceiling and to stop hurting American families.

Let us make sure that they do not have the votes to pass these shameful cuts.

DEBT CEILING CRISIS

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