

(2) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—If discretionary appropriations (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))) are required to carry out a reporting requirement described in paragraph (1), the application of that paragraph to that reporting requirement shall be subject to the availability of appropriations.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall be applied and administered as if this section and those amendments had been enacted on September 30, 2024.

DIVISION E—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 5101. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(b) of Public Law 117–25 (135 Stat. 297; 136 Stat. 2133; 136 Stat. 5984) is amended, in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “October 1, 2024” each place it appears and inserting “March 14, 2025”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if enacted on September 30, 2024.

SEC. 5102. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking “December 20, 2024” and inserting “March 14, 2025”.

SEC. 5103. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 23, 2024” and inserting “March 14, 2025”.

SEC. 5104. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) is amended by striking “December 20, 2024” and inserting “March 14, 2025”.

SEC. 5105. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY ORDER FOR FENTANYL-RELATED SUBSTANCES.

Effective as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Reauthorization and Study of the Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act (Public Law 116–114), section 2 of such Act is amended by striking “December 31, 2024” and inserting “March 31, 2025”.

SEC. 5106. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

Section 401 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5) is amended—

(1) by striking “January 1, 2025” in subsection (a) and inserting “January 29, 2027”, and

(2) by striking “January 2, 2025” each place it appears in subsections (b) and (c) and inserting “January 30, 2027”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 10515.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 10515, the American Relief Act of 2025.

As the 118th Congress draws to a close, it is natural to use these final

days to reflect on our work. Though we have accomplished much over the last 2 years, there is more to be done.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, we need to ensure that the government remains open and operating to provide needed services for Americans. It is why I stand before my colleagues. With government funding running out, it is our duty to act.

When the House Appropriations Committee began our process of drafting bills for fiscal year 2025, we knew we had to work quickly to put the House in the best position possible.

To that end, we successfully reported all 12 of our annual appropriations bills out of the committee and succeeded in passing 5 of them across the floor.

Unfortunately, the House does not act on its own. I am sorry to say, whether we like it or not, our colleagues in the Senate have input in this process.

To date, the Senate has yet to pass a single fiscal year 2025 appropriations bill across the floor. As time went on, it became clear that we would not conclude the FY25 process by the deadline of December 20, meaning another extension is necessary.

I know there is great frustration that a second continuing resolution is necessary. Quite frankly, I share in that feeling. A government shutdown is never a good alternative.

Today’s bill funds the government through March 14. This will allow Republicans to engage President Trump as we negotiate a final funding bill of the year that fulfills the mandate of the American people and our America First agenda.

Further, this route ensures that there are no undue disruptions to our national security and the vital programs that our constituents rely on.

Today’s bill also extends out the debt limit for a further 2 years to January 20, 2027. This will allow President-elect Trump to begin his term without needing to immediately address our national debt limit, allowing us to move forward on the many other pressing concerns of the American people.

Finally, the legislation also provides much-needed relief to Americans struggling to recover from recent natural disasters. This includes destruction in my own district which faced tornadoes that ripped through Oklahoma. From floods and droughts to wildfires and other storms, communities across the United States have suffered.

These realities have been grim. I recently visited North Carolina at the invitation of my good friend and fellow Appropriations Committee member, CHUCK EDWARDS, and saw with my own eyes the devastation and damage caused by Hurricane Helene’s catastrophic flooding. Months after the storm, countless people remain without the basic necessities of life, and the region will remain affected for years to come.

My takeaway from these experiences is clear. Congress must act. We need to provide the necessary disaster recovery aid for States and communities as our fellow citizens rebuild and restore. Though relief efforts are ongoing, it will be months, if not years, before life returns to normal.

Additional investment is necessary to provide needed assistance to our fellow Americans. Today’s measure fully funds our existing relief requirements, ensuring that help and resources get to those who desperately need them.

Rural communities, particularly our farmers and ranchers, are facing a tough farm economy in the aftermath of multiple disasters. These are prioritized in this legislation. While there is still a long road ahead for recovery efforts and rebuilding, this aid will mark a vital step forward.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 10515, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this continuing resolution. We had a strong bipartisan, bicameral agreement among the leadership of both parties at both ends of the Capitol to avert a disastrous and pointless government shutdown, to provide desperately needed disaster aid and emergency assistance, and to provide Congress with the time required to enact a final funding bill for fiscal year 2025.

That bill was a result of a compromise. There were things in it that Democrats liked and Republicans did not. There were things in it that Republicans liked and Democrats would have preferred to leave out. That is the nature of government funding bills. They require compromise and the support of Democrats and Republicans that we in the House and Senate need to have in order to become law.

That was true throughout the 118th Congress, despite Republicans’ repeated and failed efforts to write extreme and partisan funding bills. That will be true in the 119th Congress, as well.

Yes, we were on the cusp of an agreement to move this country forward. Yesterday, a multibillionaire with apparently no working knowledge of government or of appropriations, a self-appointed president of the United States, Elon Musk, issued a marching order for House Republicans to go against their own elected leadership and shut down the government.

Soon after, Congress was on a fast track to a government shutdown. House Republicans are responsible for any harm and uncertainty brought upon the American people. Should some get their wish for a monthlong government shutdown, they will be responsible for cleaning up their mess come Inauguration Day.

We are in completely unprecedented times. The world’s richest man, an unelected contractor reaping billions

in government contracts, is calling the shots in the Republican Party. Who is in charge?

At the behest of the world's richest man, who no one voted for, the United States Congress has been thrown into pandemonium. We had a bill on Tuesday that was the result of 1½ years of work, which had the input of Republicans and Democrats, their interests, their concerns, and the needs of their constituents.

This bill has no such bipartisan input, and we are considering it in mere minutes after it was released.

It removed key provisions to limit the power of pharmaceutical companies. It abandons our bipartisan efforts to ensure American dollars and intellectual property are reinvested in American businesses and workers, instead of fueling the Chinese Communist Party's technology and capabilities.

It includes a 2-year raising of the debt limit.

What does that do?

That serves to allow Republicans to cut taxes on the ultra wealthy like Elon Musk and raise deficits on the backs of the American people.

We must immediately return to considering the bipartisan, bicameral compromise legislation that Speaker JOHNSON, Leader SCHUMER, Leader JEFFRIES, Leader MCCONNELL, and the four corners of the Appropriations Committee reached earlier this week.

We must unequivocally reject the illegitimate oligarchy that seeks to usurp the authority of the United States Congress and of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), a member of the Appropriations Committee and a good friend and valued colleague.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Relief Act. We all know the basis of this bill is a continuing resolution to fund the government and to prevent us from shutting down until sometime in the first quarter.

I admit I think we all know a continuing resolution is neither the best way to fund our government nor be responsible for our taxpayers' dollars. We have an appropriations process that should work. To the credit of Chairman COLE, that did work through the Appropriations Committee. I certainly appreciate the chairman's strong leadership in getting us through that.

It is noteworthy that he pointed out the Appropriations Committee by itself does not get to determine how we fund our government.

We have got many needs and necessary reasons to keep our government functioning. The American people are counting on us. Our military and our border guards are counting on us.

Our enemies are watching. We all know North Korea, Russia, China, and

others do not have to face issues such as a government shutdown.

Keeping the government open is critical to the district that I represent in western North Carolina.

I would like to take a moment and speak specifically to the disaster relief portion of this bill. As most of my colleagues are aware, North Carolina was hit by Hurricane Helene on September 27 of this year. We experienced unprecedented disaster and destruction.

It is going to cost North Carolina about \$58 billion to rebuild. This storm was the most deadly in North Carolina's history. We lost 126,000 homes that were either damaged or destroyed. Countless people are now homeless.

I thank Speaker JOHNSON for personally visiting western North Carolina, getting his boots muddy, and seeing what we are dealing with there. I thank Leader SCALISE for visiting western North Carolina. Chairman COLE also took time to come down. Many other Members were there.

We are going to see a number of Members on this floor argue against this bill. Mr. Speaker, I need to remind you that folks in western North Carolina have been paying their taxes for decades, taxes that have gone toward funding disasters in every other part of this country, from California to the Midwest to the Gulf Coast, without argument.

Mr. Speaker, now North Carolina needs our help. They need the help of this body. I am sure some folks are going to speak against this bill. I urge them to think about the disasters that they may have experienced and what they have seen in the news and what they are hearing from me about the need in western North Carolina.

I even heard one Member last week refer to recipients of disaster relief as "coastal elites." I represent about 783,000 people in the mountains of western North Carolina. I can promise you not one single one of those people is a coastal elite. Those are hardworking, taxpaying Americans that deserve the help of this body at this time. I urge passage of this bill.

I must also say that I am disappointed. Even though there is \$110 billion in here to help begin to rebuild my great State, there is a provision for private roads and bridges that was stripped out of this for some reason in the last moments of pulling this bill together.

The folks from FEMA in western North Carolina have told me that the most significant difference they see in this disaster versus those they have dealt with in other areas is the number of private roads and bridges that we have.

So, I am hoping, and I appreciate Chairman COLE offering to help me, to get this provision back in with some other vehicle at some other point in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members' support of this bill. North Carolina deserves and needs the respect and the help to rebuild.

□ 1745

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), who is the distinguished Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from the great State of Connecticut, who is our top Democrat on the Appropriations Committee, for yielding and for her incredibly strong and steadfast leadership during this process.

House Democrats, House Republicans, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans reached a bipartisan agreement to fund the government, prevent a shutdown, and meet the needs of the American people.

We reached a bipartisan agreement to provide disaster assistance to people who had their lives turned upside down by extreme weather events—hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires—all across America.

We reached a bipartisan agreement to be there for farmers, families, children, seniors, working-class Americans all across the country, the men and women who serve this country in uniform, and our veterans.

House Republicans have abandoned that bipartisan agreement that we entered into in good faith. It was a bill that House Republicans negotiated. You gave us your word that we were going to move forward together on behalf of the American people.

It was a Republican-drafted bill that was posted by House Republicans. Then, one or two puppet masters weigh in, and the extreme MAGA Republicans decide to do the bidding of the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected millionaires and billionaires, not working-class people all across America.

The bill that is before us today is just part of an effort to shut down the government unless we, as Representatives of the American people, bend to the will of just a handful of millionaires and billionaires because the provisions in this bill, particularly as it relates to suspending the debt ceiling for 2 years, are designed to bring about a massive tax cut unpaid for by wealthy donors, for wealthy corporations, and for millionaires and billionaires who clearly some in this Congress are working for. This bill is validation for it.

Now, what has been interesting to me is that for decades, the Republican Party has lectured America about fiscal responsibility and about the debt and the deficit. It has always been phony. This bill proves it.

The one thing we do know is that every time a Republican President comes into office, the one thing we can count on Republicans to do is to pass a massive tax cut for wealthy Americans and, in the process, stick working-class Americans with the bill by raising the deficit and the debt.

That is what happened in the 1980s. When Ronald Reagan was President, the biggest thing that he did was pass a massive tax cut for the wealthy and

the well-off that was paid for by working families and middle-class folks all across the country. It didn't do anything for middle-class Americans. It didn't do anything to stimulate the economy.

As far as this whole notion of trickle-down economics, I have come to the conclusion that trickle-down economics simply means that middle-class families and that working-class Americans may get a trickle, but they are guaranteed to stay down. That is what your economics are all about.

Massive tax cuts for the wealthy and the well-off under President Reagan continued until President Bush. Bill Clinton came into office and inherited a significant deficit. Under his stewardship, President Clinton turned a deficit into a surplus and passed that surplus to President George W. Bush from the so-called party of fiscal responsibility.

Once again, we see the same exact playbook: Republicans inherit a surplus, and they immediately blow it to pass massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected; not provide relief to working-class Americans. It was a tax cut in 2001 unpaid for and then a tax cut in 2003 unpaid for. They continued to run up the debt and the deficit prosecuting two failed wars.

The so-called party of fiscal responsibility wants to lecture America when their record speaks for itself.

President Obama came in after mismanagement related to the prior administration, including helping to trigger the Great Recession, and he inherited a deficit from a Republican President of \$1.5 trillion as well as the Great Recession. Working under the leadership of President Obama, Democrats in the House and the Senate got the situation turned around and, over an 8-year period of time, reduced the deficit by \$1 trillion, from \$1.5 trillion to \$500 billion. This is progress under Democratic leadership as it relates to getting America's fiscal house in order.

Then, Donald Trump came into office and, again, followed the same exact playbook. After failing to take healthcare away from millions of Americans, the Republicans turned their attention to the GOP tax scam, where 83 percent of the benefits went to the wealthiest 1 percent. Why? It was to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and famous.

In the process of doing that, they borrowed \$2.3 trillion that was added to our debt and exploded the deficit, the so-called party of fiscal responsibility.

In fact, this debt that we are dealing with and that Democrats are taking seriously and that Republicans have no interest in being responsible around, that is what this 2-year suspension of the debt ceiling is all about.

In our Nation's 248-year history, 25 percent of our Nation's debt was accumulated during the 4 years of the former President—25 percent.

How dare Republicans lecture America about fiscal responsibility ever.

Then, President Biden came into office and got big things done for the American people on infrastructure and on the CHIPS and Science Act. He stood up a clean energy economy, rescued America from a once-in-a-century pandemic, and got all these big things done by partnering with House Democrats and Senate Democrats. In the process, in his first 2 years, he reduced the deficit by \$1.7 trillion.

So, we see a very clear pattern. The facts speak for themselves. Democrats are the party of getting things done and fiscal responsibility. Republicans are the party of massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected, which brings us to this very moment.

That is because this bill is designed to set up the GOP tax scam 2.0 to stick the American people with a bill so that they can continue to cut taxes for wealthy donors and well-connected corporations and jam working-class Americans.

That is what this bill today, fundamentally, is all about. That is why Republicans are suspending the debt ceiling for 2 years, the so-called party of fiscal responsibility.

In addition to these massive tax cuts, we know how they want to pay for it. Many Republicans have said this in the public domain, that: We want to end Social Security as we know it, end Medicare as we know it, end Medicaid as we know it, end nutritional assistance as we know it, and not support our veterans.

These are all the reasons why Democrats are opposed to this legislation. It is because you are trying to jam working-class Americans again, as you have repeatedly done over and over and over again.

Those are the facts.

The other problem with this bill is that we negotiated, in a bipartisan, bicameral way, real progress for working-class Americans, for middle-class Americans, and for everyday Americans who aspire to be part of the middle class. That has been cut out of this legislation.

Why would you do that? Why would you eliminate funding for community health centers? That impacts the heartland of America, urban America, rural America, suburban America, small-town America, and Appalachia. Why would you cut out funding for community health centers?

We are fighting for those everyday Americans. That is why we are opposed to this legislation.

Why would you cut funding for nutritional assistance for children in America, for seniors in America, and for veterans in America? Why would you do that? This bill cuts funding for nutritional assistance that had previously been agreed upon, and that is why we are opposed to this legislation.

This legislation actually cuts a program that was designed to help children and their parents detect cancer. Cruelty is the point. Why would you

eliminate that program? We are going to fight for the children of America.

So, the reasons are too numerous to articulate, though with my magic minute, I could do that.

We have laid out the challenges with this bill, the phoniness in claiming that extreme MAGA Republicans are about working-class Americans and are the party of fiscal responsibility. Nothing could be further from the truth.

When you run up the debt and the deficit, middle-class families pay and working-class families pay. We are going to defend them. House Democrats are going to continue to fight for working families, middle-class families, all those who aspire to be part of the middle class, for the children of America, for the seniors of America, for the unions in America, for the veterans of America, and for the least, the lost, the left behind, for the poor, the sick, and the afflicted.

We are going to continue to fight for everyday Americans. That is why we are voting "no" on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, to stop this reckless, aggressive, and reactionary Republican shutdown, vote "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), who is my very good friend.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I did not bring any fancy signs with me today. Those take hours to prepare.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that if a shutdown occurs because we do not pass this continuing resolution today, it will not be a Republican shutdown. It will be a Democrat shutdown.

When it goes over to the Senate, it will be the Schumer shutdown.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, this is not about millionaires. This is not about billionaires. This is about our farmers. This is about our military getting the pay that they deserve through Christmas and the New Year. This is about the future of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution before us is not a perfect solution, but it is a bridge that will allow us to continue the critical work of funding our troops, securing our borders, supporting our farmers, caring for our veterans, and procuring disaster relief for those in the Carolinas who we visited just last month. They are living in tents in freezing temperatures while illegal aliens are living at The Roosevelt Hotel in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, Missouri has 87,000 farms. We are losing 1,000 farms in America each month. Our food security is national security, and the Democrats do not want to support our farmers. Due to the high inflationary costs that this administration has brought about and low commodity prices, farmers are going out of business.

I don't understand this consolidation of farming in America and why the

Democrats are in favor of that. We have to support our farmers through this bill. We have to support our disaster victims through this bill. Most of all, we must support America.

We are not here for ourselves. We are here for those who we represent, the hardworking Americans who depend on us to set aside our differences and act with courage and responsibility. They deserve a government that works for them and not against them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to allow speakers to be heard.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I remind the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my colleague and friend, that the compromise bill had overwhelming support for farmers and for American families, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee.

(Mr. NEAL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, we are in favor of every request that you asked for. These were modest agreements that were reached and rendered by both parties in an honest and public agreement.

The Speaker of the House broke his word. That is why we are here.

To the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), who just spoke: I have been here for a long time. You have never won a government shutdown, and you won't win this one, either.

Your currency in this institution is your word. We reached an agreement. We came to modest achievements, and a tweet changed all of it?

Can you imagine what the next 2 years are going to be like if every time the Congress works its will and then there is a tweet from an individual, who has no official portfolio, threatening Members on the Republican side with a primary, and they succumb?

This institution has a separate responsibility based upon the separation of powers. Members of Congress don't serve under Presidents of the United States. It is called the national principle.

I am in favor of aid to North Carolina. I am in support of aid to the farmers in Missouri. We come to the aid of the American family at moments like this.

You walked away from your word. You walked away from an agreement. That is what we are bothered by: a simple suggestion from the President-elect that you ought to abandon that principle.

This is what this is about. This is about trying to raise the debt ceiling to disguise a big tax cut that they want to offer later on.

In December of 2017, the TCJA was rendered, and my friends, particularly the ones who have been here for a while, know what I am about to say is true. You borrowed the money, \$2.3

trillion, for a tax cut for wealthy people. When you see the distribution tables, you know who got what.

We are trying to avert a government shutdown, but we are also trying to subscribe to the basic principle as outlined earlier. We reached an agreement. It was honorable. It came to the aid of everything you have asked for, and then you walk away from it?

What about your word going forward here? What about the currency that I noted a moment ago?

I tell you: You cannot win a government shutdown, and you won't win this one either.

We need to return to the original agreement and stick with it.

The last word here I am going to offer: The Speaker of the House needed to keep his word on this legislation and stick with it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. LUNA).

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I have never actually voted for a CR, but I am here today because I realize that the plan that is on the table currently to keep our government open, but also the promise from the only President in my lifetime who has ever followed through on all of his campaign promises to the American people—excuse me, I am not done talking. Give me the same respect we give you guys.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will suspend.

My colleagues are reminded that the gentlewoman has the floor. She has the right to be heard. The gentlewoman has the right to be heard.

The gentlewoman would be reminded to direct her comments to the Chair.

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, the only President in my lifetime who has fulfilled all of his campaign promises to the American people has promised to cut hundreds of billions of dollars in reconciliation.

You want to talk about shutting down the government. The deal that was negotiated was largely rejected by the American people. To his credit, Speaker JOHNSON pulled it from the floor. That is why we are here today.

The deal on the table will keep the government open for the American people. If you guys so choose to shut it down, it will be on you, but not the Republican Party.

We will not be going back to the table. This deal stands as it is. So you can go back home on Christmas and explain to your people why you shut the government down because we won't be doing it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman is reminded to direct her comments to the Chair.

My colleagues are reminded that the gentlewoman from Florida deserves to be heard.

Mrs. LUNA. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the former bill had items in it in-

cluding random pandemic policies, and biocontaminant research that were not in the best interest of the American people, so the deal on the table is as-is. You either vote for it or you vote for the shutdown, but it will be not on the Republican Party. It will be on Democrats as it stands.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, a deal is a deal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, have the Republicans forgotten that they are in the majority? The bill that was supposed to come up was posted and negotiated by the Republican Speaker. He posted it. He negotiated it.

You know that the bill that you are bringing up instead tonight will not pass. We will leave here tonight. This bill will not pass, and so you are the ones who are creating the shutdown.

You have the power to decide what bills come to the floor. You are putting a bill on this floor that you know will not pass and will lead to a Republican shutdown. It is on you because you have the majority.

Mr. Speaker, I mention this other bill that was supposed to come up and that you refused to bring up. This bill was negotiated because we realized in the Energy and Commerce Committee that people were suffering.

They were suffering from high drug prices because of pharmaceutical benefit plans, PBPs, and so we put in a bill on a bipartisan basis, a way of trying to bring prices down with PBP reform.

We knew that consumers were being screwed all over the place with shady things on websites when they buy things, junk fees, and all kinds of deceptive practices.

We put in on a bipartisan basis that we were going to get rid of junk fees, that we were going to get rid of deceptive practices, whether it went to a concert or a hotel or whatever it happened to be, because we cared on a bipartisan basis to try to bring prices down, to try to make things more fair for the consumer, for the American people.

You took all of that out because a billionaire, Elon Musk, decided that the Republicans were supposed to act in favor of corporate interests, in favor of billionaires, and in favor of special interests. That is what is going on here.

You jettisoned all of the things that we worked on, on a bipartisan basis, to try to bring prices down, be fair to the American people, protect the consumer, protect the environment, protect safety. Instead, you decided to simply go ahead with something that you know will not pass and that will shut the government down.

Don't tell me that this is on our watch. This is on your watch. You are the majority. You are responsible. This is not going to pass. The government is

going to shut down, and the American people are going to suffer because of you, as Republicans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have had a lot of talk about what is not in this bill. Maybe we ought to talk a little bit about what is in this bill.

It keeps the government open, which my friends say they want to do, and I think they are sincere in that. This bill does that.

It provides relief to people in the various disaster areas around the country, in an amount that they agreed to and that we agreed to. We share that in common.

It provides aid for farmers who suffered through several years of droughts and disaster and the systemic prices that, as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) mentioned, is costing us farms.

It extends important healthcare provisions into the next year.

There is nothing in here you are against. There is not a single thing in this bill that you oppose. If you can't vote for what you are for, please don't lecture us about, if I had this and this, you would vote for it.

If you vote "no," you are voting to shut down the government. If you vote "no," you are voting to deny aid to people who suffered through a disaster. If you vote "no," you are voting against helping American farmers and ranchers at a difficult time. If you vote "no," you are voting to strip important provisions that are being extended into next year.

Why? It is because you don't want to give the next President enough time to get organized and you want to use the debt as leverage.

The extension of the debt ceiling is what we have done for the last 2 years. It is what you supported 2 years ago. There is no change in that whatsoever.

If you want to fight about other things and other battles, that is great. I welcome that debate. I think it is a legitimate debate, but you are voting against a bill that everything in it you support, every single thing. You are doing that for political purposes.

Please don't lecture us about that. We presented something that keeps the government open, that provides aid to people, that provides support for farmers, and that extends important provisions, and you are not opposed to any of that. Yet, you are going to oppose the bill.

If a government shutdown comes, and I sincerely hope it does not, please don't tell those of us who voted to keep the government open, while you voted to let it close, that we are somehow responsible. That is just not the case.

I have a rule as a legislator. I never vote against a bill because of what is not in it. I vote on the basis of the bill that comes here, and then I fight for

the other things that I think are important.

Extending a debt ceiling, which we have done for 2 years in a bipartisan fashion, so you can use it as leverage against a new President is something you ought to reconsider as a political tactic.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MOSKOWITZ).

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, denial is not just a river in Egypt.

Let's talk about the last 2 years. It was the Democrats who raised the debt ceiling, not the Republicans last time. Many of you voted against it.

It was the Democrats who kept the government open. Not once, not twice, but every single time we needed to keep the government open, it was the Democrats who kept the government open. More of us voted for it than you.

All I have heard for the last couple of weeks is about this giant mandate, landslide, and trifecta. Put on your big-boy pants. Pass your own bill.

□ 1815

We are only here because Republicans can't agree amongst themselves. Now, hold on a second.

Democrats will keep the government open for the American people. We will mediate the disagreements between that side of the room and that side of the room. We will do that for them, but they will have to at least invite us to that meeting. If Republicans want us to solve their problem because they can't agree amongst themselves, reach out.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for Congress in 2018, the debt was \$21 trillion.

I was just texting with my son back home in Austin, who I haven't seen in quite a long time because I am here trying to fight for him.

When I got through cancer about 12 years ago, I made a promise to my kids that I would do everything I can to save this country, and what we are doing right now is continuing to double down on the things that are destroying the Republic.

We are going to increase the debt ceiling, not just \$4 trillion. That is false. We have spent \$4.7 trillion in additional debt in the last 19 months. We are going to increase the debt by \$5 trillion. That is what is going to happen right here by Republicans. We are increasing the debt by \$5 trillion.

What are you doing in the same bill? Mr. Speaker, \$110 billion is unpaid for because you never have an ounce of self-respect to go out and campaign,

saying you are going to balance the budget, and then you come in here and pass \$110 billion unpaid for, on top of the \$200 billion you did for WEP. My colleagues won't agree with that, but the fact of the matter is, they have added \$330 billion to the debt since you were given the majority again on November 5.

It is embarrassing. It is shameful. Yes, I think this bill is better than it was yesterday in certain respects, but to take this bill yesterday and congratulate themselves because it is shorter in pages but increases the debt by \$5 trillion is asinine, and that is precisely what Republicans are doing.

I am absolutely sickened by a party that campaigns on fiscal responsibility and has the temerity to go forward to the American people and say they think this is fiscally responsible. It is absolutely ridiculous.

It also turns off paygo. It turns off the \$1.7 trillion in automatic cuts under paygo because this side of the aisle is profoundly unserious about actually reducing deficits just as my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are profoundly unserious about reducing deficits.

The entire body has been racking up debt for my entire life. We are now at \$36 trillion with a trillion dollars of interest. We rack up a trillion dollars every 100 days.

What are we going to do about it? We are going to run around and talk about cutting taxes, but not doing what is necessary to cut the spending along with the cut taxes.

On the other side of the aisle, my colleagues will say: Oh, no, we have got to increase taxes but won't do anything to cut spending. So here we sit in the same mess. I have to be honest, and I will remind people, this is Article I.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a great debate. It is nice to have the discussion, but we are here to consider a specific piece of legislation.

This keeps the government open. What my friends want to do by voting "no" is effectively to shut it down. This provides relief to people in need. What my friends want to do by voting "no" is to keep that from happening.

This provides aid to farmers and ranchers. What my friends want to do—and they actually favor the amounts and what have you. There has been no change in that regard—ends that. This extends important protections for the American people.

If a bill has got something in it and you support everything that is in it and we continue the debt ceiling that we have had the last 2 years, then I am mystified as to how you can go home and explain that as I wanted to keep the government open, so I voted to keep it down. It is amazing to me.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my very good friend and distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is real simple. This bill helps the people who grow our food. This bill helps people who were devastated by hurricanes this past fall. This bill funds the government at levels the Democrats agreed to, to keep the government open over the holidays.

Why the Democrats oppose this, I have no idea. I have no idea.

Let's vote "yes" and spend at the levels everyone agreed to. Then in 3 months, we can have the debate and figure out where we are going from there, but this is a "yes" vote.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of things in here that were taken out of the compromised bill that were good for the American people and one of the things was DSH payments. We give money to hospitals to treat the least among us, the poorest people that need healthcare, and that was taken out of the bill.

That is cruel, inhuman, and anti-Judeo-Christian. That is one of the main reasons why I opposed this bill because the hospitals that take care of those people are doing God's work and they need to be given the moneys they have been given in the past, a 1-year extension, and Republicans took that out. That is wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), my good friend.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, we are approaching Christmas and Hanukkah, and Americans all across this country care about this debate. They care about the specifics, but what they won't understand is when you vote "no" to continue funding the government to provide the services that they rely on.

This is a clean CR. If you don't like it because it doesn't have a whole list of ornaments on the Christmas tree, I am sorry, but the fact is that we are keeping the government funded.

By the way, I would remind my Democratic colleagues, we could actually do our appropriations work if my senior Senator from New York passed a single, solitary appropriations bill on the Senate floor. He passed exactly zero. The fact is, we have to keep the government funded. That is our responsibility.

The Speaker pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, we have to keep the government funded. Live to fight another day.

The fact is that we are not shutting the government down before Christmas. I think everyone here has a responsibility to keep the government open and funded, and it requires a "yes" vote on this CR. It requires a "yes" vote on disaster relief. It requires a "yes" vote on providing our farmers the support that they need to put food on the table for the American people.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the American public has been clamoring for this body to work together, Democrats and Republicans, across the aisle to do what is in the best interest of the American people.

To that end and to give credence to what the American people are clamoring for so they can begin to have trust in us again and what we do in this body, is that we have been working since August 2023 on a supplemental disaster relief bill.

We worked assiduously over the next several months, day in and day out. I will just say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I recognize I am part of what is called the four corners of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. COLE and myself and Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS, who wanted to get these appropriations bills done by December 20 because we believed that we could have done it and get these bills done.

We were told no. We were told no. We were told that we had to have a continuing resolution that would carry us into next year. No government should be run by continuing resolutions. That is not good governance, but there are those in this body who don't know how to govern and don't care about governing.

We worked hard over the last several weeks, back and forth, forth and back, to say we can accept this; we can't accept that. We will do this. We worked hard.

To talk about what some of my colleagues have said, the Democrats are in the minority in this body. When you have the pen, which is what the Republicans have, they write the bill. They write the bill. They post the bill. They agreed on a bill.

You know what? They got scared because president Musk said don't do it. Don't do it. Shut the government down. What does he know about what people go through when the government shuts down? Are his employees furloughed? Hell, no. Is he furloughed? No.

When you shut the government down, people don't get paid. Maybe if none of us got paid if the government shut down, some people on the other side of the aisle would feel differently about where we are going in this effort.

We had an agreement. Mr. Speaker, this is no different from what we have experienced over the last year and a half or so. Think about it. The Biden-McCarthy deal comes together and the

next day, walk away. The Johnson-Schumer deal comes together and the next day, walk away. Now this deal comes together, and they walk away from it.

Who do we trust in this body? Above all, can the American people trust us? Can they trust us with their lives when we had a moment, when we came to agreement as Democrats and Republicans and were able to say: Let's move forward.

One of my colleagues, I think it was Congressman NEAL, said this: The only currency we have in this body is our word. That is our credibility. That is our bond with each other. When you break that bond, you break the ability to try to come together and be able to govern on behalf of the people of this country.

I understand what is in this bill, but what was left out is unconscionable, particularly in the areas of maternal mortality.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1830

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

It has been an interesting debate. It has been a good debate. There have been a lot of interesting points made, but the fact is, there is nothing in this legislation that Democrats oppose. They don't oppose keeping the government open. This keeps it open until March 14. We will be voting for that in overwhelming numbers.

Democrats support aid to people in distress. This bill does that. Democrats are going to be voting "no." We will be voting "yes."

We think the rural economy is in crisis. There is important aid in here for it, aid Democrats supported. We are going to be voting for it. Democrats are going to be voting against it.

Those are just the facts. You consider legislation one piece at a time. There is not a single thing in here that the other side opposes except maybe the debt limit extension, which is the same debt limit extension they supported 2 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" and keep the government open, help people in need, help the rural economy, and let us move forward with our work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 10515.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 174, nays 235, answered “present” 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 516]

YEAS—174

Aderholt	Franklin, Scott	Miller (IL)
Alford	Fry	Miller (OH)
Allen	Garbarino	Miller (WV)
Amodi	Gimenez	Miller-Meeks
Arrington	Gonzales, Tony	Molinaro
Bacon	Gooden (TX)	Moolenaar
Baird	Graves (LA)	Moore (AL)
Balderson	Graves (MO)	Murphy
Banks	Green (TN)	Nehls
Barr	Greene (GA)	Nunn (IA)
Bentz	Griffith	Obernolte
Bergman	Grothman	Owens
Bice	Guest	Palmer
Bilirakis	Guthrie	Pence
Bishop (NC)	Hageman	Perez
Boebert	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Bost	Hern	Reschenthaler
Buchanan	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Buchson	Hill	Rogers (KY)
Burgess	Hinson	Rose
Calvert	Houchin	Rouzer
Carey	Hudson	Rulli
Carl	Huizenga	Rutherford
Carter (GA)	Issa	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Jackson (TX)	Scalise
Castor (FL)	James	Scott, Austin
Chavez-DeRemer	Johnson (LA)	Sessions
Ciscomani	Johnson (SD)	Simpson
Cline	Jordan	Smith (MO)
Cole	Joyce (OH)	Smith (NE)
Collins	Joyce (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Comer	Kean (NJ)	Smucker
Crawford	Kelly (MS)	Stauber
Crenshaw	Kiggans (VA)	Steel
D'Esposito	Kiley	Stefanik
Davidson	Kim (CA)	Steil
De La Cruz	Kustoff	Strong
DesJarlais	LaHood	Tenney
Diaz-Balart	LaLota	Thompson (PA)
Donalds	LaMalfa	Timmons
Duarte	Langworthy	Turner
Dunn (FL)	Latta	Valadao
Edwards	LaTurner	Van Drew
Ellzey	Lawler	Van Orden
Emmer	Lee (FL)	Wagner
Estes	Letlow	Walberg
Ezell	Loudermilk	Waltz
Fallon	Lucas	Weber (TX)
Feenstra	Luna	Webster (FL)
Ferguson	Malliotakis	Wenstrup
Finstad	Maloy	Westerman
Fischbach	Mann	Wied
Fitzgerald	Mast	Williams (NY)
Fitzpatrick	McCaul	Wilson (SC)
Fleischmann	McClain	Wittman
Flood	McClintock	Womack
Fong	McHenry	Yakym
Foxx	Meuser	Zinke

NAYS—235

Adams	Cárdenas	Curtis
Aguilar	Carson	Daids (KS)
Allred	Carter (LA)	Davis (IL)
Amo	Cartwright	Davis (NC)
Auchincloss	Casar	Dean (PA)
Balint	Case	DeGette
Barragán	Casten	DeLauro
Bean (FL)	Castro (TX)	DelBene
Beatty	Cherfilus	Deluzio
Bera	McCormick	DeSaunier
Beyer	Chu	Dingell
Biggs	Clark (MA)	Doggett
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Duncan
Blunt Rochester	Cleaver	Escobar
Bonamici	Cloud	Eshoo
Bowman	Clyburn	Españillat
Boyle (PA)	Clyde	Foster
Brecheen	Cohen	Foushee
Brown	Connolly	Frankel, Lois
Brownley	Correa	Frost
Budzinski	Costa	Fulcher
Burchett	Courtney	Gallego
Burlison	Craig	Garamendi
Bush	Crane	García (IL)
Cammack	Crockett	García (TX)
Caraveo	Crow	García, Robert
Carbajal	Cuellar	Golden (ME)

Goldman (NY)	McBath	Sánchez
Gomez	McClellan	Sarbanes
Gonzalez, V.	McCollum	Scanlon
Good (VA)	McCormick	Schakowsky
Gosar	McGarvey	Schneider
Green, Al (TX)	McGovern	Scholten
Harder (CA)	McIver	Schrier
Harris	Meeks	Schweikert
Hayes	Menendez	Scott (VA)
Himes	Meng	Scott, David
Horsford	Mfume	Self
Houlihan	Mills	Sewell
Hoyer	Mooney	Sherman
Hoyle (OR)	Moore (UT)	Slotkin
Huffman	Moore (WI)	Smith (WA)
Hunt	Moran	Sorensen
Ivey	Morelle	Soto
Jackson (IL)	Moskowitz	Spanberger
Gooden (VA)	Moulton	Spartz
Jackson (NC)	Mrvan	Stansbury
Jacobs	Mullin	Stanton
Jayapal	Nadler	Stevens
Jeffries	Neal	Strickland
Johnson (GA)	Neguse	Swalwell
Kamlager-Dove	Nickel	Sykes
Keating	Norcross	Takano
Kelly (IL)	Norman	Thanedar
Kennedy	Ocasio-Cortez	Thompson (CA)
Khanna	Ogles	Thompson (MS)
Kildee	Omar	Tiffany
Kirmer	Pallone	Titus
Krishnamoorthi	Panetta	Tlaib
Kuster	Pappas	Tokuda
Lamborn	Peltola	Tonko
Landsman	Perry	Torres (CA)
Larsen (WA)	Peters	Torres (NY)
Larson (CT)	Pettersen	Trahan
Lee (CA)	Pingree	Trone
Lee (NV)	Pocan	Underwood
Lee (PA)	Porter	Van Duyne
Lee Carter	Posey	Vargas
Leger Fernandez	Pressley	Vasquez
Lesko	Quigley	Veasey
Levin	Ramirez	Velázquez
Lofgren	Raskin	Wasserman
Lopez	Rosendale	Schultz
Luttrell	Ross	Waters
Lynch	Roy	Watson Coleman
Mace	Ruiz	Wexton
Magaziner	Ruppersberger	Wild
Manning	Ryan	Williams (GA)
Massie	Salinas	Wilson (FL)
Matsui		

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Kaptur

NOT VOTING—20

Babin	Grijalva	Phillips
Blumenauer	Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (WA)
Evens	Lieu	Sherrill
Fletcher	Luetkemeyer	Steube
García, Mike	Napolitano	Suozi
Gottheimer	Newhouse	Williams (TX)
Granger	Pelosi	

□ 1854

Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. HUNT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. GROTHMAN changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2045

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM) at 8 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CORRECTIONS IN THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 4367

Mr. WEID. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 46), providing for corrections in the enrollment of S. 4367, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 46

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That in the enrollment of S. 4367, an Act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, the Secretary of the Senate shall make the following corrections:

(1) In paragraph (2) of section 203(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231(d)) (as added by section 1109(a)(3)(C)), strike “maximum Federal cost” and insert “Federal share of the cost”.

(2) In section 204(c)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(c)(1)) (as amended by section 1110(a)(1)), strike “United States funds” and insert “United States”.

(3) In section 1142(3), strike “in paragraph (4) and inserting the following” and insert “by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following”.

(4) In section 1203(a)(1), strike “food” and insert “flood”.

(5) In paragraph (2) of section 1113(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4232; 110 Stat. 3719; 136 Stat. 3781) (as added by section 1355(1)(B))—

(A) in the paragraph heading, strike “RECONNAISSANCE STUDY” and insert “PRE-DESIGN PLANNING COSTS”; and

(B) strike “a reconnaissance study carried out by the Secretary” and insert “pre-design planning costs”.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF'S DEPUTY CHASE MASON

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

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shawano County Sheriff's Deputy Chase Mason, who went out of his way to help a local kid in our district while on duty.

Last month, a local boy called 911 for a very important reason: to ask for assistance with his math homework. The child told the dispatcher that his family wasn't very good at math either and needed help.

Deputy Chase Mason went above and beyond to respond to the call while he himself admitted he wasn't overly proficient in math. Ultimately, Deputy Mason and the kid were able to work together to solve the problem.