

We All Lose in a Government Shutdown

The current fiscal year 2026 federal government shutdown threatens to harm millions of people, weaken bipartisan policymaking, and increase the risk of executive overreach at a critical point of inflection for the United States.

The U.S. government's funding decisions should hold concern for all of God's creation. This nation is facing the opposite. The shutdown is disrupting public services for communities across the country. It will prevent funding to states and cities. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers are at risk of being furloughed or fired. Congress must work to pass a bipartisan spending agreement that invests in critical human needs—such as community violence prevention, legally mandated funding for Tribal nations, lifesaving global assistance, and the resources needed to respond to worsening environmental disasters.

Additionally, congressional inaction means the expiration of important health insurance premium tax credits at the end of 2025. Healthcare costs could spike for at least 22 million Americans on the heels of a reconciliation package that cut healthcare for millions and stripped food access for the most vulnerable.

Proverbs 31:9 calls us to care for those in need: "Speak out; judge righteously; defend the rights of the poor and needy." True leadership demands concern for the wellbeing of everyday people.

Members of Congress must engage in sincere, bipartisan negotiations and pass legislation that restores vital services, protects healthcare access, and defends its constitutional power against executive overreach.

- » Swiftly re-open the government to restore essential programs that serve families and communities across the country, including expanding or making permanent premium tax credits that secure affordable health insurance for millions of Americans;
- » Ensure future appropriations are protected from President Trump's arbitrary efforts to override Congress, which includes provisions to prevent further erosion of congressionally mandated funds.

Congress must not relinquish its Article I powers. It's time to put the people first, fund lifesaving programs, and block attempts to rescind and impound appropriated funds.

Congress must fund essential services and defend its power of the purse against executive overreach.

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October 2025