

What Does Shutdown Mean for You?

Friday, April 08, 2011

Dear Friend,

Today marks an important budgetary deadline – if House and Senate leaders cannot agree on a budget package by midnight, the federal government will shut down.

If we do shut down, all federal agencies will be closed until the government re-opens and though final shutdown plans haven't been released, you can expect the following:

- While most service members and military personnel would remain on duty through a shutdown, their paychecks could be delayed;
- Public museums and national parks will be closed;
- The IRS will not process tax refunds;
- The Federal Housing Administration will not guarantee any new home loans;
- New Social Security applications will be delayed;
- And more than 800,000 federal workers will not be allowed to work.

I support cutting spending and reducing our deficit – in sensible ways. The Republicans demanded \$73 billion in cuts and we agreed to \$73 billion in cuts. But now they are saying that's not enough, demanding more cuts and further restrictions on environmental protections to the air we breathe and women's health care.

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Instead of slashing benefits for seniors and low-income families, let's stop paying for pork projects like the Bridge to Nowhere. Instead of cutting programs like Pell grants and small business loans, let's stop giving oil companies and big corporate interests tax breaks.

We need to promote a commonsense budget that protects our nation's most vulnerable, not one that ends Medicare as we know it and turns it into a private voucher scheme, and that raises college costs for nearly 10 million American students.

I will continue working with my colleagues in Congress to reach an agreement on the budget to avoid a shutdown. To see my comments about this situation on the House floor, and for more information on the government shutdown, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress