

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

As the leadership of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, **we write to urge you to work with Congressional Democrats in order to keep the government open.**

There are currently **5** legislative days scheduled before the start of the new fiscal year. We remain deeply concerned about the economic impacts of the shutdown on the American people.

The 2013 government shutdown not only undermined people's faith in our government domestically and internationally, it cost the American taxpayers **\$24 billion dollars**. On September 18, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen further warned that a government shutdown would jeopardize the country's economic health. Shutting down the government is not only irresponsible; **it is costly and risks Americans' economic security.**

Congress' to-do list is growing. Before the end of the year, Congress must pass a transportation and infrastructure bill, a number of tax-extenders, the child nutrition reauthorization, Perkins Loan Program reauthorization, the Export-Import Bank reauthorization, raise the debt ceiling, and update the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, among many other priorities. **Given this, we urge you to work with the Members of Congress who are unwilling to risk the economic security of Americans, and avoid a government shutdown.**

Here's a snapshot of the numbers from the last shutdown:

-19,000 children served by Head Start grants lost access to their school facilities

-2 billion dollars was lost as a result of payroll costs or lost productivity of furloughed workers

-800+ U.S. Department of Agriculture food safety inspections were delayed

-40,000+ veterans' disability claims were stalled

-700 small business applications were unable to be processed, amounting in \$140 million in delayed loans.

-1,400 military service members experienced delays in services aimed to ease their transition into civilian life

-Hundreds of critically sick Americans were prevented from enrolling in National Institutes of Health (NIH) clinical trials – with 98 percent of the National Science Foundation, nearly three-quarters of NIH, and two-thirds of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention employees furloughed

As you move forward with negotiations, keep in mind the serious economic impact of the shutdown on American families and work with Congressional Democrats and Members who recognize we cannot afford another shutdown.

Sincerely,



Keith Ellison



Raúl M. Grijalva



Mark Pocan