

The Shutdown to End All Shutdowns (SEAS) Act

This legislation is designed to ensure that America will never again experience a federal shutdown like the one we have just witnessed. The SEAS Act allows the government to keep running in the event of failure to enact appropriations legislation. During past government shutdowns, members of Congress and senior Executive Branch decision makers have continued to travel for work and receive their paychecks even as millions of Americans suffer. The SEAS Act reverses that dynamic, forcing Members of Congress and the President's staff to stay in Washington until a deal is reached.

This legislation would:

- Automatically trigger a 30 day continuing resolution (CR) if Congress fails to pass a full year appropriations bill by the end of the fiscal year
- After 30 days under automatic CR, if Congress fails to pass a spending bill:
 - o Use of any government funds (MRA, Committee, or Department of Defense / State) is prohibited for member travel domestically or abroad.
 - o For the 116th Congress, member pay is held in escrow. For future Congresses, member pay will be suspended and **not** held in escrow.
 - o Use of Federal funds for Executive Branch officials' travel is prohibited, unless a Cabinet secretary issues a waiver citing a threat to national security, significant law enforcement event, natural disaster or other similar emergency.
 - o Bonuses, relocation expenses, and other financial awards are prohibited to senior Executive Branch officials.
 - o Federal funds are prohibited for official reception and representation expenses (i.e. official government entertaining, dinners, etc.)
 - o Federal funds are prohibited for the operation of any Federal government exercise facility or golf course.
 - o Daily quorum calls are in effect.
- The government continues to operate under CR with these disincentives in place until a spending bill is enacted.

This bill provides three core outcomes for federal workers:

- 1) **PREVENTS** federal workers from being furloughed or forced to work without pay if Congress and the President fail to agree on an appropriations measure;
- 2) **TRANSFERS** the financial hardship from federal workers to the pockets of the President's senior staff and Members of Congress;
- 3) **PROTECTS** federal workers from being used as pawns during policy negotiations.

Notes:

- This legislation would apply for Fiscal Year 2020 and beyond.
- Changes to member pay are Constitutionally prohibited in the middle of a Congress but allowed for future Congresses. As such, pay will be held in escrow for the 116th Congress but can be withheld entirely in future Congresses.