

September 29, 2025

The Honorable John Thune Majority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Minority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable John Barrasso Majority Whip U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin Minority Whip U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators,

As United States Governors, we urgently call on the Senate to immediately pass a clean short-term funding extension to prevent a government shutdown that would deeply harm hardworking Americans across our states. With the September 30th funding deadline quickly approaching, we implore the Senate to fast track the clean short-term extension that passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support.

Holding the federal government funding hostage is not just a Washington D.C. debate for political points, it has real and immediate consequences in every state across America that cannot be overlooked. From impacting pay for our troops, first responders, and firefighters, to affecting critical services for seniors and veterans and disrupting food assistance for families in need, a government shutdown would inflict severe consequences on the American people that are completely avoidable.

There is a solution on the table that Senate Democrats should support, after all they did vote for this funding extension just six months ago. The clean funding extension provides stability for our military service members, veterans, and their families, as well as the continuity of low-income assistance programs. Allowing a shutdown would consequently and needlessly disrupt our economies, threaten public safety, and undermine public confidence in our institutions. Our families and communities would feel the pain with immediate effect and confusion. Put simply, a

government shutdown should not be used as political leverage to pass partisan reforms—these are not chips Congress should be bargaining with.

The proposed budget extension is a straightforward, bipartisan solution. There are no gimmicks or partisan poison pills; it's a clean, short-term funding measure that both parties have historically supported. In fact, under the Biden Administration with Democrat leadership, Congress passed 13 clean funding extensions, putting country over party. That precedent should be honored now.

A shutdown is neither sustainable nor a responsible way to govern and the American people understand that. That is why we are calling on Senate Democrats to fulfill their duties, put their politicking behind, and do what's best for the country: keep the government open. There is no path forward for the Democrats' nearly \$1.5 trillion wish list that would give free healthcare to illegals and cut the single largest investment in rural health care in history—critical funding delivered in the President's tax legislation that will improve rural health care nationwide.

We urge the Senate to do the right thing and act swiftly to pass a clean funding extension. The American people are relying on their leaders to put good governance over politics. For the sake of security and stability, we respectfully call on you to act without delay.

Sincerely,

Governor Kay Ivey State of Alabama

Governor Mike Dunleavy State of Alaska

Governor Sarah Sanders State of Arkansas

Governor Brian Kemp State of Georgia

Governor Brad Little State of Idaho

Governor Mike Braun State of Indiana

Governor Kim Reynolds

State of Iowa

Governor Jeff Landry State of Louisiana

Governor Tate Reeves State of Mississippi

Governor Mike Kehoe State of Missouri

Governor Greg Gianforte State of Montana

Governor Jim Pillen State of Nebraska

Governor Joe Lombardo State of Nevada Governor Kelly Ayotte State of New Hampshire

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Governor Kelly Armstrong State of North Dakota

Governor Mike DeWine State of Ohio

Governor Kevin Stitt State of Oklahoma Governor Henry Dargan McMaster State of South Carolina

Governor Larry Rhoden State of South Dakota

Governor Bill Lee State of Tennessee Governor Greg Abbott State of Texas

Governor Spencer Cox State of Utah Governor Glenn Youngkin Commonwealth of Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey State of West Virginia

Governor Mark Gordon State of Wyoming

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