

**Suspend the Rules And Agree to the Resolution, H. Res. 79 with an
Amendment**

(The amendment consists of a new preamble)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 79

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Government
shutdowns are detrimental to the Nation and should not occur.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2019

Ms. WEXTON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Oversight and Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that
Government shutdowns are detrimental to the Nation
and should not occur.

Whereas a portion of the United States Government was shut
down from December 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019;

Whereas the Senate, on December 19, 2018, unanimously
passed legislation to fund Government operations and
avert a Government shutdown but that legislation was
not enacted;

Whereas the Government shutdown lasted for 35 days, the
longest Government shutdown in the history of our coun-
try;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations deprived Americans of important services and caused 800,000 Federal workers to go without pay for more than a month, imposing significant financial hardships on those workers and their families;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations detrimentally affected the Federal Government's ability to recruit and retain career public servants;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations put at risk thousands of small businesses with Federal contracts and created severe financial hardship for tens of thousands of employees of Federal contractors;

Whereas the top economic advisor to the President of the United States predicted that the Government shutdown would reduce economic growth by 0.1 percent for each week it lasted;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office has estimated the direct effect of the shutdown to have cost our economy \$11,000,000,000 in lost gross domestic product;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations forced Transportation Security Administration screeners and air traffic controllers to work without pay, causing many to be unable to afford to work and thereby putting at risk the safety and well-being of the traveling public, leading to flight delays, and harming airport security operations;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations put the health of all Americans at risk by curtailing and delaying food safety inspections;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations made our Nation less safe by impeding Federal Bureau of Investigation efforts

to crack down on child trafficking, violent crime, and terrorism;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations resulted in the shuttering of and, in some cases, damage to, countless national parks, monuments and other public lands;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations furloughed numerous Federal employees at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), limiting the Federal Government's ability to help communities rebuild after natural disasters;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations resulted in a majority of Environmental Protection Agency employees being furloughed, with negative consequences for public health and the environment, such as halted clean-up work at hundreds of toxic Superfund sites across the country, a cessation in inspection and enforcement activities, and a stop to new chemical and pesticide safety evaluations and approvals;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations delayed payment of Department of Agriculture loans, operating loan decisions, planting and marketing decisions and much-needed assistance for farmers harmed by retaliatory tariffs imposed on American agricultural exports, prevented the implementation of a new farm bill with critical support for struggling dairy farmers and other operations, and cast damaging uncertainty on the nutrition assistance relied on by millions of vulnerable Americans;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations delayed the issuance of tax refunds to America's hard-working taxpayers;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations penalized small business owners by halting the approval of Small Business Administration loans;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations impeded the operations of United States embassies abroad, undermining the ability of United States personnel to combat terror, enforce sanctions, and strengthen alliances;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations undermined the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to respond to increased cybersecurity threats, natural disasters, and terror threats;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations delayed approval of FHA-backed mortgages, putting Americans at risk of losing the house they were attempting to buy or sell;

Whereas the lapse in appropriations hobbled the ability of the Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer the Section 8 low-income housing program that allows for HUD to provide affordable rental housing to low-income tenants, including the elderly and disabled;

Whereas Senator Mitch McConnell has called shutdowns “a failed policy”;

Whereas Senator Susan Collins said on January 23, 2019, “shutdowns represent the ultimate failure to govern and should never be used as a weapon to achieve an outcome”; and

Whereas Senator Lamar Alexander said on January 24, 2019, “it is always wrong for either side to use shutting down the Government as a bargaining chip in budget negotiations—it should be as off-limits as chemical weapons are to warfare”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the shutdown of the Government of the
4 United States, or any portion thereof, causes sub-
5 stantial damage to Federal employees, to every
6 American who benefits directly or indirectly from
7 Federal services, to our Nation’s economy, and to
8 the reputation of the United States around the
9 world;

10 (2) shutting down the Government of the
11 United States, or any portion thereof, is not an ac-
12 ceptable tactic or strategy for resolving differences
13 regarding policy, funding levels, or governing philos-
14 ophy; and

15 (3) in the future the Congress must ensure the
16 continued, uninterrupted operations of the Govern-
17 ment of the United States and its services as well
18 as its duty to protect and promote the security of
19 the American people.