

September 22, 2025

Phillip L. Swagel  
Director  
Congressional Budget Office  
Ford House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6925

Dear Director Swagel,

If you haven't read the headlines, Senator Chuck Schumer and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries are plotting to shut down the government next week:

# POLITICO

Top Democratic leaders will **meet**  
**Wednesday afternoon** to plot shutdown  
strategy

 NBC NEWS

**Democrats want a government funding fight.  
But they haven't decided on a plan.**

Some Democrats want a traditional appropriations path. Others want to make aggressive policy demands. Yet others say there can be no deal as long as Trump withholds money.

The same politicians who whined and complained about the Department of Government Efficiency laying off unnecessary bureaucrats just a few months ago are now forcing a governmentwide shutdown themselves to expose who is and isn't an essential employee.

Could CBO provide an analysis of the impact of a Schumer Shutdown, specifically—

Assuming backpay is eventually approved for non-essential employees who are furloughed, how much would likely be spent per day paying federal employees *not* to work?

Will pay for our troops be delayed during a Schumer Shutdown?

Will Senator Schumer, Congressman Jeffries, and other members of Congress continue to be paid during a government shutdown they provoked?

Would a Schumer Shutdown cause damage to the economy by reducing economic activity?

How will private-sector companies and businesses be affected by the Schumer Shutdown's suspension of government services, such as issuing federal permits, certifications, loans, or other assistance?

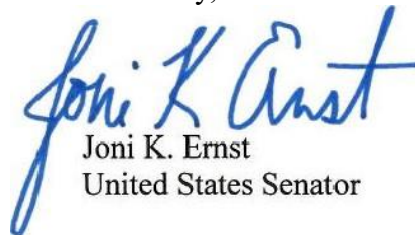
While federal employees will inevitably be paid the salaries they would have otherwise received, will private-sector companies and businesses recoup the lost income from a Schumer Shutdown?

What are the expected daily costs to the federal government in lost efficiencies, such as procurements that cannot be fulfilled or lapsing contracts that cannot be renewed?

Will visitors to our national parks and monuments, like the Statue of Liberty, be turned away during the Schumer shutdown or will states be forced to pick up the costs to keep these open?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. I would appreciate a response prior to midnight on Tuesday, September 30.

Sincerely,



Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator