



**Week Ending 11-14-25**

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### **This Week in Congress!**

Congress returned to session this week to reopen the government and after 43 days, the longest shutdown in U.S. history, the House voted 222 to 209 to approve a new temporary funding plan, sending thousands of federal workers back to their jobs.

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### **Government Shutdown Ends After 43 Days**

This past weekend, Senate Majority Leader Thune (R-SD) kept the chamber in session and by Sunday, the Senate voted in favor of a motion to reconsider the House-passed CR. This vote permitted leadership to bring that measure to the floor with some amendments including:

- adding a minibus package of three FY26 appropriations bills (Agriculture, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, drafts of which were released that afternoon);
- continue funding other agencies at FY25 levels through January 30;
- funding back-pay for government workers furloughed or forced to continue working during the shutdown;
- resuming federal payments to states and localities;
- funding SNAP for a full year; and · reversing the layoffs of federal government workers that have happened since the government shut down on October 1.

Separately, Senate Republicans promised a vote on the expiring Affordable Care Act (ACA) enhanced tax credits by December 2. Eight Democrats voted in favor of the motion, and one Republican voted against it; all of those Democrats are either retiring or not up for reelection next year. They included Shaheen and Hassan of New Hampshire; Cortez Masto and Rosen of Nevada; Fetterman of Pennsylvania; Kaine of Virginia; Durbin of Illinois; and independent King of Maine. Rand Paul of Kentucky was the sole Republican in opposition.

January 30, 2026 is the new shutdown deadline for much of the federal government, but not all, as Congress also approved, as part of this shutdown package, three of the 12 yearly government funding bills: Military Construction and the VA; Agriculture/Food and Drug Administration; and the Legislative Branch.

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### **Reconciliation 2.0 / Healthcare Reform Legislation**

President Trump is against *any* extension of the ACA enhanced tax credits, arguing that such funds should be paid “to the people” instead of “money sucking Insurance Companies.” That likely will prevent any bipartisan deal on extending the subsidies, but Senate Budget Committee Chairman Graham (R-SC) has been talking to Committee Republicans about a possible second

reconciliation bill to include an array of healthcare reforms. As noted in previous updates, this is possible but it would be a heavy lift.

One provision under discussion would establish pre-funded accounts for Americans to pay directly for healthcare, rather than paying subsidies to insurers. The President called for something similar last weekend, when he urged that money should be “sent directly to the people so that they can purchase their own, much better, healthcare.” Sen. Scott announced that he is writing a bill that would implement the policy.

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### **Republicans Release Package of Labor Bills**

On November 10th, Republicans from the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee announced a slate of labor reform bills aimed at improving the rights of workers.

The bills in the package are as follows:

- **Worker RESULTS Act (S.3117):** Amends the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) regarding labor organizing elections. The bill’s provisions expand the contract bar window, require secret ballots, set a two-thirds quorum for representation elections, limit the use of unfair labor practice
- **Fairness in Filing Act (S.3116):** Amends the NLRA to restrict unfair labor practices (ULP) charges filed frivolously or not in good faith.
- **Union Members Right to Know Act (S.3114):** Amends the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to require labor organizations to disclose union workers’ rights and give workers authority over how their dues are spent.
- **NLRB Stability Act (S.3115):** Amends the NLRA to align the board’s decisions with federal appellate precedent.
- **Protection on the Picket Line Act (S.3124):** Amends the NLRA to clarify when employers can discipline workers for misconduct during protests. Protects employees from harassment and abuse.
- **Worker Privacy Act (S.3128):** Amends the NLRA to protect worker privacy by limiting how unions can use employee data during organizing drives.