

From: Senator Michael Bennet newsletter@bennet.senate.gov
Subject: Hold Senators Accountable in the Case of a Shutdown
Date: September 25, 2015 at 13:21
To: whataboutmyrights@vaessen.net

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Dear Friend,

As you may have heard on the news in recent weeks, a government shutdown is possible next week when our fiscal year ends on September 30th.

A shutdown in itself would be terrible. It would affect millions of people across Colorado and the nation and set back our recovering economy. Veterans disability payments would slow, national parks would close, grant funding for early childhood education services would stop, the CDC would no longer monitor the flu, and patients with critical illnesses would not be admitted to the National Institute of Health.

During the shutdown in 2013 Colorado was the 8th most affected state and 40,000 Coloradans were furloughed. Colorado Springs, home to many military bases, small businesses and veterans was hit the hardest. Estes Park, which was recovering from the floods just weeks earlier, saw its revenue drops by 18 percent as Rocky Mountain National Park was closed.

What you might not know is that senators can shut down the government and then go home.

That's unacceptable.

We've been working closely with Senator Gardner to ensure senators are held accountable and must stay at work until the government is reopened. Just last week, we sent a letter to the Rules Committee asking it to consider our bipartisan resolution.

Here is the text of the letter:

"Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Schumer:

As Congress works to find a short-term funding solution for the federal government, we write to request that the Rules Committee mark up S. Res. 101, the Shutdown Accountability Resolution.

The resolution will have the effect of keeping a majority of Senators on or near the Senate floor in the event of a government shutdown. More importantly, it will discourage the Senate from contemplating a shutdown in the first place.

Under the resolution, following a full or partial government shutdown, the Senate must convene at 8:00 AM.

A series of quorum calls will require Senators to stay on or near the Senate floor until an agreement has been reached or until midnight, in the event there is no agreement. If the Senate is unable to obtain a quorum after attempting to compel attendance, arrest warrants will be issued to force the attendance of absent Senators. This quorum call procedure will continue each day until Congress passes and the President signs a bill funding and reopening the government.

This resolution is a common sense approach which uses existing familiar procedures in order for the Senate to do its job by passing a budget and reopening the government.

While we may differ on the reasons that have led Congress to this potential impasse, our constituents in Colorado have made clear to us that any

government shutdown is unacceptable.

It's our hope that our resolution can play a role in preventing Congress from engaging in further brinksmanship at this critical point in time.

With less than two weeks left until the end of the fiscal year, we request that the Rules Committee mark up S. Res. 101 as quickly as possible. We have enclosed a copy of the resolution for your review.

Thank you for considering this matter."

[This is very important to the economic health of Colorado and our country. Will you take a minute to share with your friends online?](#)

We'll be in touch with updates soon,
Michael

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