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THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

CHAIR:
INSURANCE & COMMERCE

MEMBER:
JUDICIARY
JOINT ENERGY
JOINT BUDGET
EFFICIENCY

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
President Pro Tempore
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Majority Whip
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
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 State Senators, 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.

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LETTER – Arkansas Senate

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 wishlist that would give free healthcare for 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,

Blake Johnson
Senate Majority Leader
Arkansas Senate

Bart Hester
President Pro Tempore
Arkansas Senate





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Robert Cochran

Lesly Thomas Price

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Lyke Orr

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Paul Hill

Terry Rice

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Dan Sullivan

Jim Ryan

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Paul Jones

Kim D. Hammer

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Jane English

Jon Pott

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David Roy Wallace