

Subject **From the Desk of Congresswoman Laurel Lee**
From Congresswoman Laurel Lee <RepLaurelLeeFL15@mail.house.gov>
To Mr. Gordon Wayne Watts <gordon@contractwithamerica2.com>
Date 2025-10-22 13:14



LAUREL M. LEE
15TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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COMMITTEE ON
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October 22, 2025

Dear Mr. Watts,

Thank you for contacting my office to share your concern about the government shutdown. I appreciate your engagement and the opportunity to respond.

First and foremost, Republicans are committed to keeping the government open. On September 16, I voted in support of a temporary funding bill to prevent a shutdown. This bill is short, simple, and designed to protect national security and the vital programs Americans rely on. It would have kept government funding stable through November 21, 2025, giving Congress time to complete a full-year budget. Our goal is to make sure Americans are not needlessly punished while allowing time for responsible budgeting.

Unfortunately, Democrats in the Senate have repeatedly voted against this measure. Although Republicans hold the majority in the House, passing any funding bill in the Senate requires 60 votes. That means we cannot move forward without Democratic support. Instead of working together to keep the government open, Senate Democrats blocked this bill and demanded higher spending and partisan provisions, including restoring taxpayer-funded health care for illegal immigrants and adding \$1.5 trillion in new spending for only a short-term extension.

Because of this obstruction, vital services are at risk. Telehealth programs that seniors rely on could lapse, and paychecks for our service members could be delayed. That is why I am a strong supporter of the **Pay Our Troops Act of 2026**, which guarantees continued military pay during any government shutdown.

Shutdowns are harmful and avoidable. They hurt families, seniors, and the men and women who serve our nation. That is why I asked to withhold my own paycheck until Congress completes its work and government funding is restored. If our troops are not being paid, neither should Members of Congress.

It is an honor to represent you in the U.S. House of Representatives. Please don't hesitate to reach out with your thoughts and concerns, and feel free to stay connected with my office through our [newsletter](#) or on [X](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

Laurel M. Lee
Member of Congress