

CTA Name: CTA 09-09-25 Continuing Resolution Must Include Democratic Priorities

CTA Author: Bill Csajko

Date Created: 09-09-25

Explainer (describe the issue):

Each year, Congress passes funding bills (called “appropriations legislation”) to fund the federal government for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts October 1. While Republicans hold a slim majority of both houses, those majorities aren’t large enough to pass this legislation without the vote of Democratic congress members. Because funding bills must secure 60 votes in the Senate to proceed, Democrats have real leverage in this fight. Congress must pass a funding bill by September 30th or a government shutdown will ensue. Since passing a regular appropriations bill is a unlikely given the upcoming deadline and the need for extensive negotiations, a short-term fix called a “Continuing Resolution” will likely be used to fund the government temporarily while bipartisan negotiations on appropriations continue. However, Continuing Resolutions also require 60 Senate votes to proceed.

A shutdown would be devastating – and Republicans know that. During shutdowns, crucial programs and services are frozen and non-essential federal workers are furloughed without pay for the duration of the shutdown. Republicans are using the threat of a shutdown as a bargaining chip to compel Democrats to accept a garbage deal.

Because Republicans cannot pass a Continuing Resolution without Democratic votes, Democrats must use their leverage and demand that the bill contain meaningful provisions, such as undoing funding rescissions and inserting language to refuse further White House efforts to take over spending authority.

Call to Action (what specific action are we taking):

We are calling our Federal Senators and Representatives to demand that the FY 2026 Continuing Resolution legislation MUST include Democratic priorities such as undoing funding rescissions and reversing draconian Medicaid cuts.. Democrats must not vote for any bill that does not include those priorities simply to avoid a government shutdown. Democrats should further demand that the CR does NOT include the SAVE Act, which would create unnecessary barriers to voting, particularly for seniors, students, rural voters, and potentially married women or others who have changed their last names since birth.

Contact Info:

1. U.S. Senator Tina Smith:

DC Office Phone:(202) 224-5641

MN Office Phone: (651) 221-1016

2. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar:

DC Office Phone: (202) 224-3244

DC Office Fax: (202) 228-2186

MN Office Phone: (612) 727-5220

Your Federal House Representative

Find your US House of Representative here: [Who Represents Me?](#)

Twin Cities area US House reps:

Ilhan Omar: (CD5)

- (202) 225-4755 (DC Office)
- (612) 333-1272 (Minneapolis office)

Betty McCollum: (CD4)

- (202) 225-6631 (DC)
- St. Paul: (651) 224-9191

Kelly Morrison: (CD3)

- DC: (202) 225-2871

To Email:

Use [democracy.io](#) to send an email to all three at the same time.

Sample Script (voice or email):

I am a constituent from (your address) [Optional: and a member of Indivisible Twin Cities]. With the upcoming vote on the Fiscal Year 2026 Continuing Resolution, Democrats have the opportunity to fight for crucial legislation and we must seize it. Undoing and restricting future rescissions, restoring Medicare cuts, restricting Department of Homeland Security overreach and unmasking ICE, Russian sanctions, and new ethics rules all MUST be included in Democratic demands to pass this legislation. In addition, Democrats absolutely must not allow Republicans to insert the SAVE Act or other proto-fascist provisions into this act.

A handful of Democrats – most notably Chuck Schumer – wasted this leverage in previous CR negotiations and should not allow that to happen again. Democratic leaders must use every opportunity to stop the country's slide into autocracy.

Demand Democratic priorities in this CR and do not vote for any bill that does not include them.

Resources: (include links)

[Continuing Resolution](#) (Wikipedia definition)

[Care Over Cuts: Reining In The Trump Chaos](#) (Indivisible)

[Stop Acting Like This Is Normal](#) (NYT Opinion)

[Dems Must Hold Out for these Five Demands](#) (Contrarian column)