

The Crooked Path to the #TrumpShutdown

For the past week, Trump and the Republicans have been name-blaming the Democrats and liberals for the impasse in the CR negotiations that led to the Government shutdown at midnight Friday night, January 19th.

In the entire history of our country, the government has NEVER shut down when one party controlled the Congress and the White House. It's called "governing," and apparently the GOP government can't do it.

It is time to describe the true story — and for the rest of us to speak out to push back in the White House and Republican rhetoric.

- Trump and the Republicans in Congress wasted precious time over the summer and fall trying to repeal and replace our healthcare system without one open hearing in either the House or the Senate.
- In September, Trump announced he was unilaterally ending Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program that provides deportation relief and job permits for 800,000 young immigrants after an extensive (and expensive!) application and vetting process.
- As the beginning of the Government fiscal year approached (October 1) the Republican leadership in Congress ignored their primary fiscal responsibility of coming up with a budget for Fiscal Year 2018 [October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018] and, instead, hastily threw together a continuing resolution [CR] to keep the government running. Congressional leaders met with Trump and Trump struck a deal with Democratic leaders Pelosi and Schumer promising that Dreamers [DACA] would be protected by that time if the Democrats would sign onto that CR to fund the government until December.
- Instead of constructing an FY2018 Budget, the Republicans wasted more valuable time all fall constructing a so-called "tax reform" that was supposed to "simplify" the tax code but has more than 1000 pages that were and are, in fact, loaded with wording from some 1500 lobbyists who had access to the Republican Representatives and Senators during the closed-door Republican discussions— there were no open hearings.
- After claiming concern about the federal deficit for eight years during Obama's two terms, the Republican tax bill is projected to increase the National Deficit by 1.4 Trillion dollars over the next 10 years, with most of the benefits going to the richest 5% of the people and corporations in the country.

- After failing to repeal the country's healthcare system, the tax bill contains adjustments to the Affordable Care Act that will undermine the healthcare program in many subtle ways and result in increased health insurance premiums for substandard insurance. The increase in the deficit will most likely trigger cuts to safety net programs (Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security).
- No deal was passed to protect Dreamers by the time the CR expired in December, and the Republicans cobbled together another CR that kept the Government open until January.
- As the January shutdown deadline approached last week, Republicans had cynically included long-term funding renewal for CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) simply as a bargaining chip. Trump said that he supported DACA and a long-term immigration program, and he would sign anything that the Congress sent to him. At the same time he was publicly saying that a Government shutdown would happen if the deal did not include funding for the Trump wall.
- The next day, Trump and other Republicans, in service to their most racist ideas about America, walked back from the bipartisan agreement to over immigration.
- Not once in the ongoing budget negotiations did Republicans put forward legislation that could pass both of the chambers of Congress—chambers that they control!
- It's clear that after months of negotiations to protect children's health and reasonable immigration programs, Democrats are working with a President who is negotiating in bad faith. Trump and the Republicans shut down the government over their bigoted agenda.

This is, indeed, the Trump Shutdown.