



## H.Res. 79 — Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Government shutdowns are detrimental to the Nation and should not occur (Rep. Wexton, D-VA)

### FLOOR CONSIDERATION:

[H.Res. 79, as amended](#), is expected to be considered January 30, 2019, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

*Note: The version of the bill expected to be considered on January 30, 2019, is different than the [version originally posted](#) by Democrats on docs.house.gov on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 08:21 PM. An amended version was posted to docs.house.gov on Tuesday night, January 29, 2019.*

*The amended version removes several clauses from the resolution as introduced that cast blame on the Trump Administration for the recent partial government shutdown. It also removes clauses specifically referencing, by name, members of the House Republican Conference, including Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy and Rep. Mike Simpson.*

### TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.Res. 79, as amended](#), would express the sense of the House of Representatives: (1) that government shutdowns substantially damage federal employees, every American that benefits, either directly or indirectly from federal services, and the reputation of the U.S.; (2) that shutdowns are not an acceptable strategy to resolve differences; and, (3) that Congress must ensure uninterrupted operation of the federal government.

### COST:

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is unavailable.

### CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Although the version of the resolution being considered no longer explicitly casts blame on the Trump Administration, under the resolution, Democrats still accept no responsibility whatsoever for the partial government shutdown despite the fact that they could have allocated funding for border security and barrier construction, as requested by Republicans and the administration, and despite the

fact that they absolutely refused to meaningfully negotiate while President Trump made multiple offers for compromise during the shutdown.

Further, while the version of the resolution being considered no longer explicitly references, by name, members of the House Republican Conference, some conservatives may feel it is still inappropriate for the resolution to mention, by name, specific United States Senators.

Some conservatives may believe some of the bill's clauses are not accurate representations and may exaggerate certain circumstances of the shutdown.

Conservatives may also take opposition to the resolution's black-and-white statement that substantial damage was inflicted on federal employees and every American that benefits, either directly or indirectly from federal services. However, for example, although the IRS had a funding lapse, the agency will begin sending out refunds next week; and although USDA had a funding lapse, SNAP benefits were not interrupted.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

### **DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:**

H.Res. 79 would express the sense of the House of Representatives: (1) that government shutdowns substantially damage federal employees, every American that benefits, either directly or indirectly from federal services, and the reputation of the U.S.; (2) that shutdowns are not an acceptable strategy to resolve differences; and, (3) that Congress must ensure uninterrupted operation of the federal government.

The resolution also states that the shutdown: put the safety and well-being of the travelling public at risk; affected the FBI's ability to investigate child trafficking, violent crime and terrorism; affected disaster relief; delayed tax refunds; undermined the ability to combat terror, enforce sanctions, and strengthen alliances abroad; undermined cybersecurity, terror and natural disaster response; put Americans at risk of losing houses they were attempting to buy or sell; and, affected elderly and disabled low-income tenants.

### **COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.Res. 79 was introduced in the house on January 28, 2019, and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

### **ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

### **CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

Constitutional authority statements are not required for resolutions.

---

**NOTE:** *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*