

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FY2015 APPROPRIATIONS
REPUBLICANS GAMBLING WITH SECURITY

***** LESS THAN 3 DAYS FROM A SHUT DOWN *****

In less than 72 hours, the Department of Homeland Security will be forced to shut down unless Congressional Republicans can agree to put politics aside and move forward on funding programs critical to our national security. In December, House Republicans kicked the can down the road by singling out DHS and only funding it until February 27th. In January, House Republicans passed full year funding with four extreme immigration riders. However after four attempts, this legislation cannot pass the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has indicated that the Senate can vote on a clean DHS funding bill – however House Speaker John Boehner has not provided assurances to Democrats that the House will quickly take up—and pass—such a measure. As of Wednesday morning, Speaker Boehner claims he is still waiting for the Senate to act and has not spoken to Majority Leader McConnell in weeks. **A shut down can be avoided, all it takes is House Republicans committing to a clean bill.**

If the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, over 30,000 employees from DHS will be furloughed. **Additionally, at least 169,000 employees would be required to work without pay.** In light of recent events in Paris, France and Sydney, and the evolving threats to soft targets in the United States, we cannot afford to run the Department of Homeland Security with a skeleton staff and no budget. Below are just some of the ways homeland security activities could be undermined during a shut down.

Critical State and local grant programs delayed: Without a full-year funding bill, the Department cannot award nearly \$2.6 billion in grant funding, including \$1.3 billion in Homeland Security Grants, \$680 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants, \$350 million for Emergency Management Preparedness Grants, \$120 million for Emergency Food and Shelter Grants, \$100 million for Flood Related Grants, and \$42 million in other critical grant programs to State and local governments.

Law Enforcement and Other Training Suspended: Without funding, DHS law enforcement training would cease and DHS would not be able to bring new hires into operational service as it works to secure the border, screen millions of passengers every day, and prepare for an upcoming presidential election.

Disaster Preparedness Hindered: If Congress fails to fund DHS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be forced to furlough 86 percent of its workforce. During the 2013 shut down, ongoing recovery activities and grant-making came to a halt. Should a disaster occur during this shut down, FEMA would have to recall members of its workforce for life-saving response activities; recovery efforts would be on hold.

Border Security Undermined: Without a full-year funding bill, DHS cannot complete a much-needed \$90 million investment in new and upgraded remote and mobile video surveillance systems in the Rio Grande Valley. These systems are necessary to provide the Border Patrol with increased situational awareness, early detection of border incursions, enhanced identification and classification of threats, and better tracking of suspect materials. Moreover, DHS cannot carry out the additional 16,526 flight hours along the Southwest border to detect illegal border crossings.

Weakens Border and Immigration Enforcement: Without full-year funding for DHS, the Department cannot hire an additional 207 ICE Enforcement and Removal Officers within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Additionally, there would be a shortfall of \$546 million to respond to unaccompanied children/families with children.

Ballooning Costs of Maritime Security Efforts: Congress' failure to fund DHS could result in contract negotiations to construct U.S. Coast Guard's 8th National Security Cutter being delayed, causing significant cost overruns. Additionally, midlife maintenance of USCG's 225-foot buoy tender ships, intended to improve operational reliability and stabilize maintenance costs, would be delayed. These assets are critical to maritime defense and security operations, drug interdictions, public safety, and ensuring the safe transit of commercial vessels along the U.S. coastline.

Delays to Critical Security Enhancements at the White House: Despite significant security breaches at the White House in the last year, appropriations limbo means that upgrades to U.S. Secret Service protective activities would be delayed, including improvements to White House security and addressing the extensive recommendations of the independent panel review. Near-term requirements that cannot happen until a full-year funding bill is passed include perimeter fence fortification, hiring, training, and equipment necessary to sustain current high operational tempo security posture.

Cyber and Infrastructure Security Operations Scaled Back: Failing to provide full-year funding to the Department of Homeland Security prevents it from making strategic improvements to its cybersecurity capabilities to address emerging cyber threats. Over all, only 57 percent of the National Protections and Programs Directorate would be operating during a shutdown, with only 9 percent of the Department's critical infrastructure protection workforce on the job.

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