

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2207

September 30, 2025

Catherine Szpindor  
Chief Administrative Officer  
HB-28, Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chief Administrative Officer Szpindor,

I am writing regarding the potential lapse in appropriations and shutdown of the federal government at midnight tonight. I understand that despite this anticipated lapse, members of Congress will continue to be paid.

The people I represent in mid-Michigan are justifiably worried about the impact of a government shutdown. There are more than 5,000 employees of the federal government in my district alone, none of whom will receive pay throughout the duration of the shutdown. Additionally, the heroic men and women who keep us safe, including our troops on the front lines and federal law enforcement at the border, will be forced to put their safety on the line without a paycheck.

This is wrong. In the event of a lapse in appropriations tonight, I believe that fairness dictates that my pay also be withheld until such time that normal government operations resume.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have an obligation to the American people to fund our government and provide the services they rely on. On September 19, 2025, I voted with conviction to pass H.R. 5371 and keep the government open. Unfortunately, Senate Democrats put politics before people and blocked this straightforward solution from going to President Trump's desk. It's time for them to join us in doing the right thing.

In the meantime, please withhold my net pay until an appropriations agreement has taken effect.

Sincerely,



Tom Barrett  
Member of Congress