



The 47th Flyer

News for California's 47th Congressional District
from Congressman Alan Lowenthal



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October 11, 2013

As I write to you today, my longtime friend is in a medical bed – mostly paralyzed, barely able to breathe, as he copes with the effects of Lou Gehrig's Disease.

As a result of his debilitating disease, he lost his business of 30 years in December. His partner of 24 years is a Department of Defense worker who was furloughed last week. While he is returning to work this week he does not know when he will be paid. They are now struggling through uncertainty. Will they make their mortgage payment? What will happen to their 19-year-old son who is in college? The overwhelming stress of my friend's medical condition and the loss of his partner's income is just one of the many heartbreaking stories that have affected constituents of the 47th Congressional District.

These furloughed employees are people with families; financial obligations; responsibilities; and now – due to the shutdown – with hardships.

Here we are – in the second week of a government shutdown – and we are seeing the human costs of a manufactured government shutdown. How sad.

I delivered a floor speech on Wednesday, where I talked about impacts of the government shutdown.



To view the speech, [click here](#).

I am hearing from more and more residents in the 47th District that are being impacted by this crisis. These are not numbers in a ledger. These are people —loved ones, neighbors, co-workers, and friends.

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What steps should Congress take to resolve the government shutdown?

The House and Senate must pass a clean funding bill that includes no unrelated policy issues

The House and Senate should pass a funding bill that includes delaying the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act

The House and Senate leadership must come to some other compromise

The President should broker a "Grand Bargain"

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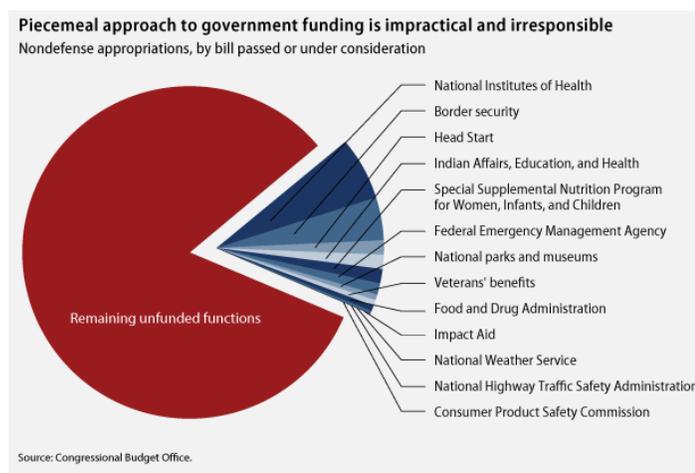
Why Piecemeal Doesn't Work

Despite the shutdown, my staff remains on the job to serve the residents of the 47th District, especially those who rely on key government agencies that have been shuttered.

We still have not been given an opportunity to vote on a funding bill that would re-open the entire government and put these employees back to work.

Instead, Congress has been voting this week on mini-funding bills to fund the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Head Start, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and survivor benefits for Department of Defense military service members.

The programs above are critically important to our nation and its citizens, but they are regrettably being used as political fodder. From the beginning of this horrible situation, I have stood firm in my belief that we should not be forced to pick and choose between re-opening certain areas of the government. If we are going to re-open the government, then we are going to re-open all of it.



However, a survivor benefits bill, H.J.Res. 91, was not a piecemeal bill. This funding bill is meant to reinforce the Pay Our Military Act, which was signed into law late last month just before the shutdown, and to make clear to the Administration that military death benefits are funded in the case of a government shutdown. I voted 'yes' on this bill just as I voted 'yes' on the Pay Our Military Act. It is unconscionable to me that the families of our fallen heroes suffer further because of inaction in Congress.

Re-Opening the Entire Government

The bottom line, as we move toward the end of the shutdown's second week, is that Americans are being hurt by this shutdown. This situation was created by Congress and it can be resolved by Congress. But to do that, we have to vote on a funding bill that opens the entire government, not the 18 percent that is important to one group or the other. All the government programs need to restart, all the federal offices need to reopen, and all the federal workers need to come back to work.

Some people have suggested that my colleagues and I in the minority need to compromise and negotiate with the House majority. I am pleased to say that my Democratic colleagues and I have cooperated with the Republican majority. We have accepted the Republican-requested funding levels in the

spirit of cooperation. It is time to bring this funding bill, unencumbered with irrelevant amendments, to the floor.

I will continue to urge Speaker Boehner to protect the lives of hardworking Americans, and continue to request a vote on an unencumbered funding bill.

As one of my constituents told me earlier this week: "It is time for a wakeup call in the Capitol."

Thank you,



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