



The 47th Flyer

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



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October 18, 2013

It has been a long few weeks, but I am glad to report to you that this irresponsible shutdown has ended, and the full faith and credit of our country remains, for the moment, intact. Wednesday's vote on the bipartisan Reid-McConnell funding bill proved that a bipartisan majority of Congress did the right thing.

Now, those 800,000 furloughed government employees – including over 30,000 in Southern California – can come back to work with the peace of mind that they will be able to pay their bills, put food on the table, and get back to work for the American people.

Details of the resolution

The Senate's Reid-McConnell bill, which passed in the House 285 – 144, is by no means a long-term solution. It was, however, a deal that was necessary to keep our government running and paying its bills. Our government is now funded through January 15th, and the debt ceiling has been extended through February 7th.

Those dates will be critical because both the Senate and the House of Representatives are now required to select representatives to confer and report back to the entire House by Dec 15 on a year-long budget.

Hopefully, that agreed upon budget will reverse the across-the-board sequester cuts.

\$24 billion dollars later

This shutdown, which could have been avoided, cost the U.S. \$24 billion dollars. I am relieved it ended before that number grew.

The shutdown was avoidable in its creation and potentially devastating in its consequences. Fortunately, calmer heads on both sides prevailed at the last moment, and the House voted on a temporary postponement.

Returning to 'Regular Order'

As I pointed out previously, one very important outcome of this temporary reprieve is that we are returning to "regular order", that is we are returning to using the established mechanisms to resolve differences between both Houses and both parties. The "regular order", which includes the convening of a conference committee between Senate and Congressional members to address long-term, systemic budgetary disagreements, is long overdue and is our best hope to move past the divisive tone in Washington.

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I believe that Congress must take this brief reprieve as a real chance to work together to solve real problems that face Americans every day. I am hopeful that both sides of the political aisle learned something valuable from this disaster.

Our work continues.

Thank you,



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