

DESPITE LOFTY PROMISES, GOP ONCE AGAIN HOLDING FEDERAL BUDGET HOSTAGE BY THREATENING SHUTDOWN

When the GOP took control of Congress in 2014, Republican leaders promised an end to the divisions and intra-party bickering that shut the government down in 2013. Governing by crisis was a thing of the past, and under Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's watch there would be "no government shutdowns and no default on the national debt." But those promises appear to be empty vows made by a party that remains split over the simplest of issues. And yet again the economic fate of the country is threatened by hardline conservatives led by Sen. Ted Cruz, this time over basic health services for women.

So why are conservatives going back to this strategy? While some in their leadership desperately tries to publicly distance themselves from the shutdown rhetoric – likely over concerns for the GOP brand – the more extreme wing of the party found that governing by crisis is an effective means for achieving their policy goals. Ultimately, the Tea Party factions of the conservative movement question the role of the federal government in our lives. Any action that impedes the governments' ability to function is a win in their book, even if it hurts small businesses, low-income children, and veterans' families.

Instead of focusing on the critical task of funding the federal government, conservatives have threatened to hijack the budget process to defund Planned Parenthood, an organization that provides reproductive health care and education to more than five million people each year. Egged on by radical, anti-choice groups, many Republican lawmakers have signaled they are willing to cost the economy billions of dollars and millions of jobs just to make it harder for women to receive health care.

Congress has returned from recess to several looming and critical deadlines, but the GOP majority has yet to present a plan, or to even unify around a promise to not force the government to shut down for the second time in two years. The shutdown that lasted for 16 days in 2013 cost the country's economy \$24 billion but the GOP didn't learn their lesson. In 2014 hard-line conservatives risked shutting down the government again to thwart President Obama's executive actions on immigration. After barely meeting the funding deadline, the GOP refused to give up on its attempts to gut the actions meant to protect people from being deported and risked a partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security, trying and failing to hold funding for the department hostage until the executive actions were defunded. Then again in May of 2015, GOP brinkmanship put another government agency in jeopardy, this time threatening to leave the Highway Trust Fund insolvent.

Some GOP leaders have promised no more shutdowns but those words do not hold much weight when these leaders have shown they cannot even control their own party. Since the 2013 shutdown, radical factions have succeeded in holding up bills and threatening funding for other government agencies. Even with control of both the Senate and the House, Republican leaders struggle to maintain order in a party divided against itself on whether to shut down the government to deny funding to Planned Parenthood.

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Funding For Federal Agencies Will Expire On September 30th

“Current Funding For Federal Agencies Will Expire” On September 30th. According to the Washington Post, “The first hurdle comes Sept. 30, when the current funding for federal agencies will expire. The proper funding process, approving 12 separate bills, ground to a halt just as it has every year in the last decade.” [Washington Post, [7/30/15](#)]

Along With The Budget “A Major Highway-Funding Program...Runs Out Oct. 29. And The Nation's Debt Ceiling Will Need To Be Lifted By Late Fall To Avoid A Damaging Credit Default.” According to the Los Angeles Times, “And it's not just the budget. A major highway-funding program is on a temporary fix that runs out Oct. 29. And the nation's debt ceiling will need to be lifted by late fall to avoid a damaging credit default. The confluence of these deadlines raises the prospects for an all-encompassing year-end accord that could resolve all or most of the issues, but it also increases the risk of a crisis; there has been no visible progress toward any big budget deal.” [Los Angeles Times, [7/30/15](#)]

Los Angeles Times: “Even Approving A Temporary Spending Measure Could Prove Difficult If Lawmakers Try To Use It As A Vehicle For Other Pursuits.” According to the Los Angeles Times, “The speaker announced last week that the best option would be for Congress to pursue a stopgap resolution to keep the government running from Oct. 1 until a broader agreement could be reached. But even approving a temporary spending measure could prove difficult if lawmakers try to use it as a vehicle for other pursuits. Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-Kan.), a conservative lawmaker who often bucks Republican leadership, said passing a short-term measure was ‘going to be really difficult’ without votes on other issues. And the longer the government shutdown threat lingers, the more it becomes tangled in other year-end deadlines.” [Los Angeles Times, [7/30/15](#)]

Los Angeles Times: “Several Republican Senators Vying For The Party Nomination Are Hoping To Use The Budget Process To Grab Headlines And Push Their Agendas.” According to the Los Angeles Times, “The 2016 presidential race is compounding the problem. Several Republican senators vying for the party nomination are hoping to use the budget process to grab headlines and push their agendas, including Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's campaign to defund Planned Parenthood and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's attempt to stop the nuclear deal with Iran. House Republicans want to overturn Obama's immigration actions. Any such policy rider attached to a budget would be deal-breakers.” [Los Angeles Times, [7/30/15](#)]

GOP Leadership Promised An End To Governing By Crisis After 2014 Election Wins Gave Them Control Of Congress...

GOP LEADERS PROMISED AN END TO “GOVERNING BY CRISIS” AND VOWED THERE WOULD BE NO MORE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

Washington Post: “Since The Big GOP Wins At The Polls,” House Speaker John Boehner And Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell Stressed “The Need For Republicans To Move Away From Their Habit Of Governing By Crisis.” According to the Washington Post, “Since the big GOP wins at the polls last month, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) and incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) have been stressing the need for Republicans to move away from their habit of governing by crisis that has defined the last six years in Washington. Looking to refurbish the party's brand, they have talked up plans to address tax reform, energy policy and curb federal regulations once Congress reconvenes next year, with GOP-crafted immigration reforms also being readied for consideration.” [Washington Post, [12/4/14](#)]

McConnell, Boehner And House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy “Said That The Republican-Controlled Capitol Hill Would Stop Governing By Crisis.” According to Politico, “Congress returns to Washington Dec. 1, just 10 days before government funding is set to expire, and [House Speaker John] Boehner and incoming Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) say they are intent on avoiding a government shutdown. Obama's executive action has inflamed conservatives, who believe he has overstepped his constitutional authority. Some hard-line GOP lawmakers are calling for a showdown with Obama, but Boehner and McConnell have no desire to relive the October 2013 government shutdown.

McConnell, Boehner and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said that the Republican-controlled Capitol Hill would stop governing by crisis. Boehner last week, however, said that he has plenty of energy to fight Obama.” [Politico, [11/24/14](#)]

McConnell: “Let Me Make It Clear: There Will Be No Government Shutdowns And No Default On The National Debt.” According to the Washington Post, “A day after he won reelection and Republicans retook the Senate, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) left no doubt that the edge-of-disaster showdowns with President Obama that have marked the past four years would be a relic of the past. ‘Let me make it clear: There will be no government shutdowns and no default on the national debt,’ McConnell said in a valedictory news conference in Louisville.” [Washington Post, [11/15/14](#)]

- **Washington Examiner: “To Bolster McConnell's Point, His Staff...Produced A Memo Citing Polls Showing Public Opinion Of Republicans Plunging During The October 2013 Shutdown.”** According to the Washington Examiner, “There’s no doubt where Mitch McConnell stands on the question of shutting down the government. ‘There will be no government shutdowns,’ the incoming Senate Majority Leader vowed the day after the midterms. To bolster McConnell's point, his staff recently produced a memo citing polls showing public opinion of Republicans plunging during the October 2013 shutdown — and only now climbing back to pre-shutdown levels. To Team McConnell, it’s an open-and-shut case: No more shutdowns.” [Washington Examiner, [11/17/14](#)]

Mitch McConnell On Incoming GOP Majority In The Senate: “I Want The American People To Be Comfortable With The Fact That The Republican House And Senate Is A Responsible, Right-Of-Center, Governing Majority.” According to the Washington Post, “Mitch McConnell has an unusual admonition for the new Republican majority as it takes over the Senate this week: Don’t be ‘scary.’ The incoming Senate majority leader has set a political goal for the next two years of overseeing a functioning, reasonable majority on Capitol Hill that scores some measured conservative wins, particularly against environmental regulations, but probably not big victories such as a full repeal of the health-care law. McConnell’s priority is to set the stage for a potential GOP presidential victory in 2016. ‘I don’t want the American people to think that if they add a Republican president to a Republican Congress, that’s going to be a scary outcome. I want the American people to be comfortable with the fact that the Republican House and Senate is a responsible, right-of-center, governing majority,’ the Kentucky Republican said in a broad interview just before Christmas in his Capitol office.” [Washington Post, [1/4/15](#)]

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell “Vowed...That Congress Would Ensure The Nation’s Financial Obligations Are Met.” According to The Hill, “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) vowed at a press conference before the recess that Congress would ensure the nation’s financial obligations are met. ‘We’re not doing government shutdowns and we’re not threatening to default on the national debt,’ said McConnell, who suggested the debt ceiling could be wrapped into a mega-negotiation over the budget and spending.” [The Hill, [8/9/15](#)]

National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairman Roger Wicker Said In 2014, “We’re Not Going To Have Any Government Shutdowns.” According to MSNBC, “[Sen. Cory]Gardner’s not alone in his revulsion at the idea of another shutdown fight over the White House’s pending action, which could potentially protect millions of undocumented immigrants from deportation, including the parents of children who are American citizens and immigrants with high tech skills. Newly elected National Republican Senatorial Committee chairman Roger Wicker offered a similar message Friday. ‘We’re not going to have any government shutdowns,’ he said. ‘We’re not going to have any threats of impeachment.’” [MSNBC, [11/14/14](#)]

Politico: House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy Claimed That “Legislative Cliffs Are Over,” Departing From The “Years Under Former Majority Leader Eric Cantor, When Brinkmanship And Dysfunction Ruled.” According to Politico, “House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy landed here from Los Angeles with a bang: He bluntly warned that Republicans will blow the presidency in 2016 if they don’t make some radical changes — and quick. [...] Legislative cliffs are over. One muscular, unified agenda will bridge both chambers. If he has his way, House and Senate Republicans will kick off the year at a joint retreat to get on the same page. He and Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) have already been holding private dinners with lawmakers from both chambers to build relationships. ‘You have a lot of new people over there and [they] don’t instinctively like the Senate to start with, which I get,’ Thune said in an interview. ‘In the House, it’s a dynamic where you really have to work it. And we’re trying to do a better job of that.’ McCarthy’s vision is a departure from the past four years under former Majority Leader Eric Cantor, when brinkmanship and dysfunction ruled. Now, alienated voters must be won back for the GOP to have a shot at the White House in 2016.” [Politico, [10/26/14](#)]

...But Republicans Have Continued To “Lurch From Crisis To Crisis”...

National Review Executive Editor Reihan Salam On Congress: “We Lurch From Crisis To Crisis.” According to an editorial by National Review executive editor Reihan Salam, “Earlier this month, the Senate passed a measure that will authorize funding for the Interstate Highway System for the next six years, drawing on a wide array of gimmicky revenue-raisers that have to be seen to be believed. Congress is unwilling to raise the federal tax on gasoline (I’m with them on that), yet it is also unwilling to rethink how the federal government finances surface transportation, and indeed the extent to which it should be involved in the surface transportation business at all. So we lurch from crisis to crisis.” [Reihan Salam – National Review, [7/30/15](#)]

Business Insider: Republicans Leaders Promised “An Era Of More Responsible Governance. But As Congress Lurches Toward A Jam-Packed Legislative Schedule This Fall, Infighting...Threatens That Vow.” According to Business Insider, “When Republicans took back control of the Senate and gained a bigger majority in the House of Representatives last year, their leaders promised an era of more responsible governance. But as Congress lurches toward a jam-packed legislative schedule this fall, infighting in both the House of Representatives and the Senate threatens that vow.” [Business Insider, [8/3/15](#)]

Business Insider: “Republicans Will Come Back To Washington In September With Just 10 Days To Figure Out How To Avoid A Second Potential Government Shutdown In Three Years.” According to Business Insider, “Republicans will come back to Washington in September with just 10 days to figure out how to avoid a second potential government shutdown in three years, as the right flank of the party is beginning to push to attach conservative priorities to the bill that keeps the government funded. The ramifications could extend all the way to the presidential campaign trail.” [Business Insider, [8/3/15](#)]

Business Insider: Attempts To Avert A Shutdown Will Happen “As The Right Flank Of The Party Is Beginning To Push To Attach Conservative Priorities To The Bill That Keeps The Government Funded.” According to Business Insider, “Republicans will come back to Washington in September with just 10 days to figure out how to avoid a second potential government shutdown in three years, as the right flank of the party is beginning to push to attach conservative priorities to the bill that keeps the government funded. The ramifications could extend all the way to the presidential campaign trail.” [Business Insider, [8/3/15](#)]

Republican Rep. Mark Meadows Introduced A Resolution That Aimed “To Force House Speaker John Boehner...From His Post.” According to Business Insider, “For a 56th birthday present to himself, Rep. Mark Meadows (R-North Carolina) took perhaps the most aggressive step yet against the Republican Party’s establishment. It marked perhaps the most bombastic challenge to Boehner’s leadership, and another point at which long-simmering tensions within the Republican caucus have exploded out into the open. Meadows introduced a resolution on Tuesday that aims to force House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) from his post. The resolution will now be referred to a powerful House committee full of members loyal to Boehner, and has no chance of succeeding. But the message he had attempted to send was clear.” [Business Insider, [8/3/15](#)]

In The Senate Ted Cruz “Lashed Out” At Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, “Accusing Him Of Lying Directly To Cruz’s Face About A Procedural Move.” According to Business Insider, “At issue was a topic that will come up again in the fall: The renewal of the Export-Import Bank’s charter, which expired at the end of June. The bank’s future has divided the party for more than a year. Sen. Ted Cruz, along with other populist conservative allies, say that the bank is representative of ‘crony capitalism,’ because its loans disproportionately benefit large companies. But some Republicans and most Democrats, including President Barack Obama, support reauthorizing the bank’s charter. Then, in a rare, rather extraordinary breach of the Senate’s usual decorum, as Cruz lashed out at [Senate Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell, accusing him of lying directly to Cruz’s face about a procedural move that Cruz thought could resurrect the bank. ‘I cannot believe that he would tell a flat-out lie,’ Cruz said.” [Business Insider, [8/3/15](#)]

AP: “When Republicans Took Full Control Of Congress This Year, They Were Determined To Show Voters They Could Govern Responsibly. Instead They’ve Been Tearing Each Other Apart In Extraordinarily Public Displays.” According to the Associated Press, “When Republicans took full control of Congress this year, they were determined to show voters they could govern responsibly. Instead they’ve been tearing each other apart in extraordinarily public displays, delighting Democrats and giving some in the GOP heartburn as the party aims for the White House in 2016. Just a few days ago, Texas

Sen. Ted Cruz took to the Senate floor to accuse Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of lying, provoking a public dressing-down from top GOP senators.” [Associated Press, [7/29/15](#)]

...And Continued to Call for Government Shutdown As Funding Deadlines And The Debt Ceiling Loomed

CONSERVATIVES THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT UNLESS PLANNED PARENTHOOD WAS DEFUNDED

NPR: “A Chorus Of Republicans Have Already Vowed To Reject Any Funding Measure That Contains Money For Planned Parenthood.” According to NPR, “That bill failed Monday. But it was simply Act 1 for even bigger drama coming in September. That’s when government funding expires, and a chorus of Republicans have already vowed to reject any funding measure that contains money for Planned Parenthood.” [NPR, [8/4/15](#)]

Newsweek: “A Handful Of Conservative Lawmakers Have Threatened To Reject The Measure Needed To Keep The Government Open Unless Planned Parenthood Funding Is Removed.” According to Newsweek, “The fate of a spending bill required to keep the government running remains uncertain as Republicans enter the August recess divided over tactics to strip federal funding from Planned Parenthood. A handful of conservative lawmakers have threatened to reject the measure needed to keep the government open unless Planned Parenthood funding is removed, splintering from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who vowed Thursday to avert a government shutdown despite debate over funding. ‘We’re not doing government shutdowns, and we’re not threatening to default on the national debt,’ McConnell (R-Ky.) said during a press conference.” [Newsweek, [8/11/15](#)]

- **The Conservative Lawmakers Splintered From Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, “Who Vowed...To Avert A Government Shutdown Despite Debate” Over Planned Parenthood.** According to Newsweek, “The fate of a spending bill required to keep the government running remains uncertain as Republicans enter the August recess divided over tactics to strip federal funding from Planned Parenthood. A handful of conservative lawmakers have threatened to reject the measure needed to keep the government open unless Planned Parenthood funding is removed, splintering from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who vowed Thursday to avert a government shutdown despite debate over funding. ‘We’re not doing government shutdowns, and we’re not threatening to default on the national debt,’ McConnell (R-Ky.) said during a press conference.” [Newsweek, [8/11/15](#)]

Sen. Ted Cruz “Has Not Backed Away From A Shutdown, Promising To Use ‘Every Procedural Means’ Available” To Stop Funding For Planned Parenthood. According to Newsweek, “A handful of conservative lawmakers have threatened to reject the measure needed to keep the government open unless Planned Parenthood funding is removed, splintering from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who vowed Thursday to avert a government shutdown despite debate over funding. [...] Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, meanwhile, has not backed away from a shutdown, promising to use ‘every procedural means’ available to block the more than \$500 million in federal grants allocated to the group annually. ‘Of course federal taxpayer funds should not go to funding an ongoing criminal enterprise that is committing a pattern of felonies selling the body parts of unborn children,’ Cruz told reporters August 7.” [Newsweek, [8/11/15](#)]

Roll Call Headline: “Ted Cruz Won’t Rule Out Shutdown Over Planned Parenthood.” [Roll Call, [8/7/15](#)]

Ted Cruz Campaign Spokesman Rick Tyler: “Anything Short Of Defunding Planned Parenthood Would Not Be A Win...Not Tying A Defund Vote To ‘Must Pass’ Legislation Is Not Being Serious” According to Morning Consult, “Already, 18 House Republicans have told leadership they will move to block any funding measure that does not defund Planned Parenthood. And the heat of the Republican presidential primaries is adding fuel to the fire: Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) told a nationwide group of pastors this week that a stand-alone bill would be ‘an empty show vote.’ Cruz has hinted he will use procedural tactics to hold up action on a continuing resolution that continued to fund Planned Parenthood. ‘Anything short of defunding Planned Parenthood would not be a win,’ said Rick Tyler, a spokesman for Cruz’s presidential campaign. ‘Not tying a defund vote to ‘must pass’ legislation is not being serious.’” [Morning Consult, [8/27/15](#)]

A Group Of 18 House Republicans Sent A Letter To Their Leadership “Saying That They Would Not Vote For A Government Spending Bill That Continued To Fund Planned Parenthood.” According to National Journal, “In the

House, a group of 18 Republicans sent a letter Wednesday to their leadership saying that they would not vote for a government spending bill that continued to fund Planned Parenthood. ‘It would lead to a fight, no question about that,’ said Rep. Phil Roe, chairman of the GOP Doctors Caucus. ‘There’s no doubt that it would, but I think this is a fight worth having.’ [National Journal, [7/30/15](#)]

Ten More Members Signed Onto The Letter In September, Totaling 28 House Republicans Who Said They “Will Oppose Any Legislation To Fund The Government That Also Continues To Fund Planned Parenthood.” According to The Hill, “Twenty-eight House Republicans now say they will oppose any legislation to fund the government that also continues to fund Planned Parenthood, according to an updated tally released on Tuesday by conservative group Heritage Action for America. That’s the maximum number of Republicans that GOP leaders can lose in a vote without help from Democrats. Ten more people have signed onto the letter, spearheaded by Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.), since it was initially sent to leadership in July.” [The Hill, [9/8/15](#)]

Rep. Phil Roe, Chairman Of The GOP Doctors Caucus, On Defunding Planned Parenthood: “I’d Be Willing To Shut The Government Down Over Human Life.” According to National Journal, “In the House, a group of 18 Republicans sent a letter Wednesday to their leadership saying that they would not vote for a government spending bill that continued to fund Planned Parenthood. ‘It would lead to a fight, no question about that,’ said Rep. Phil Roe, chairman of the GOP Doctors Caucus. ‘There’s no doubt that it would, but I think this is a fight worth having.’ ‘I’d be willing to shut the government down over human life,’ he said, adding that he does not foresee a shutdown actually happening.” [National Journal, [7/30/15](#)]

Led By Rep. Jim Jordan’s Freedom Caucus, Conservatives “Are Girding For Battle” And “See The Fight Over Planned Parenthood’s Money As One Of The Top Legislative Priorities Of 2015.” According to Politico, “But conservatives – led by Rep. Jim Jordan’s (R-Ohio) Freedom Caucus – are girding for battle. They see the fight over Planned Parenthood’s money as one of the top legislative priorities of 2015, and they are eager to do anything to end government support. Jordan, in an interview, said an investigation is important, but the leadership must cut off the women’s health group’s money in any spending bill that comes up this fall. He wants to shift the money to community health clinics. And conservatives seem unafraid to shut down the government to achieve their objective —though they say that’s not their goal.” [Politico, [8/25/15](#)]

Jordan: “I Think We Should Stand Firm And Not Fund Planned Parenthood, Plain And Simple.” According to Politico, “‘I think we should stand firm and not fund Planned Parenthood, plain and simple,’ [Rep. Jim] Jordan said in an interview Monday. ‘If Barack Obama and Harry Reid think it’s more important that, Planned Parenthood, after what we know about them, gets taxpayer money, they think that’s more important than funding our troops, that’s a sad commentary on Obama and Reid.’” [Politico, [8/25/15](#)]

Politico: “Rep. Diane Black...Said House GOP Leadership Has ‘Assured Her’ That Her Bill To Defund Planned Parenthood Would Get A Vote.” According to Politico, “Rep. Diane Black (R-Tenn.) said House GOP leadership has ‘assured her’ that her bill to defund Planned Parenthood would get a vote. ‘I’m looking forward to both the investigations and my bill coming to the floor for a vote,’ she said. Black’s bill, which has more than 160 cosponsors, would put in place an immediate moratorium on government funding for Planned Parenthood for one year while Congress investigates the group.” [Politico, [8/25/15](#)]

GOP LEADERSHIP SAID THEY ARE TRYING TO AVOID SHUTDOWN...

“The Approach To Block Funds To Planned Parenthood Is Reminiscent Of The Battle Leading Up To The 2013 Government Shutdown After Republicans Rejected A Spending Bill Including Funding For Obamacare.” According to Newsweek, “The approach to block funds to Planned Parenthood is reminiscent of the battle leading up to the 2013 government shutdown after Republicans rejected a spending bill including funding for Obamacare. ‘We’ve been down this path before,’ McConnell said. ‘This is a tactic that’s been tried going back to the ’90s, frequently by Republican majorities that always have the same ending—that the focus is on the fact that the government is shut down, not on what the underlying issue that is being protested is.’” [Newsweek, [8/11/15](#)]

Senate Majority Leader McConnell On Threatening To Shut Down The Government: “We’ve Been Down This Path Before ... This Is A Tactic That’s Been Tried Going Back To The ’90s, Frequently By Republican Majorities.” According to Newsweek, “The approach to block funds to Planned Parenthood is reminiscent of the battle leading up to the

2013 government shutdown after Republicans rejected a spending bill including funding for Obamacare. ‘We’ve been down this path before,’ [Senate Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell said. ‘This is a tactic that’s been tried going back to the ’90s, frequently by Republican majorities that always have the same ending—that the focus is on the fact that the government is shut down, not on what the underlying issue that is being protested is.’ [Newsweek, [8/11/15](#)]

- **McConnell: Threatening To Shut Down The Government Always Ends With The Focus “On The Fact That The Government Is Shut Down, Not On What The Underlying Issue That Is Being Protested Is.”** According to Newsweek, “The approach to block funds to Planned Parenthood is reminiscent of the battle leading up to the 2013 government shutdown after Republicans rejected a spending bill including funding for Obamacare. ‘We’ve been down this path before,’ McConnell said. ‘This is a tactic that’s been tried going back to the ’90s, frequently by Republican majorities that always have the same ending—that the focus is on the fact that the government is shut down, not on what the underlying issue that is being protested is.’” [Newsweek, [8/11/15](#)]

McConnell Said “That Defunding Planned Parenthood Will Have To Wait For A New President In 2017.” According to The Hill, “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) says that defunding Planned Parenthood will have to wait for a new president in 2017. ‘The president’s made it very clear he’s not going to sign any bill that includes defunding of Planned Parenthood, so that’s another issue that awaits a new president, hopefully with a different point of view about Planned Parenthood,’ McConnell said Monday on the Kentucky station WYMT’s ‘Issues and Answers.’” [The Hill, [9/1/15](#)]

- **The Hill: “However, McConnell Will Be Under Pressure From Members Like Sen. Ted Cruz... Not To Include Any Planned Parenthood Funding In The Larger Government Spending Bill This Fall.”** According to The Hill, “However, [Sen. Mitch] McConnell will be under pressure from members like Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and other presidential candidates not to include any Planned Parenthood funding in the larger government spending bill this fall. If President Obama then vetoed that bill, as expected, there would be a government shutdown.” [The Hill, [9/1/15](#)]

The Hill: “Even Some More-Establishment Republicans Have Said They Would Have Trouble Voting For A Spending Bill That Included Planned Parenthood Funds.” According to The Hill, “[Sen. Mitch] McConnell vowed last month that the government will not shut down over the issue, noting the failure of previous Republican efforts and saying, ‘We’ve been down this path before.’ Still, even some more-establishment Republicans have said they would have trouble voting for a spending bill that included Planned Parenthood funds. The House could also vote on a standalone bill to defund Planned Parenthood when lawmakers return this month in an effort to lessen pressure to defund the group in the spending bill.” [The Hill, [9/1/15](#)]

Mitch McConnell “Has Been Clear He Thinks A Shutdown Would Be A Disaster For The Party.” According to Politico, “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has been clear he thinks a shutdown would be a disaster for the party and he’s intent on avoiding one. ‘We’ve been down this path before,’ he said. ‘This is a tactic that’s been tried going back to the ’90s, frequently by Republican majorities that always have the same ending: that the focus is on the fact that the government is shut down, not on what the underlying issue that is being protested is,’ he told reporters in August.” [Politico, [8/25/15](#)]

...BUT CONSERVATIVES HAVE REFUSED TO FOLLOW

The Hill: A Conservative GOP Aide “Said McConnell Has Weakened His Own Negotiation Position By Promising In Advance Not To Let A Government Shutdown Happen.” According to The Hill, “One conservative GOP aide said [Senate Majority Leader Mitch] McConnell has weakened his own negotiation position by promising in advance not to let a government shutdown happen. The aide argued that Democrats can feel confident of winning concessions on spending increases by creating an impasse that threatens a shutdown.” [The Hill, [6/16/15](#)]

Fiscal Times: “McConnell Likely Will Have Little Influence Over The Conduct” Of Sen. Ted Cruz, “Who Recently Called The Senate Leader A Liar.” According to the Fiscal Times, “But [Sen. Mitch] McConnell likely will have little influence over the conduct of [Sen. Ted] Cruz, who recently called the Senate leader a liar for supposedly double-crossing his party on another controversy involving efforts to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.” [Fiscal Times, [8/28/15](#)]

The Atlantic: “The Small But Influential Hard Core Of House Conservatives Were Emboldened” By A Revolt That Was “Egged On” By Ted Cruz Over A Bill To Address The Border Crisis. According to the Atlantic, “A well-placed

House Republican source tells me GOP leadership is increasingly nervous about the potential for a rebellion on the funding bill. The small but influential hard core of House conservatives were emboldened by what happened earlier this month with the border bill: A proposal favored by Speaker John Boehner to address the border crisis with emergency funding and expedited deportations had to be pulled when conservatives, egged on by Senator Ted Cruz, revolted. The legislation the House passed instead had a smaller price tag and would bar President Obama from continuing his policy of allowing some young undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S. The Democrat-led Senate, meanwhile, did not manage to pass its own version of border legislation at all, so Congress failed to act on the issue.” [Atlantic, [8/27/14](#)]

Fiscal Times: “Cruz Appears Ready To Challenge The GOP Leadership On Spending By Rallying Religious Leaders And Conservatives To Push For A Defunding Planned Parenthood Regardless Of The Consequences.”

According to the Fiscal Times, “[Sen. Ted] Cruz appears ready to challenge the GOP leadership on spending by rallying religious leaders and conservatives to push for a defunding Planned Parenthood regardless of the consequences. Cruz and others want to wipe out \$500 million in federal funding for the organization after an anti-abortion group began posting surreptitiously recorded videos purporting to show that Planned Parenthood affiliates illegally profit from the sale of aborted fetuses to researchers.” [Fiscal Times, [8/28/15](#)]

Forbes Columnist Stan Collender: Mitch McConnell “Does Not Speak For The House GOP, Especially Not For The Tea Party Wing Of The Republican Party.” According to an opinion by columnist Stan Collender for Forbes, “In spite of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) last week stating as definitively as a politician can state that there won’t be a government shutdown, I am not reducing the estimate I made in my previous post that there’s a 60 percent chance it will happen this fall. There are two reasons I’m still at 60 percent: McConnell’s very limited influence in the House and his very weak position in the Senate. First, McConnell does not speak for the House GOP, especially not for the tea party wing of the Republican Party. This is particularly true on spending and tax issues where procedures like the filibuster and Byrd Rule and the generally more moderate Senate GOP positions on the deficit and debt have frustrated the House for some time.” [Stan Collender – Forbes, [8/10/15](#)]

- **Collender: “House Republicans Were Remarkably Silent On The Prospects For A Shutdown After McConnell’s Statement. No Member Of The House GOP Leadership Went Public Supporting Him.”** According to an opinion by columnist Stan Collender for Forbes, “As a result, [Sen. Mitch] McConnell has no ability to commit his more militant House colleagues to his no-shutdown proclamation and his statement means little to them. House Republicans were remarkably silent on the prospects for a shutdown after McConnell’s statement. No member of the House GOP leadership went public supporting him.” [Stan Collender – Forbes, [8/10/15](#)]
- **Collender: House Republicans “Certainly Aren’t Committing Not To Shutdown Washington If That Suits Their Political Needs.”** According to an opinion by columnist Stan Collender for Forbes, “That’s not to say the House leadership last week guaranteed to turn the federal government into a pumpkin at midnight on September 30. It does mean, however, that House Republicans haven’t agreed with [Sen. Mitch] McConnell on what to do when it comes to keeping the government operating. They certainly aren’t committing not to shutdown Washington if that suits their political needs.” [Stan Collender – Forbes, [8/10/15](#)]
- **Collender: McConnell’s Statement “Wasn’t The Announcement Of An Agreed-Upon GOP Policy To Prevent A Shutdown. At Best He Was Talking For Senate Republicans, And It’s Not Clear He Was Even Talking For Them.”** According to an opinion by columnist Stan Collender for Forbes, “Meanwhile, a CR that defunds Planned Parenthood and raises military but not domestic spending will be vetoed by the White House and there’s little-to-no-chance Congress will be able to override it. So even though [Sen. Mitch] McConnell’s statement seemed strong, it wasn’t the announcement of an agreed-upon GOP policy to prevent a shutdown. At best he was talking for Senate Republicans, and it’s not clear he was even talking for them.” [Stan Collender – Forbes, [8/10/15](#)]

Politico: “House GOP Leaders Have Yet To Settle On A Strategy To Avert” A Shutdown That Could Be Triggered By “An Explosive Confrontation” With Conservatives Over Planned Parenthood. According to Politico, “An explosive confrontation brewing between the House Republican leadership and conservatives over Planned Parenthood is threatening to shut down the government for the second time in three years. And House GOP leaders have yet to settle on a strategy to avert it.” [Politico, [8/25/15](#)]

WSJ Editorial: “The Problem Is That This Plan” To Risk A Shutdown Over Planned Parenthood “Lacks Even A Small Chance Of Success.” According to an editorial by the Wall Street Journal, “Ted Cruz and other architects of the 2013 ObamaCare shutdown strategy are urging the House to refuse to vote for a continuing resolution that contains Planned Parenthood money, even if it risks another government shutdown. The argument is that Republicans should stand up and fight, and the videos are so horrifying that this time public opinion will turn against President Obama. The problem is that this plan lacks even a small chance of success. The House can pass a budget without funding for Planned Parenthood but the Senate won’t.” [Editorial - Wall Street Journal, [9/8/15](#)]

WSJ Editorial: “Most Americans” Know Planned Parenthood “As A Women’s Health Clinic” And “A Standoff That Becomes A Shutdown Will Inevitably Focus The Public On The Shutdown.” According to an editorial by the Wall Street Journal, “In a Quinnipiac poll taken at the end of August, 69% of the public also opposed a shutdown over Planned Parenthood—including 53% of Republicans. Most Americans know the organization as a women’s health clinic, not as the country’s largest abortion provider. The videos and Congressional hearings are slowly changing that public misperception, but a standoff that becomes a shutdown will inevitably focus the public on the shutdown, not the videos.” [Editorial - Wall Street Journal, [9/8/15](#)]

WSJ Editorial: If “The House GOP Takes Mr. Cruz’s Advice Again,” A Shutdown Could Drag On “For Two Weeks, Or Four, Or Eight.” According to an editorial by the Wall Street Journal, “But let’s say the House GOP takes Mr. Cruz’s advice again and dares Senate Democrats and Mr. Obama to bend on funding Planned Parenthood. What if they refuse and the shutdown drags on for two weeks, or four, or eight? Sooner or later the government has to be funded. If public opinion doesn’t turn and Mr. Obama won’t bend, will Mr. Cruz and Heritage Action give Republicans credit for trying? Or, like the last time, will they accuse House leaders of premature ‘surrender’ and say public opinion would have turned, eventually, if only the GOP held out longer?” [Editorial - Wall Street Journal, [9/8/15](#)]

Politico: “Funding Runs Dry Sept. 30, So Republican Leaders Have Barely Have A Month To Figure It Out.” According to Politico, “Funding runs dry Sept. 30, so Republican leaders have barely have a month to figure it out. Many GOP aides are skeptical of using a funding bill to cut off the group’s government money, aware that the legislation would likely die in the Senate. And, even if Congress could broker a deal on Planned Parenthood, anything that cuts its government funding would likely be vetoed by President Barack Obama.” [Politico, [8/25/15](#)]

CONSERVATIVES THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT IN 2011 OVER PLANNED PARENTHOOD

2011: After Passing Two Stopgap Spending Bills, The Government Approached An April 8, Budget Deadline. According to the New York Times’ Caucus blog, “Think of Washington’s initial 2011 budget fights as spring training — for a season about to open in a hailstorm. Twice, Congress and the Obama White House have agreed on temporary spending bills that trim spending and keep the government open. Last week’s version averted a shutdown, at least until April 8.” [New York Times’ Caucus blog, [3/20/11](#)]

The Republican-Controlled House Refused To Pass A Bill Funding The Federal Government, Putting It At Risk For A Shutdown. According to The Guardian, “By refusing to pass a bill allowing the federal government to be funded, the Republican dominated House of Representatives is forcing a showdown with the White House and Barack Obama. If the shutdown occurs, Washington DC will grind to a halt and the full panoply of modern government services, from national parks to passport applications, will be closed for the time being.” [The Guardian, [4/8/11](#)]

Washington Post: Planned Parenthood Was “A Key Sticking Point” In Budget Negotiations. According to the Washington Post, “Congressional leaders agreed late Friday to a compromise that will keep the federal government funded for the remainder of the fiscal year — averting a government shutdown less than an hour before it was set to start. [...] As the debate went on, frustration bubbled on both sides. [Sen. Harry] Reid said the drawn-out negotiations had even provoked an outburst from Vice President Biden as a White House talking session hit snags Thursday night. ‘Joe Biden wasn’t flustered,’ Reid said when a reporter described Biden that way. ‘But he was damn mad.’ A key sticking point, aides said, was the argument about federal funding for groups such as Planned Parenthood — which was really an argument about abortion.” [Washington Post, [4/9/11](#)]

Republicans Wanted To End Federal Funding For Planned Parenthood. According to ABC News, “The elimination of \$363 million in federal funding for Planned Parenthood health care centers may well force a government shutdown at midnight tonight. Republicans want to block \$70 million Planned Parenthood receives each year under Title X, a program implemented under Republican President Richard Nixon in 1970 to provide contraceptives, cancer screenings, and pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease testing at community health centers across the country. And they want to cut off \$293 million the clinics [*sic*] receive through Medicare.” [ABC News, [4/8/11](#)]

“A Fight Over Federal Dollars For Planned Parenthood” Was “Blocking A Deal” To Avert A Government Shutdown. According to the Associated Press, “With the clock ticking to a partial government shutdown at midnight, the top Democrat in the Senate said Friday that the White House and Republicans have agreed on a spending cut of \$38 billion but a that fight over federal dollars for Planned Parenthood is blocking a deal. [...] Democrats said the GOP's demands on social issues, including denying federal dollars for Planned Parenthood, were at the heart of the deadlock.” [Associated Press via Huffington Post, [4/8/11](#)]

New York Times Editorial: Budget Negotiators Said “The Issue Of The Spending Cuts Barely Even Came Up. All The Talk Was About The Abortion Demands.” According to an editorial in the New York Times, “Democrats have already gone much too far in giving in to the House demands for spending cuts. The \$33 billion that they have agreed to cut will pull an enormous amount of money from the economy at exactly the wrong time, and will damage dozens of vital programs. But it turns out that all those excessive cuts they volunteered were worth far less to the Republicans than the policy riders that are the real holdup to a deal. After President Obama appeared on television late Wednesday night to urge the two sides to keep talking, negotiators say, the issue of the spending cuts barely even came up. All the talk was about the abortion demands and the other issues.” [Editorial – New York Times, [4/7/11](#)]

Then-Representative Mike Pence: “Of Course I Am” Willing To Hold Up The Federal Budget Over Planned Parenthood. According to a web post by MSNBC for The Nation, “When asked if willing to hold up the entire federal budget over de-funding national health care provider Planned Parenthood, Indiana’s Representative Mike Pence replied, ‘Of course I am.’” [MSNBC – The Nation, [4/7/11](#)]

- **USA Today: Pence “Pushed Through” The Amendment That Would Have Ended “Funding For Planned Parenthood Clinics.”** According to USA Today, “Why are we talking about women's health and abortion when the government is hours away from closing its doors? Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., a favorite of social conservatives, pushed through an amendment to a House-passed spending bill that would eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood clinics for the rest of the fiscal year.” [USAToday.com, [4/10/11](#)]

Congress And The President Agreed To A Deal “At Literally The 11th Hour.” According to the Christian Science Monitor, “At literally the 11th hour Friday night, House, Senate, and Obama administration avoided a government shutdown and came to agreement on a budget for the rest of the fiscal year that nobody loves but that all were willing to live with.” [Christian Science Monitor, [4/9/11](#)]

The 2011 Budget Deal Included Cuts To Pell Grants, Job Training, Children’s Health Care. According to the Washington Post, “More than half of the \$38 billion in spending cuts that lawmakers agreed to last week in the 2011 budget compromise that averted a government shutdown would hit education, labor and health programs. Funding for federal Pell grants, job training and a children’s health-care initiative would face cuts, senior congressional aides said. A multitude of other programs — from highway and high-speed rail projects to rural development initiatives — also would experience significant reductions. [...] Republicans were able to terminate more than 55 programs in the areas of health, labor and education, resulting in a total savings of more than \$1 billion. In addition, a minor component of President Obama’s health-care law — the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan — will be eliminated, and another, the Free Choice Voucher program, will be scaled back.” [Washington Post, [4/11/11](#)]

The 2011 Budget Deal Prohibited D.C. From Using Its Own Funds To Pay For Abortions. According to the Washington Post, “The spending deal agreed to Friday night to avert a government shutdown includes a provision banning the District from spending its own funds to provide abortions to low-income women as well as funding to continue a controversial school voucher program. The inclusion of the abortion policy ‘rider’ represents a victory for Republicans, who previously imposed such a ban when they controlled Congress and who included the provision in the version of the continuing resolution passed by the House in February.” [Washington Post, [4/9/11](#)]

DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD WOULD HURT AMERICAN WOMEN

U.S. News & World Report: “Eliminating Funding To Planned Parenthood...Could Have The Adverse Effect Of Actually Increasing Unintended Pregnancies – And Abortions.” According to U.S. News and World Report, “Reproductive rights advocates say anti-abortion activists are willing to harm women’s access to other health services, in order to stop Planned Parenthood. [...] Eliminating funding to Planned Parenthood, they say, would not only have the effect of making it more difficult for women to access non-abortion services, but that it could have the adverse effect of actually increasing unintended pregnancies – and abortions. A study from the Guttmacher Institute found that in 2013, 20 million women relied on publicly funded family planning services, 4.1 million of whom were served at Title X-supported clinics. Those services prevented approximately 1 million unplanned pregnancies and 345,000 abortions.” [U.S. News and World Report, [8/4/15](#)]

Abortions “Make Up Only 3 Percent” Of The Services Provided By Planned Parenthood, Which Also Provides “Preventative Health Services” And STD Testing. According to Politico, “Abortion may make Planned Parenthood a lightning rod but the organization says abortion services make up only 3 percent of the health care it provides, according to its latest annual report. [...] The clinics do provide preventive health services, such as breast and cervical cancer screenings, as well as testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Planned Parenthood Action Fund Executive Vice President Dawn Laguens said GOP-led efforts to defund its clinics would ‘block millions from getting basic health care’ and it’s unrealistic to suggest other health providers could absorb that work.” [Politico, [8/3/15](#)]

U.S. News & World Report: “It’s Not Clear Other Providers Would Be Able To Pick Up The Slack” If Planned Parenthood Was Defunded. According to U.S. News and World Report, “Federally supported health centers served some 21.7 million people in 2013, according to the National Association of Community Health Centers, about 12 percent of whom – 2.7 million – who go to a Planned Parenthood clinic each year. But the Guttmacher institute found that 36 percent of all patients who obtained reproductive health services at publicly funded health centers chose Planned Parenthood. While it’s difficult to quantify, it’s not clear other providers would be able to pick up the slack if Planned Parenthood were unable to meet their current demand because of loss of funds. ‘Community health centers are tremendous and do an incredible job serving communities,’ says Susan Berke Fogel, the director of reproductive health at the National Health Law Program, but ‘many community health centers are already way over capacity.’” [U.S. News and World Report, [8/4/15](#)]

Radical GOP Members Pushed Their Party Into The 2013 Government Shutdown Over Their Opposition To The Affordable Care Act

The 2013 Shutdown Lasted 16 Days And Cost The U.S. Economy \$24 Billion. According to CNN Money, “The United States may have dodged an economic catastrophe by raising the debt ceiling and opening the government, but it didn't emerge from the political debacle unscathed. The 16-day government shutdown took a \$24 billion chunk out of the U.S. economy, according to an initial analysis from Standard & Poor's.” [CNN, [10/16/13](#)]

80 House Republicans Signed Letter Urging Government Shutdown To Prevent Implementation Of The Affordable Care Act. According to the Associated Press, “More than a third of House Republicans urged their leader Thursday to trigger a government shutdown rather than fund the implementation of the health care overhaul they call ‘Obamacare.’ A letter from 80 Republicans asked Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to resist any spending bills that would accommodate the new health care law, which is nearing a critical stage of signing up millions of Americans for health coverage. Because it’s virtually certain that President Barack Obama and the Democratic-controlled Senate would reject such demands, leaders of both parties say the standoff likely would result in a partial shutdown of the federal government, similar to those that occurred in 1995 and 1996. [...] The House letter was authored by Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C. It urges Boehner ‘to affirmatively de-fund the implementation and enforcement of Obamacare in any relevant appropriations bill,’ including ‘any continuing appropriations bill.’” [Associated Press, [8/23/13](#)]

Radical Conservatives Took The Lead On The Shutdown Even As Other GOP Members Criticized It

Politico: Sen. Ted Cruz “Helped Instigate The First Federal Government Shutdown In 17 Years.” According to Politico, “In the end, the federal government opened back up, Obamacare stayed funded and Republicans took a beating in the polls. But in the final hours of the fiscal crisis, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz was resolute and firm, declining to admit defeat and

instead chastising the ‘Washington establishment’ for waving the white flag on the health care law. [...] Indeed, the senator and potential 2016 presidential contender’s crusade has given the GOP, helped instigate the first federal government shutdown in 17 years and overshadowed Obamacare’s bumpy rollout that began Oct. 1. The GOP took a hammering in public polls — Gallup said Oct. 9 the Republican Party’s favorability rating collapsed to an all-time low of 28 percent.” [Politico, [10/16/13](#)]

Cruz Argued That The Shutdown Was A Triumph; Said “We Elevated The Debate Over What A Disaster, What A Train Wreck, How Much Obamacare Is Hurting Millions Of Americans.” According to TIME, “Texas Senator Ted Cruz argued to powerful Iowa Republicans on Friday and that the partial government shutdown was a triumph because it got people talking, despite the fact that it ended in a compromise that funded the healthcare law he vowed to block. ‘We elevated the national debate over what a disaster, what a train wreck, how much Obamacare is hurting millions of Americans across the country,’ Cruz told around 600 Iowa Republicans at the state GOP’s annual fund raising dinner.” [TIME, [10/26/13](#)]

Then-Rep. Mike Pence On Potential 2011 Shutdown: “I Say Shut It Down. If We Don’t Make A Stand We’re Going To Shutdown The Future For Our Children And Grandchildren.” According to WISH TV 8, “That wasn’t the case during a Capitol Hill Tea Party rally in 2011. It came in the middle of a budget battle in Congress when Mike Pence was a leader in the House GOP. Then, a shutdown was averted unlike the one we’re currently witnessing, but the rhetoric sounds familiar. ‘I say shut it down,’ said Pence at the time. ‘You know nobody wants a government shutdown, but if we don’t make a stand we’re going to shutdown [sic] the future for our children and grandchildren.’” [WISH TV 8, [10/3/13](#)]

Many Republicans Viewed The Shutdown Strategy As A “Reckless Move” But Leadership Refused To Stand Up To Pro-Shutdown Conservatives

Reuters: “Many” Republicans Viewed The Shutdown Strategy As A “Reckless Move That Is Bound To Fail.” According to Reuters, “But many Republicans in both the House and the Senate oppose the shutdown strategy, viewing it as a reckless move that is bound to fail. Many worry the gambit would cause a backlash against their party ahead of the 2014 congressional elections.” [Reuters, [8/22/13](#)]

Reuters: House Speaker John Boehner And Majority Leader Eric Cantor Were “Cool To The Shutdown Strategy.” According to Reuters, “Those who are cool to the shutdown strategy include [House Majority Leader Eric] Cantor and House Speaker John Boehner. Just before lawmakers headed out on their August recess, Boehner sought to rally Republicans behind an alternative approaches to undermining Obamacare. In a closed-door meeting with House Republicans Boehner said the chamber would ‘take targeted, regular votes’ throughout the fall aimed at weakening Obamacare.” [Reuters, [8/22/13](#)]

Mitch McConnell Refused To Play A Constructive Role In Resolving The Shutdown Dispute. According to the Courier-Journal, “With the federal government shutdown about to start its second week on Tuesday, the Senate’s Democratic and Republican leaders appear far from any solutions. Instead, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., exchanged accusations Monday over blame for the budget impasse that has furloughed federal workers and shuttered many government services. McConnell, who has been a behind-the-scenes dealmaker in past fiscal showdowns, has not been playing that role so far this time. In remarks on the Senate floor, the Kentuckian pointed to the Senate Democrats as the culprits in the stand-off. In his own remarks, Reid countered that the GOP should end the shutdown before any talks can begin.” [Courier-Journal, [10/7/13](#)]

New York Times: McConnell Had Been At The Forefront Of Each Budget Crisis Since The Republican Landslide In 2010, But “Mr. Fix It” Was Looking More Like “The Invisible Man” In The Looming Government Shutdown. According to the New York Times, “At the climax of each of the fiscal crises that have paralyzed the nation’s capital since the Republican landslide of 2010, Senator Mitch McConnell, the wily Kentuckian who leads the Senate Republicans, has stepped in to untangle the seemingly hopeless knots threatening the economy. But as Congress trudges toward its next budget showdown, the Mr. Fix-It of Washington is looking more like its Invisible Man as he balances his leadership imperatives with his re-election.” [New York Times, [9/23/13](#)]

Outside Conservative Groups Encouraged GOP To Shut Down The Government

Over August Recess, Heritage Action And Other Conservative Groups Targeted Fellow Republicans. According to NBC, “And over the August recess, conservative groups have not focused their vituperation toward Democrats, or even Obama. Rather, Heritage Action — the political arm of the Heritage Foundation, now run by former Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C.,

— has traveled the country targeting fellow Republicans as apostates for refusing to sign onto the hard-line strategy. And the Senate Conservative Fund and Club for Growth have turned up the heat on key Senate Republicans for not joining with the conservatives' strategy.” [NBC News, [9/4/13](#)]

Heritage Action Behind Multi-City “Defund Obamacare Townhall Tour.” According to Politico, “A last-ditch effort to derail Obamacare started in a barn here Monday night — because it’s not going to start in Washington, advocates told a packed crowd at the opening night of Heritage Action’s August defunding tour. Heritage Action, trying to fuel an effort to defund the president’s health care law on the cusp of its launch, offered a bleak assessment of a Republican Party that’s held 40 anti-Obamacare votes: They don’t have the guts to do everything necessary to stop the law, and that’s where the Heritage faithful step in.” [Politico, [8/20/13](#)]

FreedomWorks Criticized “Deceitful Fear Mongering” About Consequences Of A Government Shutdown.

According to FreedomWorks, “There has been deceitful fear mongering surrounding military pay and a potential government shutdown. A so-called government shutdown would not affect the employment or pay of military personnel. The House Committee on Armed Services has clearly stated that ‘in any shutdown plan, all military personnel would be deemed exempt and would not be subject to furlough.’ Military pay is not dependent on the passage of a CR.” [FreedomWorks, [8/19/13](#)]

ForAmerica Called Mitch McConnell A “Chicken” For Not Getting Behind Defund Movement. According to video produced by ForAmerica, “[NARRATOR:] The chicken, or *Gallus gallus domesticus*, is common domestic fowl. In American slang, the chicken represents a coward. The chicken is also representative of a new breed of Republicans in Washington. They tend to say one thing. [SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL:] ‘Obamacare should be repealed, root and branch.’ [NARRATOR:] But when confronted with an opportunity to act, they often run. Far away. Without a sense of direction. Take Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. On the issue of Obamacare, he says: [MCCONNELL:] ‘This law is a disaster. And I want you to know we’re not backing down from this fight.’ [NARRATOR:] But when he has the chance to defund Obamacare, some say he is chickening out. Senator McConnell, conservatives don’t need a chicken when it comes to Obamacare. Leaders lead. But if you fund it, you own it.” [YouTube, [7/31/13](#)]

- **ForAmerica Is Chaired By L. Brent Bozell III.** According to ForAmerica’s website, “ForAmerica is chaired by L. Brent Bozell III. A lecturer, syndicated columnist to more than 50 newspapers around the country, television commentator, debater, marketer, businessman, author, publisher and activist, Brent is one of the most outspoken and effective national leaders in the conservative movement today. ForAmerica is his latest venture in a career that has advanced the conservative movement to the cutting edge in politics, media and culture; and, in so doing, achieved some of the movement’s greatest victories.” [ForAmerica.org, accessed [9/8/15](#)]
- **Bozell Founded The Media Research Center To Combat The “Blatant Left-Wing Agenda” Of The Press.** According to the Washington Post, “To conservative media critic Brent Bozell III, Whitewater is ‘the story reporters love to hate.’ [...] Or they will know it soon, if Bozell’s group, the Media Research Center, has anything to say about it. The Alexandria-based organization yesterday kicked off a \$ 2.8 million campaign, dubbed ‘Media Reality Check ‘96,’ to combat what Bozell called the media’s ‘non-stop onslaught against the conservative movement.’ Bozell told two dozen card-carrying journalists at the National Press Club that ‘the blatant left-wing agenda’ of the press ‘has made a mockery of the term ‘objective journalism.’ To underscore the point, he noted that ‘the three networks, once again, are not here.’” [Washington Post, 6/6/96]

Cato Institute: “Democrats Say That It Is Irresponsible To Hold The Economy And Budget ‘Hostage’ To Obamacare Repeal Efforts. I Don’t Think So.” According to a blog post by the Cato Institute’s director of tax policy studies Chris Edwards for Cato’s Cato At Liberty blog, “Democrats say that it is irresponsible to hold the economy and budget ‘hostage’ to Obamacare repeal efforts. I don’t think so. Unless repealed, Obamacare is a huge issue for the nation’s health care system and the economy in coming years, so any short-term unpleasantness is a trifle compared to what’s at stake. As for the economy, the stock market rose during the last shutdown period in 1995/1996.” [Cato.org/blog, [10/1/13](#)]

- **Cato: “Better Would Be A Threat To Close Down The Government Because The Government Should Be Shuttered. The GOP Should Seek To Eliminate Entire Programs And Agencies.”** According to an opinion by Cato Institute senior fellow Doug Bandow for Forbes, “Washington is all agog over the GOP attempt to defund ObamaCare by holding the federal government hostage. Congressional Republicans say: Cut the spending or Uncle Sam will have to stay home. Unfortunately, it’s hard to roll back today’s Leviathan state with control of just the House. Nor is the president

likely to abandon his signature domestic initiative, accomplished at great political cost. And while the public doesn't favor his plan to nationalize American health care, people seem even less enthused about Republican attempts to govern like the monkey-wrench gang. Better would be a threat to close down the government because the government should be shuttered. The GOP should seek to eliminate entire programs and agencies." [Doug Bandow – Forbes, [9/30/13](#)]

THE 2013 SHUTDOWN HARMED SMALL BUSINESS' AND HALTED SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, SICK PEOPLE, AND VETERANS' FAMILIES

The Shutdown “Caused As Many As 19,000 Children To Lose Access To Head Start.”

The Government Shutdown “Caused As Many As 19,000 Children To Lose Access To Head Start.” According to the Washington Post, “The government shutdown has caused as many as 19,000 children to lose access to Head Start today, the National Head Start Association reported Tuesday. More than 20 programs across 11 states did not get the annual grant they had been scheduled to receive Tuesday and cannot provide early education and related social services to children and families.” [Washington post, [10/1/13](#)]

“At Least Four” Head Start Early Childhood Education Programs “Ceased Operations” During The 2013 Federal Government Shutdown. According to the Washington Post, “At least four Head Start early childhood education programs have ceased operations since the federal government shutdown. And another joins the list at the end of the day on Friday, resulting in more than 5,000 children going without services nationwide.” [Washington Post, [10/3/13](#)]

The Shutdown Forced NIH To Turn Away Cancer Patients

The NIH Was Forced To Turn Away Cancer Patients, Including Children, During The Shutdown. According to Yahoo News, “A website operated by NIH and the Food and Drug Administration where new patients must first enroll before receiving the drug had ceased operations because of the shutdown. Finn is just one of potentially hundreds of patients around the country who have been turned away by NIH this week because of the shutdown. A spokeswoman for the agency estimated that about 200 patients a week enroll in current or new clinical trials held at NIH's facility outside Washington. Thirty of those patients are children — and of those, about a third are kids suffering from cancer. And until the federal government is open again, they are all being turned away.” [Yahoo News, [10/3/13](#)]

Because Of The Shutdown, Death Benefits For Fallen Service Members Were Halted

Because Of The Shutdown Death Benefits For Fallen Service Members Were Halted. According to the Washington Post, “Lapses in care for veterans and the families of fallen service members ignited new fury over the government shutdown across Washington on Wednesday, and two Cabinet secretaries, both Army combat veterans, did not disguise their disgust with Congress. Moving to defuse one of the more controversial cutbacks brought on by the shutdown, the Pentagon announced a plan Wednesday for a private charity, the Fisher House Foundation, to pay death benefits for fallen troops. Before the announcement, the families of six service members killed in Afghanistan since the shutdown had not received the usual benefits, including money to travel to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where those killed in war are brought home in flag-draped coffins. Nor is the government able to pay for burials and funerals, as is customary.” [Washington Post, [10/9/13](#)]

Washington Post: “The Pentagon Announced A Plan...For A Private Charity, The Fisher House Foundation, To Pay Death Benefits For Fallen Troops.” According to the Washington Post, “Moving to defuse one of the more controversial cutbacks brought on by the shutdown, the Pentagon announced a plan Wednesday for a private charity, the Fisher House Foundation, to pay death benefits for fallen troops. Before the announcement, the families of six service members killed in Afghanistan since the shutdown had not received the usual benefits, including money to travel to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where those killed in war are brought home in flag-draped coffins. Nor is the government able to pay for burials and funerals, as is customary.” [Washington Post, [10/9/13](#)]

Small Businesses And Farmers Were Hurt By The Shutdown

CNN Money: “Small Businesses Reeled From Frozen Government Contracts And Stalled Business Loans” Caused By The Shutdown. According to CNN Money, “Hundreds of thousands of federal workers were furloughed during the shutdown, but that was just one of the widespread effects of the first shutdown in nearly two decades. Federal contractors also

furloughed thousands of employees. Small businesses reeled from frozen government contracts and stalled business loans. Closed national parks hit the tourism industry.” [CNN, [10/16/13](#)]

CNN Money Poll: 46 Percent Of Small Business Owners Said Their Businesses Were Hurt By The Shutdown, Including “Cancellation Of Ongoing Work” And “Less New Work Coming In.” According to CNN Money, “The government shutdown has already caused some small businesses to lose work and money, according to a new CNNMoney/Thumbtack.com survey. Of the 100 business owners who responded, 46% said their firms were feeling the impact of the shutdown, including cancellation of ongoing work and less new work coming in.” [CNN, [10/4/13](#)]

New York Times: The Small Business Administration Ceased Processing Regular Small-Businesses Loans During The Shutdown, Leaving Would-Be Borrowers “In Limbo.” According to The New York Times, “For the Small Business Administration, the government shutdown is not as complete as one might think. Nearly 40 percent of the agency’s employees remain on the job, according to a shutdown plan published on the agency’s Web site. But even so, the agency has stopped processing regular small-business loans, leaving would-be borrowers in limbo.” [New York Times, [10/3/13](#)]

Small Businesses Near Government Buildings Lost Customers During The Shutdown. According to the San Francisco Chronicle, “Beyond the federal employees, hundreds of small-business people who run the coffee shops and restaurants around government buildings are already having a tough time. On Thursday, the third day of the partial government shutdown, it was like a ghost town cafe at Gateway Croissants near the massive Philip Burton Federal Building on Golden Gate Avenue in San Francisco. [...] It was worse at the Coffee Smith, a two-store coffee operation that has one location near the Burton building and another inside the newer, 18-story federal building at Seventh and Mission streets. The Seventh and Mission building, which usually holds thousands of workers, now has only a couple of hundred. The Coffee Smith had to cut back its hours, from a full day’s operation to a skeleton service.” [San Francisco Chronicle, [10/3/13](#)]

Farmers Could Not Apply For USDA Loans Or Receive Government Funding During The Shutdown. According to the Associated Press, “Farmers and livestock producers use the reports put out by the National Agriculture Statistics Service to make decisions — such as how to price crops, which commodities to grow and when to sell them — as well as track cattle auction prices. Not only has the NASS stopped putting out new reports about demand and supply, exports and prices, but all websites with past information have been taken down. [...] Since the U.S. Agriculture Department’s local farm services offices also have been shuttered, farmers can’t apply for new loans, sign up acreages for government programs or receive government checks for programs they’re already enrolled in.” [Associated Press, [10/7/13](#)]

After 2013 Shutdown GOP Divisions Continued To Threaten A Shutdown Or Partial Shutdown

2014: GOP THREATENED TO SHUT DOWN THE GOVERNMENT OVER OBAMA’S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS ON IMMIGRATION

Washington Post: “A Few Hard-Line Republicans” Threatened To Force A Government Shutdown In Order To “Thwart President Obama’s Recent Immigration Actions.” According to the Washington Post, “A few hard-line Republicans have talked about using the power of the purse as leverage to thwart President Obama’s recent immigration actions, but a similar budget confrontation last year led to a 16-day shutdown and a big drop in Congress’s approval ratings. If past is precedent, the public will not appreciate a repeat.” [Washington Post, [12/9/14](#)]

Washington Post: “Congressional Republicans Have Split Into Competing Factions Over How To Respond To President Obama’s Expected Moves To Overhaul The Nation’s Immigration System.” According to the Washington Post, “Congressional Republicans have split into competing factions over how to respond to President Obama’s expected moves to overhaul the nation’s immigration system, which are likely to include protecting millions from being deported. The first, favored by the GOP leadership, would have Republicans denounce what House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) has called ‘executive amnesty’ and use the party’s new grip on Congress to contest changes to the law incrementally in the months ahead. The second, which has become the rallying cry for conservatives, would seek to block the president’s decision by shutting down the government for an extended period until he relents.” [Washington Post, [11/14/15](#)]

The Atlantic: The “Small But Influential Hard Core Of House Conservatives Were Emboldened” After Revolting Against A Border Bill. According to the Atlantic, “The small but influential hard core of House conservatives were emboldened by what happened earlier this month with the border bill: A proposal favored by Speaker John Boehner to address the border crisis with emergency funding and expedited deportations had to be pulled when conservatives, egged on by Senator Ted Cruz, revolted. The legislation the House passed instead had a smaller price tag and would bar President Obama from continuing his policy of allowing some young undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S. The Democrat-led Senate, meanwhile, did not manage to pass its own version of border legislation at all, so Congress failed to act on the issue.” [Atlantic, [8/27/14](#)]

- **The Atlantic: “A Proposal Favored By Speaker John Boehner To Address The Border Crisis With Emergency Funding And Expedited Deportations Had To Be Pulled When Conservatives, Egged On By Senator Ted Cruz, Revolted.”** According to the Atlantic, “The small but influential hard core of House conservatives were emboldened by what happened earlier this month with the border bill: A proposal favored by Speaker John Boehner to address the border crisis with emergency funding and expedited deportations had to be pulled when conservatives, egged on by Senator Ted Cruz, revolted. The legislation the House passed instead had a smaller price tag and would bar President Obama from continuing his policy of allowing some young undocumented immigrants to stay in the U.S. The Democrat-led Senate, meanwhile, did not manage to pass its own version of border legislation at all, so Congress failed to act on the issue.” [Atlantic, [8/27/14](#)]
- **The Atlantic: “House Conservatives Like Michele Bachmann And Steve King Considered The Episode A Major Victory. Bachmann Called It A Highlight Of Her Career.”** According to the Atlantic, “House conservatives like Michele Bachmann and Steve King considered the episode a major victory. Bachmann called it a highlight of her career. Now, Republican leaders are worried that conservatives will not go along with a simple government-funding bill unless it reflects their priorities.” [Atlantic, [8/27/14](#)]

Washington Post: The Call To Block The President’s Executive Actions “By Shutting Down The Government For An Extended Period Until He Relents,” Became “The Rallying Cry For Conservatives.” According to the Washington Post, “Congressional Republicans have split into competing factions over how to respond to President Obama’s expected moves to overhaul the nation’s immigration system, which are likely to include protecting millions from being deported. The first, favored by the GOP leadership, would have Republicans denounce what House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) has called ‘executive amnesty’ and use the party’s new grip on Congress to contest changes to the law incrementally in the months ahead. The second, which has become the rallying cry for conservatives, would seek to block the president’s decision by shutting down the government for an extended period until he relents.” [Washington Post, [11/14/15](#)]

Republican Rep. Matt Salmon Wrote A Letter, With “More Than 50 Co-Signers,” Demanding The Bill To Fund The Government “Block Funds For The Purpose Of Implementing Any Executive Action On Immigration.” According to Roll Call, “Arizona Republican Rep. Matt Salmon has penned a letter, with more than 50 Republican co-signers, to House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers of Kentucky and ranking Democrat Nita M. Lowey of New York asking them to include a rider on a bill to fund the government — either an omnibus or another continuing resolution — that would block funds for the purpose of implementing any executive action on immigration.” [Roll Call, [11/13/14](#)]

A Shutdown Was Averted In A Late Weekend Vote. According to CNN, “The Senate approved a \$1.1 trillion spending measure Saturday night funding most of the government through September, removing the threat of a shutdown for much of 2015. The bipartisan 56-40 vote sends the bill to President Barack Obama, who is expected to sign it into law. Passage closes a chapter of yet another fiscal battle on Capitol Hill. It came after attempts to delay the legislation by liberals who sought to strip out a policy provision that eases a Wall Street regulation and conservatives who tried to slow action on immigration.” [CNN, [12/13/14](#)]

The Funding Measure Passed Only After “A Small Band Of Conservatives” Risked A Shutdown And “Sabotaged An Agreement By Democratic Leader Harry Reid And Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.” According to CNN, “The Senate approved a \$1.1 trillion spending measure Saturday night funding most of the government through September, removing the threat of a shutdown for much of 2015. [...] In fact, the Senate would not have been in session this weekend if it hadn't been for a small band of conservatives who sabotaged an agreement by Democratic Leader Harry Reid and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, who wanted to vote on the bill Monday.” [CNN, [12/13/14](#)]

- **CNN: In A “Procedural Sneak Attack,” The Group Led By Sen. Ted Cruz, Forced The Senate To Stay And Tried To Get A Vote Declaring The Bill Unconstitutional Because It Funded Obama’s Immigration Executive Orders.** According to CNN, “In a late Friday night procedural sneak attack, carried out after [Sen. Mitch] McConnell left the Capitol, the group led by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, forced the Senate to stay. They also pressed to get a vote on a measure to declare the bill unconstitutional because it funds what they say is ‘illegal amnesty’ included in the President’s recent executive orders on immigration.” [CNN, [12/13/14](#)]

FEBRUARY 2015: GOP THREATENED TO PARTIALLY SHUT DOWN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IMMIGRATION

Politico: “A Faction Of House And Senate Conservatives” Pushed Republican Leaders “To Take The Battle Over The Homeland Security Department To The Brink,” Over Immigration. According to Politico, “A faction of House and Senate conservatives is pushing Republican leaders to take the battle over the Homeland Security Department to the brink, arguing the party would win the public relations war with Democrats if a standoff over immigration led to a shutdown of the agency.” [Politico, [2/11/15](#)]

Politico: “The House Began The Fight,” By Amending A Must-Pass DHS Spending Bill With Provisions To Block Obama’s Actions “To Defer Deportations And Provide Work Permits For Up To 5 Million Undocumented Immigrants.” According to Politico, “The House began the fight last month, amending the \$39.7 billion must-pass DHS spending bill with provisions that would block Obama’s 2014 and 2012 decisions to defer deportations and provide work permits for up to 5 million undocumented immigrants. But last week, Senate Democrats filibustered three attempts to debate the House plan, demanding a ‘clean’ bill free of immigration riders.” [Politico, [2/11/15](#)]

Politico: “For Weeks,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell And House Speaker John Boehner “Have Been On Opposite Pages On Their Strategies To Break The Immigration-DHS Impasse.” According to Politico, “For weeks, McConnell and Boehner have been on opposite pages on their strategies to break the immigration-DHS impasse — a sign of how the two men will have to continually reconcile conflicting agendas between the two chambers despite having total control of Congress for the first time in nearly a decade. The problem started after the November election, when Obama, ignoring warnings from GOP leaders, proceeded with a plan to defer deportations and provide work permits to roughly 5 million undocumented immigrants.” [Politico, [2/24/15](#)]

Politico: “Leading Conservatives, Such As Sen. Jeff Sessions,” Pushed For A DHS Shutdown, “Asserting That Democrats Would Be The Political Losers If A DHS Shutdown Occurs.” According to Politico, “The immigration matter was debated privately at a Republican lunch Wednesday in the Senate’s Mansfield Room, with leading conservatives, such as Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, asserting that Democrats would be the political losers if a DHS shutdown occurs, several senators said. Other immigration hard-liners, like Reps. Steve King (R-Iowa) and Bill Flores (R-Texas), also argued Wednesday their party would be in a stronger political position if Congress fails to meet the Feb. 27 funding deadline.” [Politico, [2/11/15](#)]

- **Politico: “Sessions Angrily Dismissed” Mitch McConnell, And Argued The GOP “Should Be Prepared For An All-Out Battle With Democrats To...Force President Barack Obama To Drop His Immigration Policies.”** According to Politico, “A tense debate broke out during a closed-door meeting of Senate Republicans on Tuesday, a sign of the serious hurdles GOP leaders face ahead of a critical funding deadline for the nation’s chief domestic anti-terrorism agency. According to four senators at the lunch session, a frustrated Sen. Jeff Sessions angrily dismissed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s plan, arguing that his party should be prepared for an all-out battle with Democrats to ratchet up public pressure and force President Barack Obama to drop his immigration policies. But Sen. Kelly Ayotte, a New Hampshire Republican who could face a tough reelection next year, sharply countered that McConnell’s plan was the only option to not hamper law enforcement agencies that rely on money from the Department of Homeland Security.” [Politico, [2/24/15](#)]

Politico: “Other Immigration Hard-Liners,” Like Reps. Steve King And Bill Flores, “Also Argued Wednesday Their Party Would Be In A Stronger Political Position If Congress Fails To Meet The Feb. 27 Funding Deadline.” According to Politico, The immigration matter was debated privately at a Republican lunch Wednesday in the Senate’s Mansfield Room, with leading conservatives, such as Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama, asserting that Democrats would be the political losers if a DHS shutdown occurs, several senators said. Other immigration hard-liners, like Reps. Steve King (R-Iowa)

and Bill Flores (R-Texas), also argued Wednesday their party would be in a stronger political position if Congress fails to meet the Feb. 27 funding deadline.” [Politico, [2/11/15](#)]

The Secretary Of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, Warned That National Security Would Be At Risk Unless Congress Funded The Department. According to the USA Today, “The secretary of Homeland Security went on five Sunday shows to warn that national security will be at risk unless Congress agrees to fund the department. ‘I’m hoping someone will exercise some leadership,’ Secretary Jeh Johnson said on CNN’s State of the Union. If the administration and congressional Republicans can’t agree by a Friday deadline, Johnson said he will have to furlough about 30,000 employees — mostly office workers — while other front-line agents will have to work without paychecks.” [USA Today, [2/22/15](#)]

- **“Johnson Said He Will Have To Furlough About 30,000 Employees...While Other Front-Line Agents Will Have To Work Without Paychecks.”** According to the USA Today, “The secretary of Homeland Security went on five Sunday shows to warn that national security will be at risk unless Congress agrees to fund the department. ‘I’m hoping someone will exercise some leadership,’ Secretary Jeh Johnson said on CNN’s State of the Union. If the administration and congressional Republicans can’t agree by a Friday deadline, Johnson said he will have to furlough about 30,000 employees — mostly office workers — while other front-line agents will have to work without paychecks. Citing new terrorist threats against U.S. facilities, including shopping malls, Johnson said: ‘It’s absurd that we’re even having this conversation.’” [USA Today, [2/22/15](#)]

Guardian: “After Months Of Drama” DHS Was Funded “As House Republicans Folded On The Issue Of Taking Combative Steps To Overturn Barack Obama’s Executive Order On Immigration.” According to the Guardian, “The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will remain funded after months of drama as House Republicans folded on the issue of taking combative steps to overturn Barack Obama’s executive order on immigration. The House passed a so-called ‘clean’ funding bill on Tuesday, keeping the lights on at DHS through September. The bill passed, 257-167, as 75 Republicans – including a rare vote from the House speaker, John Boehner – joined with all 182 Democrats to avert a shutdown.” [Guardian, [3/3/15](#)]

Guardian: DHS Was Funded “After Nearly A Month Of Legislative Ping-Pong,” Including A Temporary, One-Week Extension And A Republican Rebellion On A Three-Week Extension. According to the Guardian, “After nearly a month of legislative ping-pong, which included a temporary, one-week extension of DHS funding, [Speaker John] Boehner finally yielded. In remarks to his caucus on Tuesday just before Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu addressed a joint session of Congress, Boehner said he didn’t want to risk a DHS shutdown, which he said ‘wasn’t an option’ with the current level of threats to national security. Boehner also didn’t think a short-term extension of DHS funding would be viable, particularly after a number of Republicans rebelled on a three-week extension of funding on Friday.” [Guardian, [3/3/15](#)]

MAY 2015: GOP THREATENED TO LET THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND RUN OUT, CAUSING A PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN OF HIGHWAY PROGRAMS

A Highway Trust Fund “Shortfall” Threatened “To Stall Construction Projects” In Summer Of 2015 And “Would Cost Thousands Of Jobs.” According to The Hill, “Budgets that were released this week by Republicans leaders in the House and Senate offer little relief for a transportation funding shortfall that is threatening to stall construction projects this summer. Lawmakers are scrambling to come up with a way to pay for an extension of a transportation funding measure that is currently scheduled to expire in May. [...] The Department of Transportation has warned that it will have to reduce reimbursements for infrastructure projects to states if the Highway Trust Fund runs out of money this summer. Transportation advocates have said that a shutdown in May would cost thousands of jobs because summer is typically the beginning of the busiest construction in the U.S.” [The Hill, [3/18/15](#)]

Congress Was Forced “To Scramble” To Avoid “A Partial Government Shutdown Of Highway Programs.” According to The Hill, “Transportation funding is running on empty, forcing Congress to scramble to meet its next major deadline before the tank runs dry on May 31. [...] ‘With just 80 days remaining until a partial government shutdown of highway programs, it’s time for tax writers in the House and Senate to put their cards on the table,’ Association of Equipment Manufacturers spokesman Michael O’Brien said. ‘They would be well served to consider the many emerging proposals, which are proving to be both financially and politically viable.’” [The Hill, [3/13/15](#)]

MSNBC: “The Right Is Already Screaming Bloody Murder” Over A Bipartisan Bill To Fund The Highway Trust Fund In 2014. According to MSNBC, “One unexpected solution was unveiled yesterday. “Together with Sen. Chris Murphy, a Connecticut Democrat, [Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee] unveiled a proposal on Wednesday to hike the federal gas tax by 12 cents over the next two years, raising it by six cents each year. It would then index the gas tax to inflation going forward to close a funding shortfall that’s estimated to grow to \$160 billion over the next decade. The Murphy-Corker plan is the first bipartisan proposal to the hobbled Highway Trust Fund – and a rare Republican endorsement of higher taxes.’ [...] The right is already screaming bloody murder. Republicans may be divided, but there’s one unifying belief that nearly every GOP official embraces: taxes should never go up on anyone, by any amount, at any time, for any reason. The Murphy-Corker proposal would struggle to overcome a Republican filibuster in the Senate and likely stands no chance at all in GOP-led House.” [MSNBC.com, [6/19/14](#)]

Congress “Managed To Avoid A Shutdown Of Highway Funding For Another Three Months, But Pushed The Difficult Questions” Of Long-Term Funding “Into An Already Bursting Fall.” According to U.S. News & World Report, “Congress has managed to avoid a shutdown of highway funding for another three months, but pushed the difficult questions of how to pay for the nation’s road and rail projects long-term into an already bursting fall. The Senate on Thursday passed a pair of measures: one to authorize the Highway Trust Fund for six years with three years of funding and a second, three-month extension already passed by the House to keep the fund afloat. The Senate passed the House patch ostensibly to buy time for both congressional chambers to come to a long-term agreement.” [U.S. News & World Report, [7/30/15](#)]