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Biden's plan as government shutdown looms: Ignore the House and follow the Senate

by Christian Datoc, White House Reporter

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Unmute



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President [Joe Biden](#) will likely not sign any continuing resolution from [House Republicans](#) given the bipartisan effort in the [Senate](#) to fund the government through the full [appropriations process](#), [White House](#) officials said.

Furthermore, the White House is seeking to undercut support among centrist House Republicans for House Speaker [Kevin McCarthy](#)'s (R-CA) attempts to stitch together a continuing resolution ahead of the government funding deadline at the end of the month.

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White House officials said McCarthy's "Republican only" legislation breaks the spending truce brokered by the president and the speaker this summer by setting spending levels [below the agreement](#) that came out of the debt ceiling showdown.

Those officials believe that centrist Republican lawmakers aren't fully aware of how McCarthy's "partisan games" will result in longer-term funding cuts, including to programs the GOP and conservative voters support.

impacts, some of which could include:

- 800 fewer U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents and officers, which the White House estimates would allow 50,000 pounds of cocaine, 300 pounds of fentanyl, 700 pounds of heroin, and 6,000 pounds of methamphetamine to be smuggled into the country.
- 125,000 seniors and children losing access to healthcare and other nutritional services.
- 110,000 children losing slots in the Head Start program.
- 40,000 fewer teachers, affecting an estimated 26 million students.
- 145 fewer local law enforcement officials stemming from Department of Justice cuts.
- 250,000 workers losing job training and employment opportunities.

"The continuing resolution they introduced this week makes indiscriminate cuts to programs that millions of hardworking Americans count on — violating the agreement the Speaker negotiated with President Biden and rejecting the bipartisan approach of the Senate," the fact sheet indicated. "House Republicans have made clear that these cuts are designed to force longer-term cuts, in-line with their extreme and damaging appropriations bills."

White House officials additionally highlighted McCarthy's inability to coalesce the most conservative wing of the caucus around any singular spending proposal.

McCarthy suspended action on the continuing resolution Tuesday afternoon until later in the week following an all-conference meeting that morning.

Earlier in the day, the White House also [criticized](#) House Republicans for prioritizing [impeachment hearings of Biden](#) ahead of the [looming shutdown](#) deadline.

"Staging a political stunt hearing in the waning days before they may shut down the government reveals their true priorities: To them, baseless personal attacks on President Biden are more important than preventing a government shutdown and the pain it would inflict on American families," White House

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"The President has b
American people, including preventing the devastating and harmful cuts proposed by House Republicans
that are hurtling us toward a government shutdown," he added. "House Republicans should drop these
silly political Washington games and actually do their job to prevent a government shutdown."

Meanwhile, the Senate is [slowly moving forward](#) with its own attempts to fund the government through
the normal appropriations channels, which the White House says the president supports.

All 12 annual spending bills were passed out of committee with bipartisan support earlier in September
before Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) invoked Senate Rule 16, which prohibits senators from expanding the
normal scope of appropriations packages, to block Senate Appropriations Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-
WA) and Vice Chairwoman Susan Collins (R-ME) from submitting a "minibus" amendment to the military
construction and veterans affairs bill.

Senate Majority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#) (D-NY) moved Monday toward [suspending Senate rules](#) and
allowing the minibus to advance.

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"It's unfortunate that one member who does not represent the views of most senators prevented us from
moving forward last week," Schumer said Monday ahead of a rules vote later this week.

However, Democrats would still require two-thirds support from the full chamber to suspend Rule 16,
which Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL) admitted is "not an easy thing."

