



U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

January 22, 2019

Dr. Keith Hall
Director
Congressional Budget Office
402 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Hall:

Portions of the Federal government have been closed since December 22. As we head into the shutdown's fifth week, more than 800,000 federal workers are going without pay, businesses across the country are facing disruption, and millions of Americans are unable to access essential government services. New details of the shutdown's human toll continue to emerge each day.

With the shutdown now the longest on record, we are also increasingly concerned about its impact on the economy. Because we have no precedent of a shutdown extending beyond several weeks, relying upon the cost estimates of previous shutdowns may understate the harm the economy is currently facing.

To help Congress better understand the economic consequences of a prolonged shutdown, we request that the Congressional Budget Office provide an estimate of the macroeconomic effects of the partial government shutdown. Specifically, this study should provide:

- An estimate of the shutdown's impact on the economy; and
- An assessment of how the negative effects of the shutdown are likely to increase in magnitude the longer the shutdown continues.

The staff contact for this request is Gabrielle Elul, who can be reached at 226-1681. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John A. Yarmuth
Chairman, Committee on the Budget

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

CC: Jeffrey Werling
Assistant Director, Macroeconomic Analysis Division
Leigh Angres
Associate Director, Legislative Affairs