Federal Shutdown Persists as Congress Remains at a Standstill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The federal shutdown remains in place as Senate Democrats continue to hold firm against the continuing resolution passed by the House last month.

At the heart of the dispute between the Democrats and Republicans are the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) enhanced premium tax credits. These tax credits were designed to reduce the cost of health care premiums and are set to expire at the end of the calendar year.

Assuming these tax credits are not extended when the healthcare.gov marketplace opens for enrollment on November 1, 2025, it is expected that premiums will reflect prices up to 90% due to the expected expiration of the tax credits.

Both the House Majority Leader, Mike Johnson (R-LA-04) and the Senate Majority Leader, John Thune (R-SD) have made verbal commitments to Democrats to hold votes on the extension of these tax credits *if* the Democrats vote in favor of the House's continuing resolution. The Democrats have responded that there is nothing preventing the Republican party from holding discussions and votes on the extension now.

The White House, in an effort to motivate Democrats to vote in favor of the continuing resolution, has engaged in large-scale reduction in force (i.e. permanent layoffs) efforts across the federal government. As of now, over 4,000 of the reduction in force notices have gone out and there are plans to send thousands more. One district court in California, however, has granted a temporary restraining order on these reductions, and they have not yet gone into effect.

The White House has also threatened to withhold backpay from the hundreds of thousands of federal employees furloughed during the shutdown. Both Democrat and Republican members of Congress have raised alarm at this and claimed it would be a violation of law.

NNWO continues to monitor the shutdown and provide daily reports to Navajo leadership, and we continue to advocate for the interests of the Nation throughout this process.