

AMERICAN PAYROLL ASSOCIATION

August 1, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Re: In support of S. 1877, the *Government Shutdown Accountability Act*

Dear Senator McConnell:

The American Payroll Association (APA) supports legislation to establish procedures and consequences in the event of failure to complete regular appropriations. S. 1877, the *Government Shutdown Accountability Act*, is a reasonable approach that would encourage senators, representatives, and administration employees to prevent a shutdown and yet retain the flexibility for important debate about the federal budget.

About APA

APA is a professional organization serving the interests of about 21,000 payroll professionals nationwide. Our primary mission is to educate members about the laws and regulations that impact payroll operations. APA's advocacy goals center on reduced administrative burden for government, employers, and individual workers. We work with many federal agencies, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Concerns About a Federal Government Shutdown

APA members interact with federal agencies on a daily basis, in which a federal government shutdown creates a significant burden on the ability to conduct business. For example, some businesses must file federal taxes every day. A government shutdown makes filing difficult, especially when employers need answers to questions or must address technical issues with electronic filing. Similarly, when hiring a new employee, immigration-related employment verification must be performed within three days of the first day of work. For those employers using E-Verify, the delay in processing from a shutdown can make new employees anxious, regardless of citizenship status, which in turn can reduce productivity. For state programs tied

to federal programs, the confusion on how to proceed is even more confusing for payroll departments and employers. This includes delays in new hire reporting that can impact the management of child support and compliance with wage and hour laws.

Bill Provisions

S. 1877 ensures that critical federal government decisionmakers remain in Washington, D.C., or return to Washington, D.C., until an agreement is reached on federal appropriations. This includes:

- No use of taxpayer-funded travel for the White House Office of Management and Budget and Cabinet members, members of the House and Senate, and committee and personal staff of the House and Senate. This also applies to reimbursement of travel expenses and use of campaign funding for travel.
- No other votes in order in the House and Senate unless they apply to passage of appropriations bills, national emergency legislation, or mandatory quorum calls in the Senate.
- Implementation of an automatic continuing resolution at last year's spending levels until passage of a bill regarding all remaining lapsed spending for that fiscal year.
- A required quorum vote at noon each day in the House and Senate to confirm attendance.

Federal laws place specific timelines on payroll departments and employers to comply with significant penalties for missing deadlines. Asking the House, Senate, and Administration that have created these laws to continue working to prevent a shutdown seems reasonable. APA urges you to pass S. 1877.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important legislation. APA would be pleased to share additional information on the role of payroll professionals.

Sincerely,



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