

APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

September
15th, 2025

House Preps CR Vote Amid Shutdown Warnings

With just two weeks left before the government funding deadline, House Republicans plan to vote this week on a “clean” continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government open through November 20. The bill would maintain current funding levels and may include additional security funding for lawmakers. Timing remains unclear but bill text could be seen as soon as today. Even if the House moves quickly this week, the Senate’s upcoming recess for Rosh Hashanah could delay action, tightening the already narrow window to avert a shutdown.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) faces a slim margin in the House – with only two GOP votes to lose if Democrats withhold support – and Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) is already expected to oppose the bill. House conservatives remain skeptical that a GOP-only CR strengthens their position. If the House passes the bill this week, Senate leadership may need to cut short the recess to take it up, though procedural delays could still push action into late September. While a shutdown is still avoidable, the lack of agreement and time is pushing both parties closer to the brink.

Democrats Demand Bipartisan Talks and Health Provisions

Democratic leaders in both chambers say they won’t support a CR that doesn’t involve bipartisan negotiations or address key health priorities – namely, extending enhanced Affordable Care Act’s premium tax credits set to expire this year. The clean CR currently includes none of Democrats’ policy demands. Senate Republicans, including Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD), have said they won’t negotiate health care policy in a short-term bill, deepening the partisan divide and increasingly the likelihood of a shutdown. But some Senate Democrats have suggested they could support a clean stopgap now if it’s intended to buy more time toward negotiating an ACA subsidies extension later.