

April 14, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

As new Members of Congress, we came to Washington with fresh energy and perspective, committed to delivering results and restoring trust in this institution. One of our most fundamental responsibilities under Article I of the Constitution is funding the federal government. While we will continue to have honest disagreements over spending levels and policy priorities, we can all agree that Congress must fulfill this basic duty.

Yet, our freshmen term is marked with two government shutdowns, including the longest in history. As members of both parties, we assign responsibility for the shutdowns differently. But we agree on a very basic principle: our constituents sent us here to govern, and a key part of governing is passing a federal budget. If we fail in this very fundamental responsibility, we should not be paid.

When Congress fails to do this essential job, the consequences are immediate and widespread. Federal employees go without pay, military families face uncertainty, and essential services are disrupted nationwide. Those who have no role in funding the government are often the ones who feel the impact first and most. Yet under Compensation Clause of the Constitution (Article 1, Section 6), Members of Congress continue to receive their salaries. That disconnect undermines public trust and sends the wrong message to the people we serve.

We believe Congress should operate differently. Members should share in the consequences of a shutdown—not be insulated from them. Doing so would better align incentives to come to the negotiating table, reinforce accountability, and demonstrate to the American people that we take our responsibilities seriously.

That is why we support H.R. 5891, the *Withhold Member Pay During Shutdowns Act*, introduced by Representative Bryan Steil (WI-01), and passed unanimously in Committee on March 18. This legislation provides a practical and constitutional path forward by withholding Member pay for each day a shutdown occurs, while complying with the 27th Amendment through an escrow mechanism.

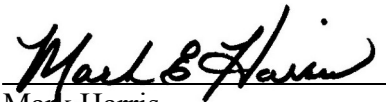
As the Freshman Class, we are committed to working across party lines to change the way Congress operates and to deliver results for the American people. Advancing this legislation would be a meaningful step in that direction.


We respectfully urge you to bring H.R. 5891 to the House Floor during the coming work period.


Sincerely,



Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Mark Harris
Member of Congress

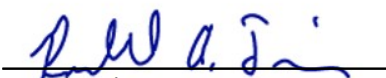

Gabe Evans
Member of Congress



Rob Bresnahan, Jr.
Member of Congress


Mike Haridopolos
Member of Congress



Brandon Gill
Member of Congress

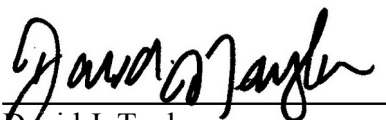

Tom Barrett
Member of Congress


Randy Fine
Member of Congress

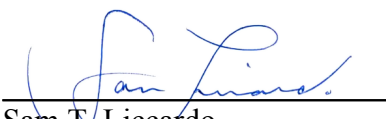

Tim Moore
Member of Congress



Craig A. Goldman
Member of Congress

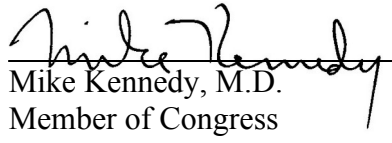

Ryan Mackenzie
Member of Congress

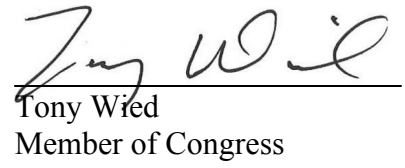

David J. Taylor
Member of Congress


Sheri Biggs
Member of Congress

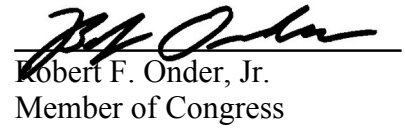

Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress

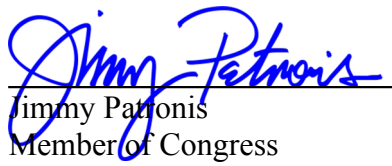

Jeff Hurd
Member of Congress


Mike Kennedy, M.D.
Member of Congress


Tony Wied
Member of Congress


Mark B. Messmer
Member of Congress


Robert F. Onder, Jr.
Member of Congress


Jimmy Patronis
Member of Congress