

February 1, 2022

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I urge you to pass full-year fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills into law by the February 18 funding deadline both to prevent a government shutdown and avoid the waste and inefficiency caused by another continuing resolution (CR).

It is – or should be – obvious that government shutdowns are unproductive political charades that disregard the welfare of public servants and waste [billions](#) of dollars of taxpayer money. Those seeking to use shutdowns as leverage fail to achieve their aims. While they gain publicity, others suffer the consequences.

But even as many recognize the failure of government shutdowns, what appears lost in the conversation is that CRs and the brinkmanship leading up to them – while greatly preferable to government shutdowns – are also harmful. CRs hamper the federal government's ability to properly serve our great nation, and each additional use has ripple effects that worsen the extent of the damage.

Continuing resolutions disrupt the work of government. Forcing agencies to operate under the prior year's budget delays needed investments, disrupting timelines for new projects. How can we expect federal agencies to fully respond to current and evolving needs with funding levels that are stuck in the past? Federal employees are making the most of the current situation, but improper funding ultimately results in stalled modernization efforts, limited capacity and lower recruitment. We owe it to the American public to end this self-made dilemma by passing full-year appropriations.

Kicking the can down the road should not be the standard operating procedure of Congress, but it has become all too common. There are real-world implications every time a continuing resolution is used. Our nation's defense is weakened by the inability to invest in new technologies to protect our soldiers and borders. Groundbreaking medical research at the National Institutes of Health may be put on hold. Contract negotiations may come to a standstill. The negative effects of continuing resolutions are far-reaching.

Political maneuvering leading up to each new government funding deadline also results in government waste and inefficiency. As we get closer to February 18, federal agencies must once again waste time preparing for a possible lapse in appropriations because lawmakers have yet to agree to full-year funding. As a result, Americans, as citizens and taxpayers who rely on federal services, lose.

The federal government has operated at last year's funding level for more than four months, and it is well past time this situation ends. I encourage you to work with your congressional colleagues to overcome obstacles and pass full-year funding bills into law in advance of the current deadline.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact NARFE's Staff Vice President for Policy and Programs, John Hatton, at 571-483-1267 or [jhatton@narfe.org](mailto:jhatton@narfe.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Thomas', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Ken Thomas  
National President