



January 10, 2019

### **PRAY ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**

**Father, in the midst of great turmoil in our nation's decisions of state, let us not forget to be a people of compassion for those in need of help.**

***Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ([Col 3:12](#))***

Trump administration officials said Tuesday that the Agriculture Department will be able to pay out food stamp benefits for the entire month of February — tamping down fears that the partial government shutdown could have resulted in rationing or halting of benefits.

The assurance that the food stamp program, which serves nearly 39 million people, would be on secure financial footing for February marked another major reversal from the administration in the ongoing shutdown fight.

Just a few days ago, White House officials had said funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program were likely to run out in February if Congress didn't act, an outcome that would have led to a sharp cut in benefits for millions of low-income Americans who rely on the program to help them pay for groceries each month. Democrats had seized on the White House's threat as both sides tried to increase their political leverage as the shutdown, now in its 18th day, entered its third week.

The move follows a similar walkback on a White House threat last week that millions of Americans would not receive tax refunds as scheduled. Senior administration officials on Monday reversed course and said the refunds would be processed during the shutdown....

"We have tried to make this as painless as possible consistent with the law," acting White House Budget Director Russell Vought said during a White House briefing on Monday.

USDA, one of nine federal departments without funding amid a dispute over border wall funding, will **not have to dip into a reserve fund for SNAP to ensure that benefits are paid out next month, USDA officials said during a briefing on Tuesday....** (Excerpts from Helena B. Evich article in [POLITICO](#))

## PRAY THAT PRO-LIFE MEASURES WOULD NOT BE UNDONE BY DEMOCRATIC HOUSE

Lord, please help us not lose sight of the real issues of life that are being threatened by new legislation. Check out [iPRAYforLIFE](#), our new initiative to pray for all life issues and especially next week's March for Life. Are you going to the March for Life? Join us at our prayer tent on site. [Click HERE for details.](#)

*There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*  
([Prv 6:16-19](#))

The Democrat-controlled House of Representatives voted to pass government spending legislation that would reinstate federal funding to abortion organizations worldwide.

The new House passed two bills— one is a continuing resolution to keep the government funded until at least Feb. 8 and the other to fund six federal agencies through the end of the fiscal year 2019.

In a 241–190 vote, the House passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019.

As the government shutdown stems around President Donald Trump's request for border security funding, the bill falls short of the \$5 billion in border funding the president desired but does seek to provide millions in federal funding for businesses that either perform or promote abortions overseas.

The bill essentially repeals Trump's expanded Mexico City Policy — also known as the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy — which he enacted as one of his first acts as president in January 2017.

Under the Trump policy, NGOs and charities that provide assistance to underserved populations overseas would have to agree that they will not “perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning” in order to receive funding from the State Department. Similar policies were put in place by every Republican president since Ronald Reagan....

The State Department announced last year that the policy only impacted four groups out of over 733 organizations that had received funding, saying that “nearly all prime partners that have had the opportunity to accept the policy have done so.”

In addition, **the House spending bill will also restore funding to the United Nations Population Fund, which has been accused by the Trump administration of being complicit in the China's acts of “coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization.”** The Trump administration moved in April 2017 to defund the UNPF.

Both Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the White House have vowed to oppose the bill. In a statement issued Thursday, the White House promised a veto if the bill reaches Trump's desk in its current form.

“It includes \$700 million more than requested for the United Nations, including restoring funding for the United Nations Population Fund,” the statement reads. “The bill would also undermine the President's Mexico City Policy (Presidential Memorandum of Jan. 23, 2017), which prohibits the funding of foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions.”

McConnell called the House votes “**political theater**” and “not productive lawmaking.” He stressed that the vote was “not a serious attempt” at trying to end the shutdown.

“Will these new Democrats come to Washington ready to roll up their sleeves, work together, and make laws?” McConnell asked on the Senate floor Thursday. “Or are they going to waste time on partisan show votes that will do nothing to move the country forward? That’s the question: Political performance art or responsible governance? We’ll get an early signal in the next few days.”

The bill was criticized by pro-life organizations that strongly oppose abortion....

“President Trump honored their will by taking immediate action to stop U.S. exportation of abortion around the world on taxpayers’ dime,” Dannenfelser said. “We thank our pro-life allies, especially Leader McCarthy and Representative Granger, for their efforts to remove the pro-abortion poison pill in this spending bill. We are confident that as the fight over funding the government continues, the pro-life Senate majority and the president will not stand for any attempt to undermine this administration’s pro-life policies.” (Excerpt from Samuel Smith article in the [Christian Post](#))

#### **PRAY ABOUT THE PARTISAN SQUABBLING THAT PERMEATES NEWS COVERAGE IN THE U.S.**

**Father, help us to resist the divisive ploys of the enemy to divide our nation.**

***Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. (Mat 12:25)***

The left called foul when every major TV network decided to give President Trump airtime for an address Tuesday on the border crisis — a courtesy the networks once denied to President Obama.

Liberal groups fumed at the TV executives for bowing to Mr. Trump after daring to refuse to carry Mr. Obama’s prime-time address on immigration in 2014, which the networks claimed was “overtly political.” ...

Ms. Jayapal, Washington Democrat, argued that if Mr. Obama’s speech was political, then surely Mr. Trump’s was the same if not more so.

The squabble over airtime included Democratic leaders demanding — and getting — equal time to respond to what they viewed as Mr. Trump’s baseless pitch for a border wall that’s the key issue in the government shutdown.... (Excerpts from S.A. Miller article in [The Washington Times](#))

#### **PRAY FOR ABLE AND WISE STAFF AT THE DOJ AND FOR TRUTH TO BE EXPOSED**

**Lord we ask that You will continue expose truth throughout our government.**

***A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape. (Prv 19:5)***

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein will depart from the Justice Department in a matter of weeks, ABC News reported Wednesday morning.

Multiple unnamed sources told ABC News that Mr. Rosenstein has already informed President Trump about his plans to leave the DOJ once the president's pick for a new attorney general, William Barr, is confirmed by the Senate and takes office.

The sources explained Mr. Rosenstein is waiting for the confirmation in order to make sure the transition of power between him and his replacement is smooth.

According to the report, the decision was something Mr. Rosenstein considered for two years and isn't coming from pressure from the president....

Mr. Rosenstein has overseen special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into potential Russian collusion and obstruction of justice since Mr. Sessions recused himself, much to Mr. Trump's chagrin. (Excerpts from Gabriella Muñoz article in [The Washington Times](#))