

# **The End Government Shutdowns Act**

## **The Problem**

- Congress has not completed all regular appropriations bills by the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline since 1997 – and has done so only twice since 1985.
- The failure to complete appropriations bills on time has caused government shutdowns, rushed budget agreements, and unpredictability for government agencies and the people who rely on them.

## **The Solution**

- The End Government Shutdowns Act will automatically continue funding for discretionary programs whose budget has not yet been enacted by October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- At the end of every 120-day period that an appropriations bill remains unfinished past the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the spending level for each program, project, and activity will be reduced by 1 percentage point. Another 1 percentage point will be reduced every subsequent 90 days.

## **The Benefits of the End Government Shutdowns Act**

- No more government shutdowns to create chaos for citizens who depend on federal services.
- Less unpredictability for government agencies, which will be able to plan their budgets based on a default appropriations level.
- Reduced pressure for haphazard, last-minute budget deals that lawmakers are asked to vote on before they have even read them.
- Lawmakers will have until January to complete the appropriations bills before funding levels change.
- After 120 days, the gradual decline in funding levels will ensure that lawmakers and the White House continue working towards an agreement.
- All discretionary spending is treated equally. There are no exceptions for liberal or conservative spending priorities. This will keep both sides eager to reach a final agreement in order to preserve their respective priorities.