



Subject: Anti “Shutdown” Mechanism

Text:

“The purposeful shutdown of the United States Government shall be prosecuted and punished as treason.

In the absence, at the conclusion of a fiscal year, of a Congressional budget appropriation signed by the President, the United State Government shall operate based on the previous year’s appropriations for all departments, agencies, and other entities.”

Reform Category(ies):

- ☐ Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Accountability
- ☐ Counter-Majoritarian Requirements
- ☒ Democratic Processes
- ☐ Enhanced Rights/Protections
- ☐ Limits to Political Power/Immunities
- ☐ Necessary Clarifications
- ☒ Responsible Government
- ☐ Separation of Powers/Check and balances

Branch(es) targeted:

- ☒ Legislative ☒ Executive ☐ Judicial

Justification:

Temporary shutdowns have become common in recent years as politicians see a tactical advantage in holding government operations hostage (and face very limited consequences). This amendment will work in conjunction with a balanced budget amendment we are drafting, which imposes other consequences for Congressional failure to responsibly carry out its Constitutional responsibility to fund the government.

Alternatives to Amendment? The genie is out of the bottle. It must be sealed back shut.

Similar proposals/rules:

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