



TESTIMONY

OF

MATTHEW C. QUINN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

BEFORE

THE

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE -
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

“Potential DHS Shutdown Impacts”

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Washington, D.C.

Good morning, Chairman Amodei, Ranking Member Cuellar, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the looming government shutdown and its potential impact on the United States Secret Service's zero-fail mission.

Every day the Secret Service executes a dynamic, integrated mission to protect the President of the United States, the Vice President, designated national leadership, and visiting Heads of State & Governments. We plan, coordinate, and implement security operations at special events of national significance. We investigate financial crimes that impact our nation's financial system—every day. Those who wish to harm our leaders and our nation's financial infrastructure do not take a day off, and neither do we.

I began my career with the Secret Service in 1998 in the New York Field Office. I went on to serve as the Special Agent in Charge of multiple offices across the organization in both protective and investigative capacities. After more than two decades of service, I was selected to serve as the Deputy Assistant Director for Protective Operations. I left the Secret Service in 2021 to work in the private sector in the Airspace Security field, and to my great honor, I returned to government service in my current role in May 2025 as the 24th Deputy Director of our great agency.

I have been with the Secret Service for a long time, and I can say unequivocally that the more than 8,000 men and women of our organization are some of the hardest-working personnel in federal government.

Our special agents and members of the uniformed Secret Service Police force, technical law enforcement specialists, professional staff, analysts, instructors, and training staff all routinely work extraordinary hours. They sacrifice greatly to protect our nation's leaders and defend our financial infrastructure. No one in the Secret Service is spared from the impact of the extreme demands and commitment required to be successful in our duties. We need to be successful, 24/7, 365 days a year, anywhere in the world.

It goes well beyond a missed birthday, holiday, or extreme periods of travel. It truly is a lifestyle of sacrifice on behalf of our nation and of those whom we are sworn to protect.

A DHS shutdown would include our agency. The reality is everyone will show up the next day. The men and women of the Secret Service will continue to protect and serve. The casual observer will see no difference; however, gaps in funding have a profound impact on the agency today and into the future.

We will continue to safeguard President Trump and his family, as well as Vice President Vance and his family. We will still protect former Presidents and their spouses, visiting heads of state, and other top government officials. We will continue to protect our financial infrastructure and ensure that no threat case goes overlooked.

There is no pause button on our mission. The paychecks may stop, but the work will continue.

The Secret Service mission is critical to national security. Evidence of this is represented by the fact that 94% of our personnel are mission-critical, leaving only a small portion of 6% who will be furloughed or sent home in the event of a DHS shutdown. While minimal, the furlough still presents additional burden for the remainder of the workforce who will show up every day, professionally executing their assigned responsibilities – predominantly protecting our nation’s leaders and working diligently to catch those who intend to do us harm.

Although operations continue unabated, the repercussions on our agency are profound. Morale fades as bills come due. And an already hard job is made even harder.

The work left undone during a shutdown does not fall neatly within our core functions. Instead, it manifests itself in areas where the results are not readily recognizable – sometimes, for years. At the top of the list is needed reform. The Congress, as well as our own internal review, has brought to light critical agency reforms that must occur to ensure our future success.

The assassination attempt on President Trump’s life in Butler, Pennsylvania, brought forward hard truths and needed improvements in several critical areas: airspace monitoring, including proactive and counter-drone technology; communications infrastructure; hiring and retention; training; and overarching technological improvements to support the protective mission. We are on the cusp of implementing generational change for our agency.

A shutdown halts our reform efforts and undermines the momentum we, including all of you, have worked so hard to build together. The impacts may not be seen tomorrow, but I assure you, we will feel the ripple effects for some time. Delayed contracts, diminished hiring, and halted new programs will be the result.

The current workforce also carries on without promotions or changes in station during a shutdown. This halts career progression and diminishes required leadership and oversight. Notably, the financial burden on our personnel during a shutdown is real.

Our agency has been working diligently to address needed reforms. Many of these efforts stop with a shutdown. Special agents and officers critical to our future are not hired, or their hiring is postponed due to mission support personnel being furloughed and funding constraints. New programs are paused, and our efforts to train, equip and deploy the best and brightest lag.

As you know, the Secret Service is also responsible for National Special Security Events (NSSEs), working with federal, state and local partners as the lead coordinating agency. Our personnel have already begun building security plans for the State of the Union Address, the U.N. General Assembly, the G20 Summit, and other major events likely to be designated as NSSEs in 2026.

The FIFA World Cup designated Special Event Assessment Rating (SEAR) 1 and 2 events will take place across multiple cities in just a few months. Finally, critical preparations are already underway for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Olympics will take place during what will already be a busy campaign year, one that requires planning and financial commitment

today. This critical work will continue during a shutdown, in many cases, on the backs of our greatest resource – the men and women of the Secret Service.

As you can imagine, our difficult mission becomes exponentially more difficult during a lapse in funding.

It should be noted that we (the Secret Service) work closely with and rely on support from our DHS colleagues in other Components as well. A shutdown creates added burden and makes continued collaboration difficult, if not impossible. For example, TSA regularly supports our magnetometer operations at large events. As we already experienced during the prolonged 2025 shutdown, this critical mission support could be significantly impacted depending on TSA's capacity to support USSS operations, potentially posing an untenable burden on the Secret Service workforce that is already stretched thin.

An overlooked aspect of the Secret Service mission is our support to external groups and the greater law enforcement community. In 2025 alone, we trained 5,242 law enforcement officers and prosecutors at our National Computer Forensics Institute in Hoover, Alabama.

We also trained students from all 50 states and five territories to recover digital evidence from cell phones, laptops, and other digital devices. This critical training often leads to successful prosecutions in cases of homicide, robbery, rape, and child exploitation.

We are able to provide this training and all necessary equipment and software at no cost to our state and local partners. This training halts in a shutdown, impacting not only our training center, but also law enforcement professionals—your constituents—from around the country.

Our partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) is also dramatically affected during a shutdown. Our training and engagement activities with kids in schools are suspended.

What I have described before you today, and much more, represents the critical mission of the United States Secret Service. We are poised to reach new heights of excellence with the most dedicated workforce in law enforcement. Unfortunately, we have become accustomed to recurring shortfalls and we will find ways to get the job done. Albeit, at the expense of our people and progress. Make no mistake, government shutdowns have real and lasting consequences.

The pain of a shutdown is balanced on the backs of our people. Plans for the future are put on hold. The opportunity for meaningful change is lost.

The men and women of the Secret Service are committed to progress, growth, and reform. I respectfully ask that DHS be funded at the levels that will enable our success. We cannot do it alone and unfunded.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to taking your questions.

