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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025
<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

October 23, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Burwell:

Last week, the President rightly concluded that nothing has done more to undermine our economy these past three years than manufactured crises, such as shutting down our government and threatening default. While I am hopeful that there will not be another government shutdown on January 15, 2014, I believe that it is critical that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) take the time to analyze and provide a written record documenting the consequences of the sixteen day shutdown.

Following the government shutdowns in 1995-96, OMB undertook such an analysis that contributed significantly to our understanding of such consequences. While I understand that such an analysis will take some time, particularly as you turn your attention to the President's Budget for fiscal year 2015, I request that you provide a report to the Senate Appropriations Committee by January 6, 2014, that answers the following questions (as well as any others that you determine are appropriate):

- Working with the Treasury Department and the Council of Economic Advisors, what was the impact of the shutdown on jobs and the economy?
- How many Federal employees were furloughed and what was the cost of paying those people for the sixteen day shutdown? What other direct costs were incurred as a result of the need to shut down and reopen the government, such as the cost of travel to return employees, ships, planes, and other assets to their home base for the purpose of shutting down operations?
- How much time was spent planning for the shutdown and the eventual orderly reopening of the government?

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- What are the major examples of reduced productivity of the workforce such as increased backlogs for and delays to: veterans' claims; disability claims; small business loans; student loans; traffic safety investigations; IRS filings and refunds; workplace safety inspections; issuances of export licenses; and permitting and environmental reviews for energy development?
- What are the estimates of increased costs as a result of the late payment of bills and contract renegotiations?
- What are the estimated impacts on the nation's long term research and development efforts?
- What are the impacts on public health, such as the number of National Institutes of Health Clinical Center patients turned away, delays in food and drug safety inspections, and Centers for Disease Control disease surveillance?

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman