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## Dear Friend,

Today, families in Colorado and across America should be enjoying the holiday season with their loved ones. Instead, an impending government shutdown is forcing many to worry about their livelihoods during what should be a relaxing and celebratory time of year.

If President Trump gets his shutdown, more than 800,000 federal employees will be forced to go without pay, including 420,000 federal employees who will still have to show up to work, and that includes more than 41,000 federal law enforcement and correctional officers. Additionally, federal efforts to help Americans buy homes, support small businesses, maintain public housing, ensure consumer safety, and more will be significantly hampered. And it will significantly cut services at our National Parks.

It's shameful that President Trump is willing to harm so many Americans in a desperate ploy to secure funding for his senseless and racist border wall. Even worse, he claims the shutdown will last for "a very long time," creating even more misery for working families across Colorado and the country who need financial security. After nearly two years as President, he still hasn't recognized the fallacy of his immigration policies and the need to work with Democrats in order to effectively serve the American people.

I support border security, and my Democratic colleagues and I are willing to work with the President and our colleagues across the aisle to keep America safe. But I don't support this wall -- a symbol of xenophobia and bigotry that our community whole-heartedly rejects. I will continue working to avoid a government shutdown in a manner that doesn't compromise our values. And you can be sure that when Democrats lead the House of Representatives in 2019, we will not entertain these outrageous shenanigans from the President and his allies in Congress.

Even in this trying week, we managed to make progress on some important goals.

On Thursday, the House overwhelmingly passed my bipartisan bill, [H.R.7328](#), which streamlines the way the Food and Drug Administration approves over-the-counter drugs. The antiquated framework now in place hasn't been updated since the 1970s, harming public health and stalling innovation. I spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives to urge my colleagues to support this needed update, and I'm pleased so many did. I now urge my Senate colleagues to swiftly pass it so it can become law before the end of the year.



On Monday, I led 68 of my colleagues in submitting [comments](#) to EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler strongly condemning the agency's proposed rule to weaken Obama-era emissions standards for methane and other compounds. Methane is an especially potent greenhouse gas, and its emissions are also associated with public health problems such as asthma, reduced lung function, chronic respiratory damage, cancer, nervous system damage, and birth defects. In the fight to protect our health and stop climate change, it's imperative we reduce these emissions, and I will continue holding this administration accountable for that responsibility.

I also want to clear up any confusion regarding the deadline for Open Enrollment and the [recent court ruling](#) in Texas on the Affordable Care Act: The ACA remains law of the land and it's not too late for Coloradans to get covered through it. You still have until January 15 to secure health coverage in 2019. Visit [connectforhealthco.com](http://connectforhealthco.com) to select an affordable plan that's right for you.





As always, you can visit [my website](#), where you can read my positions on issues and learn about the different ways my staff can assist you. While you're there, be sure to visit the "[Contact](#)" page and send me an email about what matters most to you and your family. Finally, please share this email with your friends, family, and neighbors so that they too can be a part of this important dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana".

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress

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