



The Due Process Advocate

*“No Person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without the due process of law”
- Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution*

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN CONTINUES WHILE 800,000 GOVERNMENT WORKERS ARE FURLOUGHED OR WORKING WITHOUT PAY - BUT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE NOT AMONG THEM!

Wall or no wall, what’s wrong with this picture?!

You would think that the FIRST people in the government to go without pay are the very people who are (a) in the best position to solve the problem, and who are (b) getting paid an EXTRAORDINARY amount of money to do just that.

How much money?

Try a \$174,000 base salary (well over \$3000 per week) “for most Senators, Representatives, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico” to start. “The only exceptions include the Speaker of the House (salary of \$223,500) and the President pro tempore of the Senate and the majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate (salary of \$193,400).”

“It has been said that politics is the second oldest profession. I have learned that it bears a striking resemblance to the first.”

- Ronald Reagan

Then, consider the value of “The Members’ Representational Allowance (MRA)” for “Supporting Personnel, Office Expenses, Travel to the District, and Mail for Members of the House.” In 2017, MRA was an average of \$1,315,523 per year for each Member of the House (well over \$25,000 per week).

The Senate? They get a better deal:

“The Senators’ Official Personnel and Office Expense Account (SOPOEA)” for “Supporting Personnel, Office Expenses, and Mail for U.S. Senators” averages (are you ready for this?) \$3,467,971 per year, or an average of almost \$67,000 per week.

But don’t take my word for these numbers and other benefits I didn’t even mention. Please take the time to read Ida Brudnick’s report entitled, “Congressional Salaries and Allowances: In Brief” (from which the above information is quoted) and you be the judge!

<https://www.senate.gov/CRSpubs/9c14ec69-c4e4-4bd8-8953-f73daa1640e4.pdf>

Despite all the “blame-game rhetoric” by the grid-locked Democrats and Republicans who get all this money, perhaps we should start asking ourselves how in the world, and why in the world, would we ever expect these people to solve the “wall problem” in the first place? For many of our Member of Congress, getting elected and getting paid is, perhaps, way too important for many of them to let even a Government Shutdown get in their way.

I don’t know about you, but I can name dozens of very competent people off the top of my head who I would hire, with a far greater degree of trust and confidence, to bring this Government Shutdown to an end.

To use 800,000 government workers as an “army of pawns” in a high-stakes chess game of “winner take all” is rapidly becoming a national disgrace.

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