

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Members of Congress are hopeful that they'll be able strike a deal on government funding by the deadline on Friday. The renewed hope comes after President Trump postponed his request for border wall funding as part of the package.

The latest update we have is that Republican negotiators gave Democrats a new offer on a spending plan that included no money for the wall, while providing some additional money for border security and defense, Republican priorities. However, there are remaining sticking points, including a Democratic demand for Obamacare subsidies. President Trump had threatened to stop those payments in an effort to force Democrats to negotiate a replacement for the 2010 health care law.

If no deal is reached and passed by both chambers by Friday at midnight, most of the government would run out of money, including the FAA. Congress could avoid this by agreeing to and passing another short-term CR, one or two weeks in duration, that simply extends current funding levels to buy negotiators more time.

Republicans made clear they have no interest in a government shutdown, especially since they control both chambers of Congress and the presidency, and would likely be blamed. Trump has said that he would be willing to sign a stopgap CR that extends current funding for one or two weeks if a final fiscal 2017 deal isn't ready in time.

In short, negotiators are closer to a deal, but hurdles clearly remain before a final deal is negotiated and enacted.

More updates as new information becomes available.