#### Both sides are open to negotiations

King, New York Post, 9-21-25

[Ryan, 9-21-25, NY Post, “Schumer refuses to rule out caving to Trump in government shutdown fight”, <https://nypost.com/2025/09/21/us-news/schumer-refuses-to-rule-out-caving-to-trump-in-government-shutdown-fight/>, accessed 9-21-25, AFB] ADA-417

The GOP-led House approved its proposed stopgap — known as a continuing resolution — Friday without most Dems’ help to keep the government’s lights on through Nov. 21.

The Senate then voted on both the GOP CR and the Democratic one to avert a partial shutdown. Both failed.

While Republicans have a majority in both chambers, they need Democratic votes in the Senate to overcome the 60-vote threshold needed to break a filibuster.

In March, Schumer faced a revolt among his progressive base for declining to block a GOP-backed continuing resolution to avert a partial shutdown at the time. The backlash included open calls for him to face a primary in 2028.

“The situation is a lot different now than it was then,” Schumer insisted Sunday. “This is a demand from the American people across the board.”

Both Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) have publicly demanded concessions from Republicans on healthcare funding.

They’ve indicated that Democrats want Republicans to help them prevent the expiration of the beefed-up Affordable Care Act subsidies, which are set to run out at the end of 2025, reverse Medicaid reforms in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act — which Republicans now call the Working Families Tax Cut Act — and restore public health research funding.

Schumer and Jeffries have also sought a meeting with Trump to discuss their demands. While Trump has implored Republicans to back a “clean” continuing resolution, he’s conveyed openness to meeting with the two top Democrats, though nothing has been scheduled.

#### Dems are gonna blink – they don’t have the centrists

Bolton, 9-25-25 [Alexander, The Hill senior congressional reporter, 9-25-25, The Hill, “GOP, Democrats both see incentives in a shutdown that looks inevitable”, <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5520645-trump-democrats-funding-showdown/>, accessed 9-25-25, AFB]

Some centrist Democratic senators, however, privately wonder how much leverage Schumer and Jeffries have in the standoff.

Republicans have proposed a “clean” seven-week stopgap funding bill, the same type of straightforward resolution that Democrats passed 13 times when they controlled the Senate during former President Biden’s time as president.

“How many of their darlings are we holding? Where’s our leverage? Identify what’s our leverage point,” said Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pa.), who is questioning Schumer’s hard-line strategy heading into the Sept. 30 deadline for keeping the government open.

#### Schumer’s in a corner – some Dems are starting to cave

Desiderio et al., 9-25-25,[Andrew, John Bresnahan, Jake Sherman and Laura Weiss, Punchbowl senior congressional reporter 9-25-25, Punchbowl, “Trump, Vought look to pressure Dems with federal layoffs”**,** “<https://punchbowl.news/newsletter/#__trumpvoughtlooktopressuredemswithfederallayoffs__>, accessed 9-25-25, AFB]

Yet as House minority leader, Jeffries has the easier job here. House Democrats can vote “no” without causing a shutdown. Schumer and Senate Democrats don’t have that luxury. Regardless of whether a deal is struck before Oct. 1 or after a shutdown takes hold, it’ll be extraordinarily difficult for Schumer to come out of this unscathed.

Schumer has repeatedly emphasized his alignment with Jeffries following the March debacle. Schumer, though, would be hard-pressed to echo Jeffries’ comments that any deal needs to be in legislation, at least publicly. If Schumer takes that specific of a position, the veteran party leaders would look bad if he accepts something different in the end.

While some Senate Democrats are very clearly agitating for a shutdown — or at least some sort of high-profile clash with the Trump administration — others are already starting to channel their fears about the catastrophic impacts of such a move.

### GOP Won’t Blink

#### GOP unified on no concessions to Dems now – they think Dem demands are unhinged

Bolton, 9-25-25 [Alexander, The Hill senior congressional reporter, 9-25-25, The Hill, “GOP, Democrats both see incentives in a shutdown that looks inevitable”, <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5520645-trump-democrats-funding-showdown/>, accessed 9-25-25, AFB]

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-S.D.) on Wednesday said the Democrats’ funding demands are so outrageous that it’s not even worth Trump’s time to meet with them, backing the president’s decision to cancel Thursday’s leadership summit on the funding impasse.

“The Democrats’ requests are completely unhinged and unreasonable and unserious, and if they want to have a serious conversation … I’m sure the president … would be happy to do that,” Thune said Wednesday during a CNN interview.

“But at least right now, what they’re asking for to keep the government open for seven weeks is over a trillion dollars in new spending and all kinds of policy riders that never go on continuing resolutions,” he said.