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## **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: WHO'S TO BLAME?**

By Stephen L. Bakke  January 20, 2018



### *Here's what provoked me:*

*Government shutdowns seem to be threatened way too often – and now we have one. The major issue seems to be “who’s to blame” rather than the importance of moving to a responsible budget passage. And as one would expect, the Minneapolis StarTribune is taking sides once again.*

### *Here's my response:*

#### **Government Shutdown: Who's to Blame?**

The January 19 Editorial discussed the brinksmanship involved in funding the government – but the StarTribune's fickle finger of blame leans heavily in the direction of Republicans. Editorial writers shake their collective heads while expressing incredulity: “...they [Republicans] continue to blame out-of-power Democrats for their inability to perform one of their [Republicans] most important duties: passing the spending budget...” This scolding continued with: “At issue is a refusal by conservatives to support a fix for the (DACA) program that President Donald Trump rescinded...”

The StarTribune should provide more balanced context:

- Alternatively, the situation could have been described, like this: “At issue is refusal by Democrats to support Trump's border security priorities.”
- The House passed the temporary budget resolution. However, the editorial should have explained that a Democrat minority can filibuster and block Senate passage.
- If 100% of House and Senate Republicans voted for the temporary budget resolution, Senate Democrat votes would still be required.
- Obama admitted he didn't have authority to issue the DACA order. It had to be a Congressional action.
- Trump rescinded Obama's order, removing the possibility of a Constitutional challenge, but delayed its effective date so that it could be considered by Congress.
- Congress has until March to pass a DACA solution. Trump and most congressional Republicans have expressed support for a humanitarian solution, much as the Democrats propose.
- The two issues, a temporary budget resolution and DACA renewal, could be passed individually. Combining them for certain defeat, seems to point to legislative sabotage.

So.....who's to blame?