



# FEDERAL POLICY PULSE

**GSA**  
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A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR GSA MEMBERS

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## **Congressional Action**

On Friday, [Congress passed a critical funding bill](#) in its final action of the 118th Congress, averting a government shutdown and providing substantial disaster relief. Here are the key details of the Continuing Resolution, titled [The American Relief Act of 2025](#):

## **Funding and Policy Extension Highlights**

Passed a funding patch extending government operations through March 14, 2025.

[Acute hospital-care-at-home and telehealth temporary waivers continued until March 14.](#)

Allocated over \$110 billion in disaster relief.

Included a one-year extension of the Farm Bill.

Passed with bipartisan support: 366-34 in the House and 85-11 in the Senate.

The bill's passage was marked by significant political tension, primarily involving President-elect Donald Trump, billionaire Elon Musk, and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA).

## **Significant Omissions**

Several policies, including reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, were removed from the bill due to Trump's and Musk's intervention, including:

Provisions to prevent a Medicare pay cut to physician reimbursement rates.

Restrictions on U.S. investments in China.

Rules on deceptive event ticket advertising.

Regulations for pharmacy benefit managers.

Provisions for year-round E-15 gasoline sales.

## **Disaster Relief Specifics**

The bill provides critical funding for:

Communities impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

Wildfire and flood-affected regions.

Replenishing the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program.

### Strategic Implications

The mid-March funding deadline allows the incoming Trump administration to be more involved in developing the fiscal year 2025 budget, positioning them to shape future spending priorities and policies. Despite the contentious negotiations, the bill ultimately passed with broad congressional support, demonstrating a pragmatic approach to preventing a government shutdown.