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Is Trump Planning to Distract from His Tax Bill by Causing a Government Shutdown?

By [Tom Jawetz](#), [Sam Berger](#), and [Miguel Rodriguez](#)

In the early morning hours of Saturday, December 2, Senate leadership rammed through its tax bill, the final version of which had been drafted just a few hours earlier, on a party-line vote. The bill was a plutocrat's dream: massive tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations paid for by increases in middle-class taxes and cuts to middle-class health care. As his base realizes just how bad this bill is for them, Trump's already low approval ratings are likely to crater even further. President Trump's response to this issue is apparently to try to change the conversation, and he may have settled on forcing a funding showdown as his best option.

His latest plan appears to be to precipitate a shutdown fight by violating the deal he struck to address the problems caused by ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Due to Trump's reckless cancellation of DACA, nearly 800,000 young people who have lived in the United States since childhood soon will be at risk of detention and deportation. As Trump plays fast and loose with causing a government shutdown, it's important that Congress stand strong and hold the president to his promises.

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