



Democracy Defenders Action Urges Stock Trading Moratorium During Government Shutdown

September 30, 2025

Dear Representative:

As the fiscal year ends, we are again on the brink of a government shutdown. As you are aware, the repercussions of a government shutdown are severe. The American people are deprived of vital government services. Federal workers go unpaid. Families face financial uncertainty. And experts are warning this shutdown could be dangerous for the economy.

During these moments of national hardship, it is imperative that public officials and Members of Congress are focused solely on taking steps to end the shutdown and pass a bipartisan funding bill that works for the American people.

Unfortunately, in past shutdowns, certain members of Congress and their families have continued to trade stocks and other securities. This raises the concern whether they might have been trying to time the market, which gives the impression that their personal financial interests outweighed their duty to the public.

Democracy Defenders Action has been a strong advocate for a blanket stock ban for all members of Congress, like that found in Representatives Roy (R-TX) and Magaziner's (D-RI) recently introduced *Restore Trust in Congress Act*, HR 5106. That legislation is necessary, and DDA calls on members of Congress to cosponsor it and pass it as soon as possible.

But members of Congress do not need to wait for that legislation to do the right thing. In times of trouble, members must set an example for their communities.

That is why DDA is urging every member of Congress—Republican, Democrat, Independent—to cease all securities trading for themselves, their spouses, and their dependent children for the duration of any government shutdown. No exceptions. No loopholes. No excuses.

By taking this one simple step, members of Congress can send a simple message: we came to govern, we care about Americans, and we are focused on doing the right thing. Members, please call your broker and tell them “stop all trade orders until we’ve ended the government shutdown.” Thank you in advance for your leadership to ensure that Americans know their government is truly working of, by, and for the people.

Sincerely,

Virginia Canter
Ethics and Anticorruption Chief Counsel and Director
Democracy Defenders Action