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NATP: IRS shutdown could paralyze 2026 tax season, calls for swift Congressional action

APPLETON, Wis. (Nov. 3, 2025) – With IRS services stalled and tax season right around the corner, the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP) is urging Congress to end the government shutdown immediately, warning that further delay could derail refund processing, confuse millions of taxpayers and destabilize the upcoming filing season.

In a [formal letter sent to Congressional leadership today](#), NATP outlined the severe risks posed by prolonged disruption of IRS operations, especially in light of recent staffing reductions and new tax law implementation deadlines.

“Each day of this shutdown chips away at the IRS’s capacity to serve taxpayers and support small businesses,” said Scott Artman, CPA, CGMA, CEO of NATP. “Tax professionals are preparing for filing season, but without a functioning IRS, they’re operating in the dark.”

The letter highlights the risks of delayed refunds, inaccessible IRS help centers and backlogged correspondence – issues that disproportionately impact lower-income taxpayers, small businesses and filers relying on new tax credits.

Shutdown risks to taxpayers and preparers

- Refunds delayed: IRS systems can’t process returns efficiently during a shutdown
- Penalties continue: Interest accrues even when taxpayers can’t reach the IRS
- Guidance blocked: Preparers can’t access updated rules or speak with agency reps
- Confidence shaken: The tax system depends on responsiveness and clarity

“Over 11 million taxpayers rely on NATP-affiliated professionals,” the letter states. “But those professionals can’t assist clients effectively when IRS tools and communication channels are offline.”



To further discuss the letter or the potential effects of the government shutdown on the upcoming tax season, please contact [Samantha Strong](#) or [Nancy Kasten](#).

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About the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP): NATP is the leading organization supporting tax professionals with education, advocacy and resources to help them serve taxpayers accurately and ethically. With more than 23,000 members nationwide, NATP provides industry-leading training and professional support to keep tax preparers informed in a complex, evolving tax landscape. Headquartered in Appleton, Wis., NATP ensures tax professionals have the knowledge, tools, and community they need to succeed. To learn more, visit www.natptax.com.

Looking for a tax expert? Tom O'Saben, EA, director of tax content and government relations at the National Association of Tax Professionals (NATP), is available for phone or video interviews to discuss federal tax topics including tax law change and its implications, taxpayer issues, tax preparer regulation and more. To schedule an interview with O'Saben, contact sstrong@natptax.com or nkasten@natptax.com.