

NBC's *Today*

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7:00:08 a.m. [TEASE]

41 seconds

CRAIG MELVIN: A major breakthrough in Washington overnight.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; End in Sight?]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: An end to the government shutdown now in sight. It's November 10. This is *Today*. Breaking overnight, lawmakers finally reaching a deal to end the longest government shutdown in history.

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER JOHN THUNE (R-SD): I'm optimistic that after almost six weeks of this shutdown we finally — we'll finally be able to end it.

GUTHRIE: Seven Senate Democrats voting with Republicans on a plan to reopen and bring the 41-day standoff to a close, and just in time after a weekend of major air travel delays.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE AIRLINE TRAVELER: The impact that this is having on everybody is — is just a nightmare.

GUTHRIE: We are live in Washington with the very latest.

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7:03:25 a.m.

6 minutes and 20 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Happening *Today*; Government Shutdown; Day 41]

GUTHRIE: In the meantime, it is day 41 of the government shut, breaking overnight word of a tentative deal to end it. The Senate passing a procedural vote last night 60-40 with the help of seven Democrats and one independent. It's aimed at funding the government through January.

MELVIN: And for a lot of folks, especially travelers, it could not come soon enough. Here is a look at Boston Logan's International this morning, still experiencing major delays after a weekend airport chaos across the country.

GUTHRIE: We have it all covered. We will start with NBC's chief Capitol Hill correspondent Ryan Nobles on these developments overnight. Ryan, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; Deal to End Government Shutdown]

RYAN NOBLES: Savannah, good morning. This procedural step passed by the thinnest margin

possible and it came with serious backlash from some Democrats who feel it did not do enough to meet their demands, especially when it comes to healthcare. But in the end, a handful of Democrats broke ranks to move the bill forward. Now the hope is the government could be back open by the end of the week. Overnight, a major breakthrough in the Senate — [APPLAUSE] — a bipartisan group of senators hatching a deal that would end the shutdown stalemate, and fully fund large swaths of the government through next September —

THUNE: I'm optimistic that after almost six weeks of this shutdown we finally — we'll finally be able to end it.

NOBLES: — despite major disagreement inside the Democratic Party.

SENATOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER (D-CO): I mean, I voted no just because — because I'm so pissed off.

NOBLES: The plan would fund all of the government through the end of January and pay for military construction, agriculture, and SNAP benefits, previously known as food stamps, through September of next year. It guarantees that all federal workers will get back pay from the shutdown and those who lost their jobs would be hired back. What it doesn't include? Any promises on healthcare and the extension of the Affordable Care Act tax credits, which is the reason Democrats had pushed for the shutdown in the first place, warning premiums are set to skyrocket —

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT): What this Senate is about to do is make a horrific situation even worse.

NOBLES: — infuriating some of the party, though many still blame President Trump.

HICKENLOOPER: We did not get our key demand. [SCREEN WIPE] We are being threatened by someone who carries out his threats.

NOBLES: Instead, the Democrats who voted yes, say they were given a promise on a separate vote for the tax credits and a vow to negotiate, but no guarantees in a Republican-controlled Senate.

SENATOR JEANNE SHAHEEN (D-NH): We will hold their feet to the fire.

NOBLES: After attending the Commanders/Lions game Sunday, President Trump sounding optimistic at the White House.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: And it looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending.

NOBLES: For millions of Americans directly impacted by the shutdown, relief appears to be in sight, a necessity for overtaxed food banks nationwide. Over 40 million people rely on SNAP for food, a big reason moderate Democrats decided it was time to bring the shutdown to an end.

SENATOR CATHERINE CORTEZ-MASTO (D-NV) [MISIDENTIFIED AS SENATOR JACKLYN ROSEN (D-NV): My colleagues know that opening the government was key to stopping that pain.

NOBLES: Now, a final vote in the Senate could happen as soon as today. It will then go to the House, where its passage is no guarantee. The House has not been in session since September 19, but members are now expected to be back within 36 hours of final passage in the Senate and then of course, President Trump will need to sign it, a process that could take days to complete. Savannah.

GUTHRIE: It's not over until it's over. Ryan Nobles on Capitol Hill. Thank you very much.

MELVIN: Let's bring in Hallie Jackson, NBC's senior Washington correspondent. Hallie, the government has been shut down for more than 40 days, the travel chaos around the country, SNAP benefits up in the air for tens of millions. What was it, or what were the combination of things —

HALLIE JACKSON: Yeah.

MELVIN: — that finally led this group of Democrats to say enough is enough?

JACKSON: So, a couple of big things here, Craig. First, everything you just listed, that combo platter, if you will, of food aid running out, the chaos at airports, federal workers not getting paid. People were hurting and that's what you heard this group of Democrats talk about in breaking with the rest of the party to come to a deal here and try to move that forward. The other thing, though, is one Democrat said it wasn't working. Their whole strategy to shut down the government to try to put the pressure on Republicans to negotiate on those — what they see as critical healthcare subsidies, those effectively tax credits the Affordable Care Act — it wasn't panning out. So, at least this way in the eyes of this group they at least have Republicans coming to the table for a vote as per the terms of this deal here. Keep in mind, too, though, Craig, there's an interesting dynamic that you heard them not rule out the possibility of after January once this short-term funding piece runs out, they may shut down the government again. They're leaving that potential open because, again, those SNAP benefits, those kinds of impactful pieces to Americans wouldn't be so much on the table. So, it looks like next steps, moving forward for now — as Savannah says, it is certainly not over until it's over but let's check in back again in a couple months and see where those premiums are.

GUTHRIE: Yeah. And, as you mentioned, there is a real division within the Democratic caucus. There were those who wanted to end the shutdown and there are quite a few and we saw many of them in the piece there —

JACKSON: That's right.

GUTHRIE: — that were angry that the Democrats what they say caved.

JACKSON: That's right. Look at Senator Sanders, look at Senator Elizabeth Warren who called this a mistake. Governor Newsom called it pathetic. You're right, there are a lot of Democrats that think that the party should have held the line. The party is coming off a big win, a series of wins last week on election night. It's Republicans who are getting blamed by Americans for the shutdown, according to polling, it's not Democrats who are taking the blame. So, you have some in the party scratching their heads going this doesn't actually make any sense right now. Look at the political dynamics. Of the eight people that broke with the Democratic Party to move forward on a deal, none of them are up for reelection this coming year, they're either not up this cycle or they're choosing to leave Congress all together. So, that's the political backdrop. And now you have the top Senate Democrat Chuck Schumer facing a lot of heat. He technically did not vote for this, but there are those who are suggesting, including one House Democrat at least that maybe he should be replaced at this point. All of that said, I will tell you that there are some in the party who feel like, hey, at least Democrats have shined a light on this healthcare issue, they have really put that in the spotlight. A majority of Americans support extending those Affordable Care Act tax credits, those subsidies, and so Democrats feel like they've made that point and they can get to a winning position, Savannah and Craig.

MELVIN: Alright. Our senior Washington correspondent Hallie Jackson. Hallie, thank you.