



## **NOTICE OF OPERATING STATUS**

September 29, 2023

Please be advised that, even in the event of a larger government shutdown on or after October 1, 2023, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) will remain **OPEN**. Generally, standard operating procedures will remain in effect, and the OCWR will continue to process cases in accordance with the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) and the Procedural Rules.

- **Legislative branch employees who wish to file claims with the OCWR during a shutdown** may continue to do so with the Clerk of the OCWR via electronic mail, postal mail, or facsimile. Because the OCWR office is located in a building that will not be accessible to the public, it will not be possible for claimants to hand deliver claim forms during a lapse in appropriations. **Please be advised that the OCWR cannot waive or extend the 180-day statutory deadline for filing such a claim.**
- **Parties to pending claims filed with the OCWR** have received or will receive an order or notice from the OCWR hearing officer or mediator handling the claim addressing scheduling, deadlines, or any other matters as they may be impacted by a larger shutdown.
- **Parties to pending proceedings in Federal Court** are advised that the OCWR cannot modify any deadlines related to filing actions in the U.S. District Courts or appealing OCWR Board decisions to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.