



And the pain continues....Part IV

The actual impacts of sequestration

- New York City's Fleet Week is being canceled.

What does this mean? Last year, this event brought in tens of millions of dollars for New York City. This will be a blow to the city's tourism income.

- Medicare has been hit with fewer funding.

What does this mean? Cancer clinics have started to turn away thousands of Medicare patients. Doctors are claiming that the reduced funding has made the cost of administering the cancer drugs more expensive than the reimbursement. So they are being forced to send patients away to hospitals that may or may not be able to help them. Additionally, being treated in a hospital or emergency room is much more expensive overall.

- Customs and Border Protection has cut funding for its Border Patrol agents.

What does this mean? At Miami airport alone, about 1,000 travelers recently missed their flights because of four-hour waits in customs. Another 200 travelers recently had to spend the night sleeping on cots in the Miami airport auditorium after missing their flights while stuck in Customs.

- Funding for schools on Indian Reservations is already being cut.

What does this mean? Schools on Indian Reservations, more than any other schools in America, depend heavily on the federal government for funding (about 10% vs. 60%) because they have no private landowners to tax. In one school in Montana - Fort Peck which services two Indian nations (the Sioux and the Assiniboine) - schools officials cannot now afford to hire a second guidance counselor despite the fact that in a single year five children recently committed suicide and 20 more attempted to do so. There is currently one guidance counselor serving 200 students in a town with 50% unemployment and widespread problems with alcohol and methamphetamines abuse.

Across-the-board cuts to domestic spending are NOT the answer!