Dear fellow state workers,

This email comes at what I know is a very uncertain time for you and everyone in Washington. I fully appreciate how difficult this time is for you.  As you know, budget negotiations continue. While the revenue forecast provided some positive news, much work remains. I am doing everything I can to help legislators reach agreement before June 30 and avoid a government shutdown.

In the meantime, we must continue working with agency directors to prepare contingency plans. Last night I met with my cabinet to discuss next steps and I wanted to share our progress with you as well.

As you recall, last week my office [requested](http://ofm.wa.gov/documents/contingency_planning_for_state_agency_operations.pdf) each agency to work with its legal counsel and provide information about which services and programs could continue under the law. Those determinations are based on certain constitutional obligations and federal laws, or whether funding requires an appropriation from our operating budget.

Our legal teams have put together a helpful spreadsheet summarizing which agencies would remain open and the impacts to services and programs. I know each of us shares a deep concern for the people we serve and the services we deliver, and this information will be of great interest to you. That spreadsheet will be available online at [www.ofm.wa.gov/contingency/agency\_planning.pdf](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/contingency/agency_planning.pdf).

I want to be clear that determinations about which services will continue is not a matter of choice or about whether one service or program is considered more important than another. These decisions are purely a matter of legal or constitutional obligation. If you have questions about this list, I encourage you to reach out to your agency director.

In addition, please be aware that if we haven’t finalized negotiations by early next week, potential layoff notices may be sent out. This is because, should a budget not be agreed to by June 30, most state employees are required to be given five to seven days notice of a temporary layoff.

Again, a government shutdown is not likely. But absent legislative action, that is what will happen. I know the uncertainty is hard on you, your colleagues and your families. I will continue doing everything I can to ensure legislators reach a budget agreement, and I believe they will.

At last night’s cabinet meeting, the cabinet members told me that despite the frustration and uncertainty during this time, you’ve continued to serve the people of Washington state with the highest degree of professionalism and dedication. Thank you. In seeing the potential impacts of a shutdown, it’s immediately clear how each and every one of you — and the vendors and contractors you work with — play an important role in making Washington a safe, beautiful and healthy place to live and work. I appreciate all you do.

If you have comments, please email me through this [link](https://fortress.wa.gov/es/governor/).

Very truly yours,

Jay