

denies U.S. assistance to foreign groups that offer or promote abortions. # Even so, some influential Republicans have struggled to stay aligned behind Trump in the face of the shutdown. # Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), who is up for reelection November 2020 in a state that Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton won in 2016, has called on Congress to pass spending bills to reopen the government even if they don't contain Trump's desired level of border wall money. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), a moderate also on the ballot next year in a blue state, has also argued that legislation to fund other parts of the government shouldn't be held hostage in disputes over the wall. # " Federal workers don't deserve this, " Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) said Friday in Manhattan, Kan., during a news conference in which he announced his retirement from the Senate. # Trump said he had formed a Pence-led working group that would be meeting with Hill staff over the weekend to come up with a solution to the impasse. That session will occur 11 a.m. at the White House, according to a congressional official. But one Democratic official familiar with Friday's congressional leadership meeting said the phrase " working group " was not mentioned during it and that staff discussions were expected to continue as before. # House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said the meeting with Trump had been contentious, although Trump later called it productive. The Democrats said they pleaded with Trump to set aside the wall dispute and reopen the government, but that he refused. # " He resisted, " Schumer said. " In fact, he said he