

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 7, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

We write to express our strong opposition to President Trump's decision to rescind the modest across-the-board statutory pay increases and locality pay increases provided for the hard-working public servants in our federal workforce. We should not abandon our federal workers but rather stand by the 1.9 percent federal pay adjustment that is already included in the bipartisan and Senate-passed Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2019.

The federal government has serious business to conduct, and we must block the President's indefensible attacks on the federal workforce that we count on every day. It is obviously a cruel joke to say that federal workers and their families should suffer in the name of the President's sudden campaign for fiscal responsibility. The President's budget-busting tax bill will increase the deficit by more than \$1.5 trillion over a decade, giving tax breaks to the wealthy while leaving middle class taxpayers behind. If the President wants to "put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course," as he claimed in his letter announcing the pay freeze, he should start with his gargantuan deficit-financed tax giveaway to the wealthy and corporations, and not the hard-won modest benefits of a federal workforce struggling to do their jobs in this unstable environment.

Federal workers have already been required to help reduce the deficit – contributing over \$200 billion towards deficit reduction since 2011. From 2011 through 2013, federal workers experienced a three-year pay freeze. In 2013, more than 750,000 federal employees were furloughed due to sequestration cuts, costing those middle-class families over \$1 billion in lost wages alone. Also, during the 2013 shutdown, upwards of 800,000 federal employees were furloughed indefinitely and another 1.3 million reported for work not knowing when they could expect their next paycheck. From 2014 through 2016, federal employees received raises lower than those required by law.

It is hard to think of another group of Americans that has been asked to give more to reduce the national deficit. We cannot continue to pretend to balance our budget on the backs of the people who process our Social Security checks, keep our airports secure, fight forest fires, promote public health, and protect our homeland. It is plainly wrong to tell millions of our fellow Americans that we can afford lavish tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans but not what amounts to a cost-of-living adjustment for the civil servants who keep the government working.

The Trump Administration must end these irrational and draconian cuts to the pay and benefits of federal employees and retirees, just as it must stop attacking the rights of employees to collectively bargain, resolve workplace disputes, and challenge unfair treatment. The men and women that make up our federal workforce are highly skilled and dedicated public servants who love this country. We cannot continue to demoralize them and denigrate their service while expecting national progress.

Please reject the President's proposal and stand with our federal workers by supporting the modest 1.9 percent pay adjustment passed in bipartisan fashion in the Senate.

Sincerely,



JAMIE RASKIN
Member of Congress



STENY HOYER
Member of Congress



ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS
Member of Congress



GERALD E. CONNOLLY
Member of Congress



ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



ANTHONY BROWN
Member of Congress



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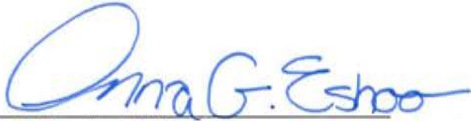
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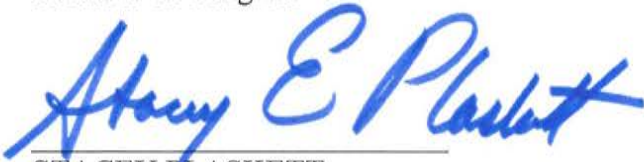
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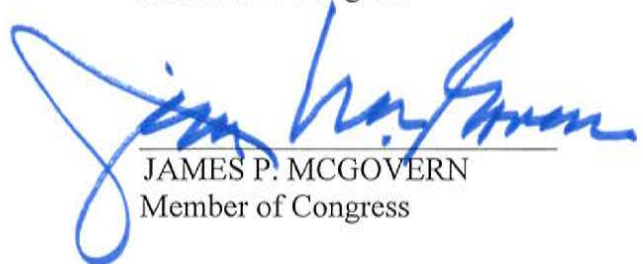
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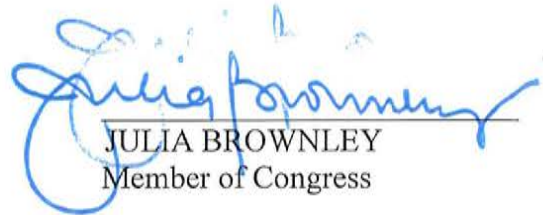

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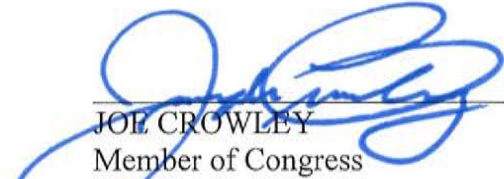

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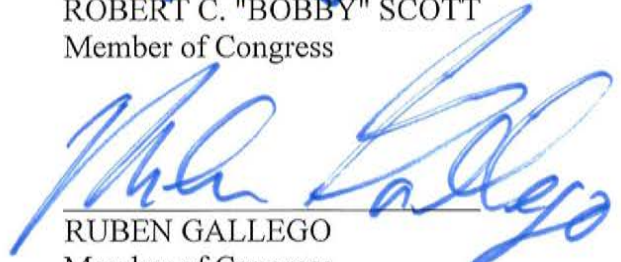

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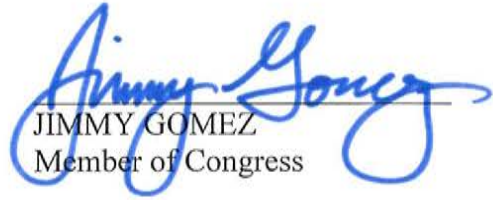

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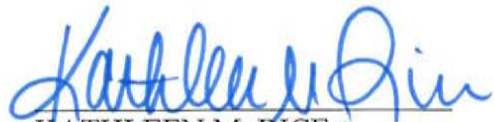
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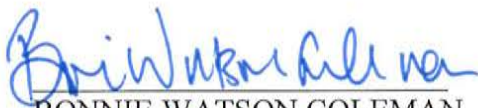
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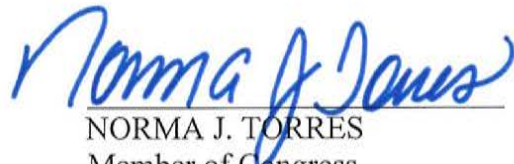
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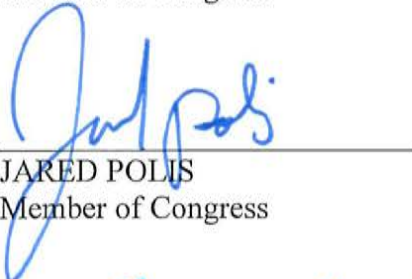
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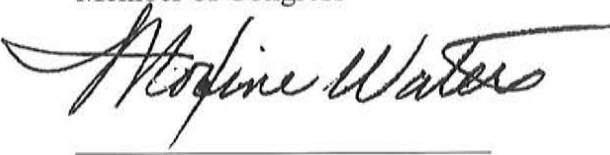

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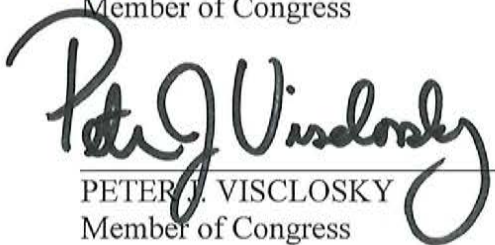
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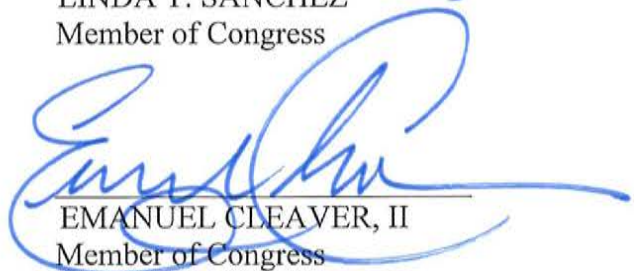
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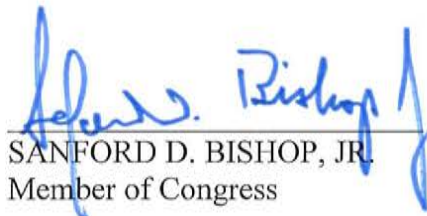

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