



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

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October 27, 2025

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 800,000 federal and D.C. workers, I ask that you vote for cloture on H.R. 5371, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2026, which funds the federal government for approximately three weeks.

Federal workers – your constituents, who serve your constituents – are hurting. On Friday, October 24 most federal employees should have been paid for the wide range of critical services they provide to the American people, including ensuring that the nation's food supply and drinking water are safe, military equipment is kept in a good state of repair, and the social safety net is responsive to those in need. However, due to the ongoing spending impasse, most civil servants did not receive a paycheck last week. Unless things change, more federal workers will wake up this Friday to bank balances that have not been replenished and financial worries that have grown heavier.

As president of the largest federal employee union, I cannot countenance the sight of workers I represent standing in food lines. It should trouble the conscience of every member of Congress and indeed every American. Whether they are declared excepted workers or are furloughed – a designation they do not choose – federal workers are for the most part not being paid. Yet their obligations remain to pay mortgages and monthly rents, credit card bills and childcare, and gasoline and automobile loans.

Were any other employer in the United States to treat its workforce in the same way, there would be a bipartisan outcry and demands that the offending employer reverse course. AFGE's hope since October 1 has been that the spending impasse would be resolved to the satisfaction of both sides of the aisle, including on the critical question of healthcare affordability that members of both parties have acknowledged must be addressed. In the meantime, the government must be funded. With less than a month before Thanksgiving, no federal worker should have to turn to a food pantry to help prepare the family table. Please vote for cloture.

Sincerely,

Everett B. Kelley
National President

