



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Dr. Kendrick B. Roberson
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

April 20, 2026

Dear Representative:

The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE) – which proudly represents approximately 100,000 employees of the Department of Homeland Security who have not been consistently paid for nearly three months, including 47,000 employees of the Transportation Security Administration– strongly urges the House to pass before this Friday H.R. 7147 as returned to the House by the Senate on April 2, the long overdue compromise to fund DHS that the Senate passed by a voice vote early this morning.

Failure to pass this bipartisan compromise before Friday, April 24 guarantees that Transportation Security Officers, civilian Coast Guard employees, and FEMA professionals will go unpaid unless the administration steps in, as it did last month. With no commitment from the administration that this will happen, it is critical that the House pass H.R. 7147 as presented by the Senate without delay.

Not a single observer of the House believes H.R. 7147, as amended by the Senate, would fail to pass with strong bipartisan support if the House leadership allowed it to receive a vote. If the term “the People’s House” is to mean anything, House leaders must step aside this week and permit the House to express its will on a measure to fund one of the most important agencies of the federal government, as well as one of the nation’s largest employers.

It speaks volumes about the House’s priorities and sense of urgency in 2026 that it has been in session only 66 days this year, even as the funding lapse at DHS approaches 70 days – by far the longest shutdown of any federal agency in history. Surely House leaders can find 40 minutes this week for the House to consider H.R. 7147 under suspension.

This week the House has the opportunity to demonstrate its bipartisan support of the hardworking professionals of DHS who serve the public with dedication, respect, and excellence, including Transportation Security Officer who ensure our nation’s commercial airlines are the safest in the world. The last thing Americans need is a return to the traveling disruptions that resulted when TSOs went almost two months without pay.

Please end the longest partial government shutdown before you leave Washington, DC this week.

Please vote for H.R. 7147.

Sincerely,

Everett B. Kelley
National President

