



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National Secretary-Treasurer

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

December 27, 2018

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and D.C. government employees across 70 agencies, I urge you to end the current shutdown and, immediately after the shutdown, pass legislation to pay all federal employees affected by this funding lapse. As you know, federal employees are only paid after a government shutdown if Congress passes legislation to pay them. Government shutdowns interrupt the delivery of scheduled pay, and thereby create serious financial hardship for the federal employees affected.

Unfortunately, we are in the sixth day of yet another government shutdown and approximately 800,000 federal employees are either locked out of their jobs or required to work without a paycheck. These employees do not know if or when they will be paid for this time when the shutdown ends. Federal employees are working and middle-class public servants who often live paycheck to paycheck. They cannot afford to have their pay delayed and they certainly cannot go without pay altogether.

Funding the government is one of the most basic functions of Congress, and when Congress fails to fulfil this responsibility, federal employees should not be forced to suffer. The Senate has already passed legislation to pay all federal employees as quickly as possible after a government shutdown, and we urge the House to pass similar legislation. H.R. 7368, the "Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act," introduced by Representatives Don Beyer (D-VA) and Rob Wittman (R-VA) is bipartisan legislation that will ensure federal employees who are furloughed during the government shutdown are paid when it ends.

When the government shuts down it is never the fault of federal employees. Federal employees want to go to work. They believe in their agencies' missions and want to provide quality services to the American people. Federal employees deserve better than shutdowns and no pay.

AFGE strongly urges Congress to end the shutdown and pass legislation to pay all federal employees immediately after the shutdown. **Please cosponsor H.R. 7368, the "Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act."**

For questions or additional information, please contact Alethea Predeoux at alethea.predeoux@afge.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. David Cox, Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President
American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO