



**Dr. Everett B. Kelley**  
*National Secretary-Treasurer*

**J. David Cox, Sr.**  
*National President*

**Jeremy A. Lannan**  
*NVP for Women & Fair Practices*

385271

January 23, 2019

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), which represents more than 700,000 federal and District of Columbia government employees in 70 agencies, I am writing to urge you to vote "Yes" on the funding measure to open the government through February 8<sup>th</sup> that is expected to come to the floor for a vote tomorrow, January 24, 2019. The shutdown must end so that federal employees who are furloughed can get back to work providing services to the American people and both furloughed and excepted employees can be paid.

Today marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the shutdown. Federal workers in the agencies affected by the shutdown have missed two paychecks and do not have the ability to pay their rent or mortgage, are foregoing medical care because they cannot afford co-payments, and are risking their credit scores and security clearances because they cannot pay their bills on time. For more than a month, 800,000 federal workers have been locked out of their jobs or worked without pay and they do not know when they will receive their next pay check. This situation is unconscionable and must end immediately.

AFGE strongly urges you to vote to end not only this shutdown, but also to oppose any legislation that allows or establishes a precedent of withholding federal employee pay and agency funding in cases where Congress and a President cannot come to terms on an issue. Therefore, we **strongly urge you to vote in support of the funding measure to open the government through February 8<sup>th</sup>**. All federal employees affected by the funding lapse need to be paid immediately and provided financial relief until the government is fully funded and operating for the remainder of the fiscal year. For additional information or questions, please contact Alethea Predeoux at [alethea.predeoux@afge.org](mailto:alethea.predeoux@afge.org).

Sincerely,

J. David Cox, Sr.  
National President

