



Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National Secretary-Treasurer

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

January 17, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the more than 700,000 federal and DC government employees represented by the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE), I am writing to ask that you cancel the Senate's scheduled recess during the week of January 21st due to the funding lapse that is depriving 800,000 federal employees of their pay and American citizens of the services these employees provide.

This shutdown/lockout is a national crisis. It is also a disgrace and an embarrassment and is inflicting enormous harm on the middle and working class Americans that make up the federal workforce. If the United States Senate adjourns tomorrow and does not return to work until January 28th, federal employees and their families will receive the message that the Senate does not feel any particular urgency to work on securing a resolution to this impasse.

I understand that the recess was scheduled to allow Senators to celebrate the life and work of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. There can be no doubt that Dr. King would have deplored the fact that 800,000 workers' paychecks are being held hostage in a staged political quagmire. I am confident that he would have wanted everyone with any ability whatsoever to help bring about an end to this crisis to remain at work, pushing for a fair and just resolution.

In his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech delivered to striking Memphis sanitation workers 50 years ago, Dr. King said:

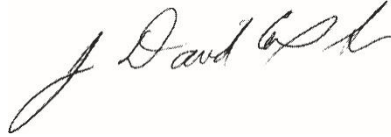
"God's children here suffering, sometimes going hungry, going through dark and dreary nights wondering how this thing is going to come out. That's the issue. And we've got to say to the nation, we know how it's coming out. For when people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory."

Federal employees' situation is not yet as dire as that of the Memphis sanitation workers, but we must do all we can to make sure that federal employees in 2019 do not go hungry, are not forced to find food for their next meal at a food bank, are not having to raid their already inadequate retirement savings just to keep a roof over their heads.



Please honor Dr. King and the men and women of the federal workforce being victimized by this shutdown/lockout by cancelling your planned recess. Please remain in Washington, DC and do everything you can to bring this crisis to a close.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. David Cox, Sr.", written in a cursive style.

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President