

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 28, 2019

Margaret M. Weichert
Acting Director
U.S. Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Acting Director Weichert:

Now that the longest ever government shutdown is finally over, we are writing to urge you to provide back pay for federal workers as soon as possible. More than 800,000 federal workers have gone without pay because the government shutdown locked them out of their jobs or required them to work without pay. These workers need to know now when they will finally receive their missed paychecks.

On Friday, January 25th, as President Trump finally announced that he would end this government shutdown, many federal workers missed their second full paycheck. These federal workers have seen bills pile up during the government shutdown, and many of them are currently paying high interest on credit cards or even payday loans to afford basic needs. We have heard from civil servants who will not be able to make their February rent or mortgage payment without their back pay.

We supported the recently enacted Government Employee Fair Treatment Act, which ensured that all federal workers would receive back pay. That law mandates that the federal government shall provide back pay, "at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates." We are pleased to see your recent OPM guidance reaffirming this requirement in the law. And we note that when President Trump announced he would agree to reopen the government, he said, "I will make sure that all employees receive their back pay very quickly, or as soon as possible. It will happen fast."

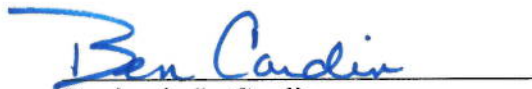
This government shutdown made it clearer than ever just how dedicated civil servants are to their jobs, and how vital those jobs are to the nation. We ask that you publicize when exactly these civil servants can expect to receive their back pay, and we hope it will arrive very soon.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



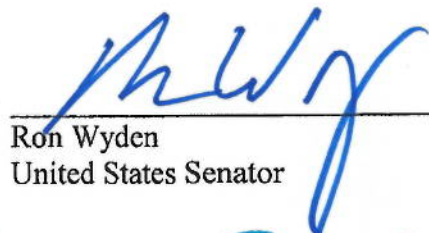
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



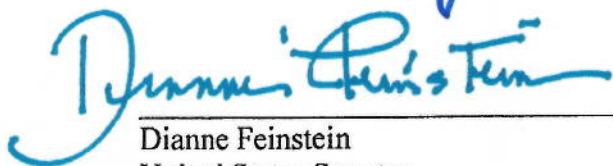
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



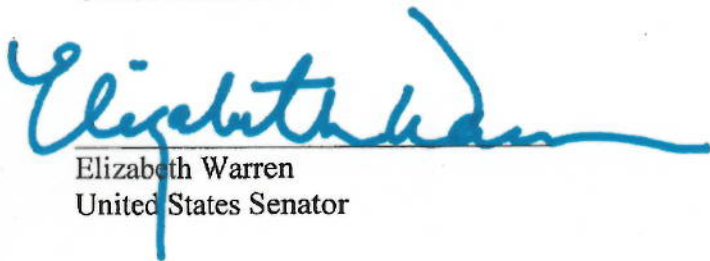
Ron Wyden
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Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



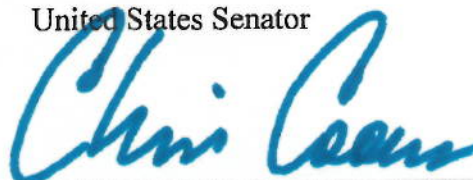
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
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Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



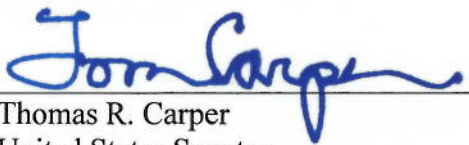
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator




Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator




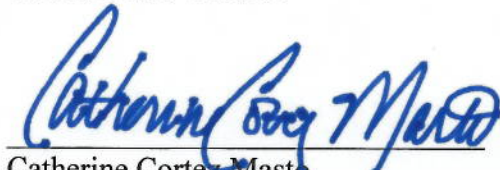
Jack Reed
United States Senator


Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

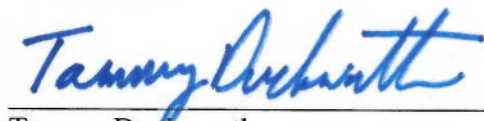

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

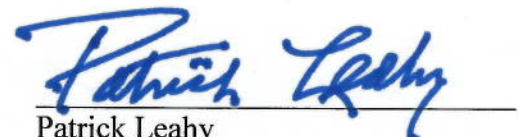

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

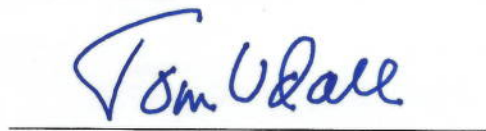

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

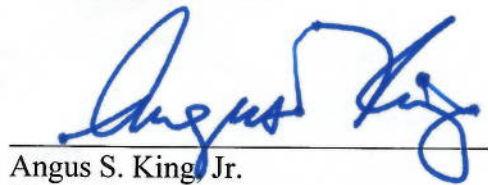

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Patrick Leahy
United States Senator


Tom Udall
United States Senator


Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator


Angus S. King, Jr.
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