



Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National Secretary-Treasurer

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

December 22, 2018

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 employees in nearly 70 agencies, I write to urge you to act to end this lapse in funding and its attendant partial government shutdown.

I urge you to vote to reopen the government and allow it to resume operation. Keeping the government open should be the priority of Congress. During a shutdown every government service is compromised, including our national security. Federal employees are now either locked out of their jobs or forced to go to work without knowing if or when they will be paid. No private business or company would be permitted to impose on or disrupt the lives of their employees in such a manner.

This year Congress worked successfully to advance all 12 appropriations bills through the committees of jurisdiction. In fact, a modest 1.9 percent pay adjustment for federal employees was included in the Senate Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill and received bipartisan support in the House. To reach the end of the year without passing these appropriations bills or any funding measure to keep the government operating does a grave disservice to federal employees and the American public, and is an abdication of the most fundamental duty of the President and Congress—funding the government.

Federal employees are dedicated public servants committed to the missions of their agencies. They work hard to provide services to veterans, warfighters, Social Security recipients and victims of natural disasters. They provide aviation and border security, protect our communities, and make sure that the food we eat and the products we use are safe for consumption. Please fund the government so that they can go back to work and do their jobs for the American people.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. David Cox, Sr." in a cursive script.

J. David Cox, Sr.
National President