



January 3, 2019

United States Congress
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Federal-Postal Coalition, an alliance of thirty organizations representing the more than five million active and retired federal and postal employees, we urge you to work to find immediate consensus to fund the government. This will allow federal employees to return to work and provide the American people with vital public services.

In this 13th day of the shutdown, approximately 800,000 federal employees are furloughed or required to work without pay and do not know if, or even when, they will be paid for this time. Although Washington, DC, is the focal point of this political funding battle, federal employees and their families work in every state across the nation. They are on the frontlines and face serious financial harm because of the shutdown. Federal employees are dedicated public servants who want to do their jobs and need to return to work.

Like most Americans, federal employees have financial obligations that cannot be placed on hold and many cannot afford to be locked out of their jobs or go without their paychecks. Delayed payments have a real economic cost – interest charges, late fees, lowered credit scores, loss of trust from creditors or landlords. Federal workers should not be forced to do chores for their landlords – as suggested by the Administration – instead of working for the American people.

The costs of a shutdown only add to the financial sacrifice imposed on the federal workforce in recent years. Since 2011, federal employees have had more than \$200 billion taken from their pay and benefits as a result of pay freezes, furloughs, and increased retirement contributions. This number will only grow if the federal pay freeze for 2019 remains in effect. In 2013, when the government shut down for 16 days, it cost American taxpayers nearly \$24 billion. Federal employees and the American people should not have to pay for another shutdown.

Funding the government is one of the most important responsibilities of Congress and the President. A lapse in government funding compromises all federal services, including our national security. Each day that the shutdown continues, more Americans begin to feel the effects of having a government that is only partially operating. The shutdown is directly affecting agencies that support victims of natural disasters, provide aviation and border security, ensure economic vitality through legal trade and travel, assist taxpayers, allow businesses to grow and expand, keep our communities safe and guard our prisons, welcome visitors and keep our national parks clean, and make sure that the food we eat and the products we use are safe for consumption. There is too much at stake to allow this shutdown to continue another day.

We ask that you fund the government to end the shutdown and pass legislation to retroactively pay all federal employees affected by the shutdown immediately after it ends.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Federal-Postal Coalition Chair, Kori Blalock Keller at kbkeller@nalc.org.

Sincerely,

Kori Blalock Keller, Chair
Federal-Postal Coalition

The Federal-Postal Coalition includes the following organizations:

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)
American Postal Workers Union (APWU)
FAA Managers Association (FAAMA)
Federal Managers Association (FMA)
Federally Employed Women (FEW)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA)
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)
National Education Association
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Association (NPMHU)
National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Professional Managers Association (PMA)
Senior Executives Association (SEA)
United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)