



February 6, 2019

United States Senate
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 support S. 262, which would provide federal employees with a 2.6 percent pay increase in 2019. This increase would be in line with the pay increase provided to members of the military for 2019. S. 262 is the Senate companion bill to H.R. 790, which passed in the House of Representatives on January 30, 2019, by a vote of 259-161.

Following the recent 35-day government shutdown, no other group in our country has been more demoralized, and asked to sacrifice more, than our federal workforce. Approximately 800,000 federal employees were furloughed or required to work without pay for more than a month. This left many of them empty-handed and in extreme distress over how to pay their bills and feed their families. Despite the uncertainty and hardship that federal workers endured throughout the shutdown, they showed an unparalleled commitment to exemplary public service.

The government shutdown came at a time when lagging federal pay rates had already taken a toll on federal employees and their families. According to private-sector wage data from the Department of Labor's Employment Cost Index, average private industry wages increased by 10.4 percent over the last 5 years. In comparison, federal employees faced extended pay freezes in 2011, 2012, and 2013 and reduced pay adjustments in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Combined, these below market pay adjustments and freezes, along with the dramatic increases to retirement contributions for new federal employees in both 2012 and 2013, have already cost federal employees approximately \$200 billion, as scored over a ten-year period.

Despite private sector wage growth, President Trump called for a pay freeze for federal employees in 2019. Prior to 2011, Congress routinely appropriated federal pay raises. Unfortunately, Congress has largely neglected to do so in recent years, instead ceding that authority to the President. That is why we are calling on Congress to take action and support a pay raise for federal employees in 2019.

We urge you to show your confidence in America's public servants and support S. 262, which will grant our federal employees a well-deserved pay increase of 2.6 percent.

Sincerely,

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 Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
Laborers' International Union of North America (LiUNA)
National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)
National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)
National Education Association (NEA)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (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. Dept 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)