



December 18, 2018

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents over 150,000 federal employees in 33 agencies, I urge you to ensure that all federal workers stay on the job in December and receive a pay raise in January.

With the current Continuing Resolution (CR) set to expire at midnight on Friday, December 21st, it is imperative that Congress and the White House work together to keep federal agencies open. Many frontline federal employees face a possible third shutdown for 2018 with renewed work, scheduling, and pay uncertainty as we head into the holidays. Whether they are to be furloughed or asked to continue to report to duty, these employees would go unpaid during a lapse in appropriations and would require congressional action to ensure they are paid once agencies are back to operating normally. While a shutdown is personally concerning this time of year for employees as they begin to travel to celebrate holidays with family and friends, it is also problematic for agencies such as the IRS, which is gearing up for a complex tax filing season following enactment of tax reform, and CBP given its crucial border mission.

Additionally, federal employees are concerned about a pay freeze, given the President's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2019. If not for the President's decision, the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act (5 USC 5303) indicates that federal employees should receive a 2.1 percent pay raise in January 2019, prior to any amount being provided for locality pay rate increases. NTEU supports the bipartisan provision, section 749, in the Senate-passed FY 2019 Financial Services and General Government (FSGG) appropriations bill (part of minibus H.R. 6147), providing federal workers on average a 1.9 percent pay increase in January. However, we are concerned that if there is no agreement on the various outstanding funding measures and a CR is passed, absent specific language to the contrary, federal employees will once again be subject to a pay freeze, following three years with a pay freeze and five subsequent years of below-market pay raises that were lower than the amounts called for under current law. While we prefer that full-year funding bills are enacted for the remaining agencies currently operating under the CR, should another short- or long-term CR be enacted, we ask that the Senate-passed pay increase of 1.9 percent for federal employees be included.

Like all American workers and middle-class taxpayers, federal employees face ever-increasing costs of living, with rising utility, food and health care bills, along with school loan and rent or mortgage obligations. However, federal employees have seen their wages fall further behind the private sector, which has adversely impacted them and their families, as well as federal agencies who compete for skilled talent. As we approach the 21st and the holidays, I urge you to pass

legislation keeping the government open and providing a pay raise for the dedicated federal employees who work on behalf of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President