



November 27, 2018

Dear Representative:

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.

Many frontline federal employees work at agencies that are currently operating under the Continuing Resolution (CR) set to expire on December 7th. These individuals face a possible third shutdown for 2018 with renewed work, scheduling, and pay uncertainty as we head into the final month of the year. Whether they are to be furloughed and sent home 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 there is never a good time to go without pay, for many who will celebrate holidays next month with family, there is no worse time. And, agencies such as the IRS, tasked with delivering a complex filing season following enactment of tax reform, and CBP with its crucial border mission, need both additional Fiscal Year 2019 funds and overall budget certainty.

Additionally, federal employees need Congress to act swiftly on a fair pay raise. At the end of August, the President sent a letter to Congress reiterating the call in his Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Budget Request for a pay freeze for federal workers despite a growing economy and low unemployment. If not for the President's decision to implement a pay freeze, 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. NTEU also supports efforts to provide a pay raise to federal workers equal to that provided to military personnel, who will receive a 2.6 percent pay increase this January, as federal employees frequently work side by side with members of our military in service to the nation.

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. Due to a three year pay freeze and five subsequent years of below-market pay raises that were lower than the amounts called for under current law, 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. Like all employees, federal employees deserve an employer who values their work and their ongoing contributions to improve our nation, and who does not forget them no matter the season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'A'.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President