



February 7, 2019

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents over 150,000 federal employees in 33 agencies, I urge you to support S. 262, the Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act of 2019, which would provide federal workers a 2.6 percent pay increase for 2019 and ensure pay parity with the military, with whom they frequently work in service to the nation. The House companion bill, H.R. 790, passed the House of Representatives last week by a vote of 259 to 161.

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. 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. This formula is designed to ensure that the gap between federal government and private sector wages does not further deteriorate. According to the most recent Federal Pay Agent Report, the current pay disparity is over 30 percent.

Like all American workers and middle-class taxpayers, federal employees face ever-increasing costs of living, with rising utility, health care and food 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.

Moreover, if the federal government is to have the ability to compete with the private sector in recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce, it is essential that the federal government provide its workers a pay increase. The federal government relies on qualified and professional civil servants that live and work in every state and congressional district across the country to carry out our nation's laws and programs, providing critical services for our nation and the American people.

Now, after suffering through a 35-day shutdown that caused unimaginable hardship for hundreds of thousands of federal workers, their families, and their communities, it is important to ensure that employees are able to afford the increased fees and penalties that they suffered as a result. All federal employees deserve an adequate pay raise and we urge your support for S. 262 as part of the final FY 2019 funding agreement in appreciation for their service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President