



December 22, 2018

Dear Representative:

As National President of the National Treasury Employees Union, representing over 150,000 federal employees in 33 different agencies, I am writing to urge Congress to re-open affected government agencies so that all federal employees can resume their regular duties on behalf of the American people.

Federal employees work and live in every district in the country and are tremendously proud to work for the U.S. government. They perform a multitude of jobs, including working as scientists, accountants, engineers, inspectors, and law enforcement. Be they IRS customer service representatives, Customs and Border Protection Officers and Agriculture Specialists, FDA inspectors and National Park Service rangers, all serve in vital roles for the American public and are left with financial uncertainty as they go without a paycheck.

The third government shutdown in this calendar year is disruptive to hundreds of thousands of your federal employee constituents who, whether they are furloughed or on the job, remain unpaid during this holiday season. These middle-class employees depend on their paychecks to buy their groceries, pay their rent and mortgages, and provide for their families. And, as a reminder, it's not just federal workers who are impacted—local economies, small businesses and contractors also suffer during a shutdown.

On behalf of frontline federal employees, I urge you to act on the NTEU-supported, bipartisan Beyer-Wittman bill, H.R. 7368, to guarantee that all federal employees are paid swiftly following the lapse in appropriations. Last night, the Senate cleared similar legislation (S. 2274) easing the way for enactment. I also ask that you work to include the Senate-passed federal employee 1.9 percent pay adjustment language into any funding measure considered given the President's continued pay freeze plan for approximately two million individuals that make up America's civilian workforce at a time of economic strength.

If you have any questions about these bills or our views, please do not hesitate to contact Jill Crissman, NTEU's Director of Legislation at jill.crissman@nteu.org.

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