



January 29, 2018

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

As National President of the National Treasury Employees Union, representing over 150,000 federal employees in 32 agencies, I want to urge you to ensure that non-defense federal agencies receive adequate funding for their missions and responsibilities for the American public as you negotiate on a budget and spending deal for the rest of the year. As you well know, federal employees make sure our drugs are safe, that our water and air are clean, that our borders are protected, that our banking system is sound, and that tax revenue is available for government programs and the military, among other important functions. And throughout the years, agencies have been asked to do more with less, even as that turned to, in the words of former IRS Commissioner Koskinen “do less with less.” Federal employees look forward to providing excellent service to this country. However, they can’t do their jobs for the public without adequate agency funding.

Nonetheless, it is equally important that federal employees do not bear the burden of increased agency spending. Recent extended pay freezes and reduced pay adjustments, combined with drastic increases in employee retirement contributions for new federal employees in both 2012 and 2013, have taken their toll on paychecks and have already resulted in federal employees contributing approximately \$200 billion toward deficit reduction. In addition, over the last five years, private sector wages increased an average of 10.4%, while federal employee wages lagged at an increase of 6.9%.

We believe that increases are needed in the discretionary spending caps, but federal employees have given enough already. We need to hire the best and brightest into the civil service, but we can’t do that when pay and benefits are cut time and time again, particularly during a healthy economy with strong competition from private-sector employers. Please let us know that you stand with us once more and will resist any efforts to cut federal employee compensation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony M. Reardon  
National President