



January 23, 2019

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Federal-Postal Coalition, an alliance of thirty organizations representing the more than five million active and retired federal and postal employees, we urge you to vote YES on the three-week Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund a quarter of the government through February 8. The U.S. Senate is expected to consider this legislation tomorrow.

The longest government shutdown in modern history is now in its 33rd day, and with each passing moment, the negative consequences to the affected agencies, employees, and the public are rapidly compounding. Approximately 800,000 federal employees are furloughed or required to work without pay and do not know when they will be paid for this time. Like most Americans, federal employees have financial obligations that cannot be placed on hold. Many cannot afford to be locked out of their jobs or go without their paychecks. Unfortunately, they will miss their second paycheck of the year this week. This will inflict serious financial hardship, as they now find themselves unable to pay bills and support their families. Moreover, public servants who maintain security clearances are at risk for losing their clearance and potentially their employment due to unpaid bills.

Funding the government is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of Congress and the President. A lapse in government funding compromises critical federal services, including our national safety and security. Each day that the shutdown continues, more Americans begin to feel the effects of having a government that is only partially operating. The shutdown is directly affecting agencies and employees that support victims of natural disasters, ensure aviation safety and provide border security, ensure economic vitality through legal trade and travel, assist taxpayers, allow businesses to grow and expand, keep our communities safe and guard our prisons, welcome visitors and keep our national parks clean, and make sure that the food we eat and the products we use are safe for consumption.

There is too much at stake to allow this shutdown to continue another day.

We urge you to vote YES on the three-week Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund a quarter of the government through February 8.

Should you require any further information, please contact the Federal-Postal Coalition Chair, Kori Blalock Keller at kbkeller@nalc.org.

Sincerely,

Kori Blalock Keller, Chair
Federal-Postal Coalition

The Federal-Postal Coalition includes the following organizations:

American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)
American Postal Workers Union (APWU)
FAA Managers Association (FAAMA)
Federal Managers Association (FMA)
Federally Employed Women (FEW)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA)
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)
National Association of Assistant United States Attorneys (NAAUSA)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)
National Education Association
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Association (NPMHU)
National Rural Letter Carriers Association (NRLCA)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Organization of Professional Employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (OPEDA)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Professional Managers Association (PMA)
Senior Executives Association (SEA)
United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)