

February 13, 2015

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the over 200,000 managers and supervisors in the federal government whose interests are represented by the Federal Managers Association (FMA), I am writing to respectfully urge you to keep the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) fully funded and operational and prevent a devastating shutdown that is approaching at the end of the month.

More than 30,000 hard-working men and women will be furloughed if the Congress cannot meet its responsibility of funding this critical department. They are dedicated patriots who tirelessly serve their communities, fulfilling congressionally-mandated missions and goals with one common objective: protecting the safety of every American citizen. A shutdown would not only have tangible negative effects on the furloughed employees and their families; it would negatively impact every American who relies on the broad services the department provides. As one example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency says it would have to furlough more than 85 percent of its workforce if a shutdown occurs, which would imperil rescue and recovery if any natural disasters or other unforeseen events happen. As the Northeast continues to face unknown weather that has negatively impacted American's lives, now is not a time to limit resources. Furthermore, as the United States examines its actions against terrorism overseas, DHS plays a vital role to the safety of our borders and country.

As there are only four legislative days left before funding runs out, FMA asks that you act on this matter immediately. There is broad agreement on the funding level for DHS for Fiscal Year 2015. It is time for Congress to put aside partisan differences when American citizens' livelihoods are at stake, and we urge you to fully fund DHS for the remainder of FY2015.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact FMA's Director of Government Affairs, Greg Stanford, at gstanford@fedmanagers.org or at 703-683-8700, ext. 104.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia J. Niehaus
National President