



Dear Representative/Senator:

The Federal-Postal Coalition, an alliance of thirty organizations representing more than five million active and retired federal and postal employees urges you to work to find immediate consensus to fund the government. The threat of another government shutdown, the third in the past ten years, will do nothing but impede federal departments and agencies' abilities to provide vital resources to the American people while damaging the national economy. Shutdowns cause a waste of taxpayer resources, disrupting the smooth functioning of federal agencies, saddling them with unnecessary shutdown and startup costs, and forcing them to eventually pay wages to workers who were furloughed and ordered to cease all job-related activities for days or weeks.

The 2013 federal government shutdown lasted for seventeen days and furloughed up to 850,000<sup>1</sup> federal employees while 1.3 million employees were required to work without pay. The 2018-2019 partial federal government lasted for over thirty days and furloughed 300,000 federal employees while another 500,000 were required to work without pay.<sup>2</sup> During these times many services were limited, including but not limited to: new parents could not have Social Security cards issued to their children; farmers could not sign up for USDA programs; federal studies of disease prevention were halted; new law enforcement officers could not be hired; inspections to ensure the safety of the nation's food and water supplies were put on hold; and the FDA could not approve new drugs, medical devices and products. Additionally, the 2013 shutdown cost the US economy \$2-6 billion<sup>3</sup>, while the 2018-2019 partial shutdown cost \$11 billion.<sup>4</sup>

Shutdowns also impact the individuals who work for the federal government. Many federal employees who live paycheck to paycheck will not receive a paycheck during a shutdown. This impacts their ability to pay their mortgages, medical bills, and children's daycare, and also harms their credit ratings, which can impact security clearances. Shutdowns also undermine employees' confidence in the workplace, hurt staff morale, and impede future recruitment.

Funding the government is one of the most important responsibilities of Congress and the president. A lapse in government funding compromises all federal services, including our national security. A shutdown will directly affect agencies that support victims of natural disasters, provide aviation and 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

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Management and Budget, *Impacts and Costs of the Government Shutdown*, November 2013, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/reports/impacts-and-costs-of-october-2013-federal-government-shutdown-report.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Congressional Budget Office, *The Effects of the Partial Shutdown Ending in January 2019*, January 2019, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-01/54937-PartialShutdownEffects.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Office of Management and Budget, *Impacts and Costs of the Government Shutdown*, November 2013, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/reports/impacts-and-costs-of-october-2013-federal-government-shutdown-report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Congressional Budget Office, *The Effects of the Partial Shutdown Ending in January 2019*, January 2019, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-01/54937-PartialShutdownEffects.pdf>

products we use are safe. There is too much at stake to allow another shutdown. It has been amply demonstrated that shutdowns do not reduce the deficit – they increase it – and do not advance the policy goals of those who allow them to occur.

Federal employees and the American people do not deserve a preventable economic disaster. Millions of middle-class families – the majority of whom reside outside the capital region – rely on the federal government for their livelihoods and well-being, including not just federal employees but millions of contract workers. The Coalition urges you to learn from past mistakes and avoid an unnecessary shutdown that will accomplish nothing and harm American families.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employees  
American Foreign Service Association  
American Postal Workers Union  
FAA Managers Association  
Federal Managers Association  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers  
National Association of Assistant U.S. Attorneys  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of Government Employees  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
National Association of Postal Supervisors  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association  
National Council of Social Security Management Associations  
National Federation of Federal Employees  
National Postal Mail Handlers Union  
National Rural Letter Carriers Association  
National Treasury Employees Union  
National Weather Service Employees Organization  
Patent Office Professional Association  
Postal Police Officers Association  
Professional Managers Association  
Senior Executives Association