



January 12, 2018

Dear Representative:

As National President of the National Treasury Employees Union, representing over 150,000 federal employees in 32 agencies, I am writing to urge you to pass a funding bill that will last until the end of the FY 2018 fiscal year. Lurching from one Continuing Resolution (CR) to another means that agencies cannot make adequate plans for the services they provide. It also means interrupting work time after time to prepare for a possible shutdown. Here we are days before the present CR expires and because federal agencies can't predict what will happen, shutdown planning begins anew. It is inefficient and harmful for the essential work that must be done, and harmful for the morale of employees, as well.

NTEU is aware that another short-term CR may be passed next week. We sincerely hope that it will be the last one and that a final funding agreement will be reached soon. However, at a minimum an enacted CR keeps federal workers reporting for duty at federal agencies serving the American public, and ensures that federal employees continue to receive their paychecks on time--that they- and their families-rely upon to make ends meet.

During negotiations to provide a stable funding source for the rest of this fiscal year, we urge you to address the current caps on discretionary spending to ensure that non-defense federal agencies receive adequate funding for their missions and responsibilities for the American public. NTEU also asks you to remember that federal employees, unlike any other group of individuals, have already contributed close to \$200 billion to deficit reduction. Combined with the three-year pay freeze, and the following five years of scanty pay raises (that were also below what the law calls for), federal employees can't absorb any more cuts to their compensation. In the last five years, federal employees have trailed behind their private-sector counterparts in terms of pay raises, even failing to keep up with the rate of inflation. Further, the deficit increase created by the recently-enacted tax reform legislation should not be used to reduce federal employee benefits.

As the employer of over 2 million workers who protect our borders, keep our food and water safe, generate revenue through taxes, protect our national parks, and serve the American people in so many ways, you have an obligation to look after federal employee interests, and to ensure that federal agencies are properly staffed and funded, and that the federal government remains a competitive employer. Please come together to provide a budget that will last until the end of the fiscal year, and that allows federal agencies and employees to do the work they are charged with performing for the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anthony" being more prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President