

January 28, 2019

Margaret M. Weichert  
Acting Director  
U.S. Office of Personnel Management  
1900 E Street NW  
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Acting Director Weichert:

Now that the longest ever government shutdown is finally over, we are writing to urge you to provide back pay for federal workers as soon as possible. More than 800,000 federal workers have gone without pay because the government shutdown locked them out of their jobs or required them to work without pay. These workers need to know now when they will finally receive their missed paychecks.

On Friday, January 25th, as President Trump finally announced that he would end this government shutdown, many federal workers missed their second full paycheck. These federal workers have seen bills pile up during the government shutdown, and many of them are currently paying high interest on credit cards or even payday loans to afford basic needs. We have heard from civil servants who will not be able to make their February rent or mortgage payment without their back pay.

We supported the recently enacted Government Employee Fair Treatment Act, which ensured that all federal workers would receive back pay. That law mandates that the federal government shall provide back pay, "at the earliest date possible after the lapse in appropriations ends, regardless of scheduled pay dates." We are pleased to see your recent OPM guidance reaffirming this requirement in the law. And we note that when President Trump announced he would agree to reopen the government, he said, "I will make sure that all employees receive their back pay very quickly, or as soon as possible. It will happen fast."

This government shutdown made it clearer than ever just how dedicated civil servants are to their jobs, and how vital those jobs are to the nation. We ask that you publicize when exactly these civil servants can expect to receive their back pay, and we hope it will arrive very soon.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

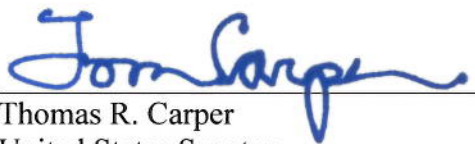
Sincerely,

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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

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Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



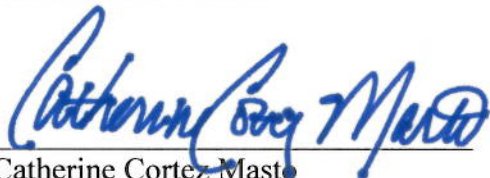
Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator



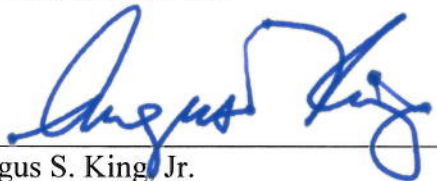
Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senator