

**Kenneth J. Thomas**  
*National President*



**Kathryn E. Hensley**  
*National Secretary/Treasurer*

January 4, 2019

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), I urge you to pass legislation to fund the remaining agencies suffering from a lapse in appropriations, and authorize a modest 1.9 percent average increase in federal pay rates for calendar year 2019. Specifically, I respectfully urge you pass both H.R. 21 and H.J.Res. 1, or similar, consensus-driven legislation.

H.R. 21 would enact full fiscal year 2019 funding to nearly all the remaining departments and agencies suffering a lapse in appropriations, and deliver a 2019 federal pay raise. H.J.Res. 1 would provide more time for agreement in the border security debate by passing a continuing resolution to fund the Department of Homeland Security through February 8.

The partial government shutdown continues through its 14<sup>th</sup> day, disrupting the missions of the American government and threatening to strain the finances of hard-working federal employees, as next week's paychecks will be delayed if the shutdown continues. Adding insult to injury, the President issued an executive order last week to freeze federal pay rates for calendar year 2019. That's the bad news.

The good news is that you have the power to end both the shutdown and pay freeze at any moment. Please do so without delay.

Without action taken by your chamber, federal employees will suffer from delayed paychecks coupled with the prospect of stagnant pay in 2019, despite a growing economy and private-sector wages increasing. This shameful combination will no doubt demoralize federal employees, degrade civil service competitiveness in retaining and attracting a highly skilled workforce, and jeopardize the financial security of federal employees.

H.R. 21, the six-bill appropriations package passed in the House that includes a federal pay raise, was a reflection of noncontroversial Senate appropriations legislation that was previously passed either by the full Senate or in committee on a bipartisan basis. This desperately needed funding should not be held up as a result of ongoing negotiations over Homeland Security Department funding. By temporarily extending Homeland Security Department funding at current levels until February 8 through H.J.Res 1, and passing full-year funding for all other departments and agencies, Congress and the president can continue border wall funding negotiations without doing so at the expense of dedicated, middle-class civil servants who rely on their regular paychecks to stay financially afloat. Setting aside disputes to provide for a fully functioning

**National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association**

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federal government is the responsible course of action, as government services the public relies on should not be held hostage until a solution is found for the border wall negotiations.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please contact NARFE's Staff Vice President for Advocacy, Jessica Klement at 571-483-1284 or [jklement@narfe.org](mailto:jklement@narfe.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Thomas', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Thomas  
National President