



February 6, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, and Leaders McConnell, Schumer, and Pelosi:

As members of the Federal-Postal Coalition, which represents federal and postal employees, supervisors, and retirees, the undersigned organizations urge you and your fellow members of Congress to protect the earned pay and benefits of these dedicated men and women. With budget negotiations ongoing, you and your colleagues may look to offset increases to discretionary spending caps with alternative spending cuts. If you do, please keep in mind the contributions the federal workforce has made recently to deficit reduction, and the contributions they make to the success of this country every day.

Time and time again, federal employees and retirees are used to offset other spending priorities, and since 2011, they have contributed over \$182 billion in budget savings. Federal employees' pay was frozen for three years starting in 2011, followed by three years of reduced pay increases. In 2013 and 2014, members of Congress increased subsequently hired federal and postal employees' contributions to their retirement benefits in order to offset the costs of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Finally, in 2013, nearly 800,000 federal employees were furloughed due to the automatic sequester cuts and Congress' inability to raise the caps. This action cost these employees over \$1 billion in take home pay, for which they did not receive back pay. They should not be asked to give even more.

While we understand the necessity of reaching a bipartisan budget agreement and urge full funding of government agencies, we ask that it is not at the expense of the federal community. These are the men and women who protect our borders, conduct food safety inspections, care for our veterans, and warn the American public of natural disasters. They based their careers on serving their county and the American people. They are neither the cause of, nor the solution for, this country's deficits and debt. They should not be the scapegoat for them either.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Federal-Postal Coalition Chair, Kori Blalock Keller, at kbkeller@nalc.org.

Sincerely,

American Federation of Government Employee (AFGE)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Foreign Service Association (AFSA)
American Postal Workers Union (APWU)
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)
International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE)
FAA Managers Association (FAAMA)
Federal Managers Association (FMA)
National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)
National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)
National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV)
National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)
National Association of Postal Supervisors (NAPS)
National Council of Social Security Management Associations (NCSSMA)
National Education Association (NEA)
National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE)
National Postal Mail Handlers Union (NPMHU)
National Rural Letter Carriers' Association (NRLCA)
National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU)
National Weather Service Employees Organization (NWSEO)
Patent Office Professional Association (POPA)
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS)
Professional Managers Association (PMA)
Senior Executives Association (SEA)
United Postmasters and Managers of America (UPMA)