



September 13, 2018

Dear Conferees:

On behalf of the Federal-Postal Coalition, which represents the interests of more than five million federal and postal employees and retirees across the country, we write to you as you and your fellow conferees complete work on H.R. 6147, the Interior, Environment, Financial Services and General Government, Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2019.

Our coalition respectfully requests that you adopt the 1.9 percent federal employee pay raise included in the Senate's fiscal year 2019 (FY19) Financial Services and General Government spending bill.

Under current law (the Federal Employees' Pay Comparability Act), federal employees should receive a 2.1 percent pay raise in January 2019, prior to any amount being provided for locality pay rate increases. Unfortunately, the President recently announced his intention to rescind this scheduled pay increase for federal employees in 2019 despite a growing economy and even greater private-sector wage growth.

Prior to 2011, Congress routinely appropriated federal pay raises. It has abrogated that responsibility in recent years, leaving appropriations bills silent on the matter and ceding authority to grant a federal raise, or not, to the President. We hope that Congress will assume its proper role and return to the practice of appropriating increases in federal pay rates comparable to increases in private-sector wages and salaries – starting with the adoption of the 1.9 percent pay increase for federal employees in 2019. This will allow the federal government to attract and retain the best and brightest to public service.

Additionally, as a constituency that believes the Postal Service should provide the best service possible, we encourage you to consider restoring strong service standards to prevent further closures and consolidations of postal facilities and mail processing plants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KBlalock". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Kori Blalock Keller  
Federal-Postal Coalition Chair