



# American Federation of Government Employees Local 476

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## **Government Shutdown Issues**

### **AFGE's Position**

- Instead of playing politics with the public services we count on, Congress needs to do what we elected them to do and pay their bills on time. It's as simple as that.
- Letting a small group of extremists shut down the entire federal government is beyond unacceptable; it is completely avoidable and a shameful waste of taxpayer dollars.
- Federal employees want to go to work. They believe in their mission and want to provide quality services to the American people.
- AFGE supports legislation introduced by Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland that would ensure federal employees are paid in full retroactively in the event of a funding lapse.

### **Shutdown Overview**

- Funding for most federal government operations will run out at the close of December 11 unless Congress passes legislation to continue funding through the rest of fiscal 2016.
- Extremist lawmakers in both the House and Senate are threatening to shut down the government in an ideological battle over federal funding for Planned Parenthood
- If Congress fails to take appropriate action, most government offices and worksites will close their doors on December 12.
- During a government shutdown, most federal employees and contractors will be furloughed without pay (850,000 during 2013 shutdown). Others deemed "essential" will be required to work during the shutdown but won't get paid either.

### **Examples of Key Services That Stop During a Shutdown**

- Issuing new Social Security cards and processing veteran benefits claims
- Conducting federal research into disease prevention
- Processing visa and passport applications
- Operating national parks, museums and monuments

- Inspecting food, water, workplaces, chemical plants, and hazardous waste sites
- FDA approval of potentially life-saving medical products, devices, and drugs

### **Impact on the Public**

- Federal employees ensure the safety and security of the public at home and abroad, research cures for deadly diseases, keep our air, water, and food safe for consumption, and process benefits for countless seniors, veterans, and disabled Americans every day.
- During a government shutdown, vital government programs and services are brought to a halt because many federal employees are not allowed to go to work. Those who do go to work are forced to work without pay.
- The 2013 shutdown took \$24 billion out of the U.S. economy and reduced projected fourth-quarter GDP growth from 3 percent to 2.4 percent.
- 85% of federal employees who live and work outside of the Washington, DC area will be forced to go without a paycheck, damaging local economies all across the country

### **Impact on Federal Employees**

- Government employees aren't paid during a shutdown, whether they're locked out of their jobs or required to report to work.
- Most of AFGE's members take home about \$500 a week. The loss of even one week of pay can hurt their ability to pay rent, childcare, car loans, and groceries.
- During the 2013 shutdown, about 850,000 employees were furloughed for a combined total of 6.6 million work days. The cost to taxpayers for this lost productivity totaled \$2.5 billion.

### **Results of 2013 Shutdown**

- \$500 million in lost revenue at national parks and monuments
- Hundreds of cancer patients prevented from enrolling in NIH clinical trials
- Cancelled 1,400 OSHA inspections to prevent workplace fatalities and injuries
- Halted EPA inspections at 1,200 sites, including hazardous waste facilities, chemical plants and drinking water systems
- Required the National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to furlough four out of the five Nobel Prize-winning researchers currently employed by the Federal government.