

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Shelby, Vice Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Granger:

As the Senate and House negotiate appropriations legislation for fiscal year 2020 we strongly encourage you to include – consistent with House-passed legislation – backpay for workers who were employed by federal government contractors and who did not receive pay during the most recent federal government shutdown which ended in January 2019.

Federal contractors work alongside government employees performing critical jobs that include food service, engineering, security, maintenance, electrical work, and much more. For many contract workers, missing even one paycheck can leave their family unable to pay rent, mortgage payments, or grocery bills. Unfortunately, contract workers impacted by the most recent shutdown did not receive multiple paychecks, and they were not made whole at the conclusion of the shutdown unlike federal workers. Federally contracted workers, and their families, bear no responsibility for the shutdown, but ultimately, they continue to pay for it.

Unlike their federal counterparts, contractors have not been made whole from the last shutdown. This represents a moral failure on the part of Congress. The House has taken the first step in passing appropriations language to provide this back pay and we ask that this language be included in any legislation that comes out of upcoming appropriations negotiations. This would dramatically improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of American workers who still face the repercussions of the shutdown over the most recent holiday season.

We thank you for reviewing this important request, and we look forward to working with you to ensure impacted federal contract workers receive the pay they missed through no fault of their own.

Sincerely,



Mark Pocan
Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus



Pramila Jayapal
Co-Chair, Congressional Progressive Caucus



Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



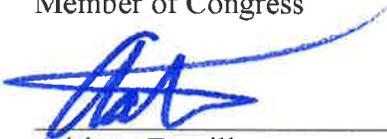
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Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
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Adriano Espaillat
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Jared Huffman
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Ro Khanna
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Jan Schakowsky
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Bernard Sanders
United States Senate



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Jamie Raskin
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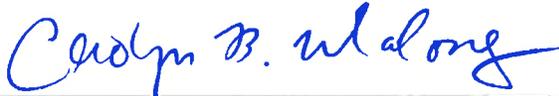
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Rosa DeLauro
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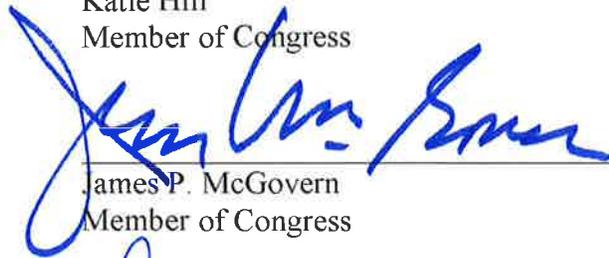
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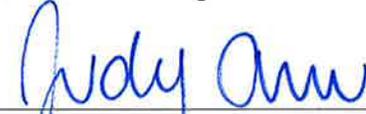
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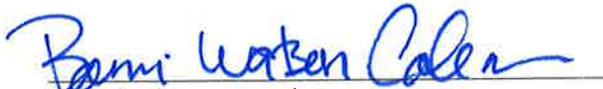
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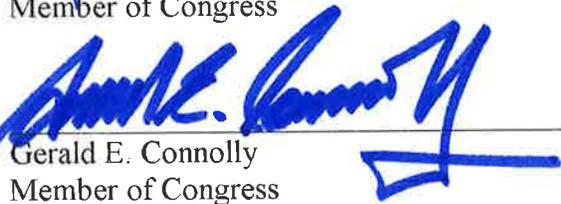

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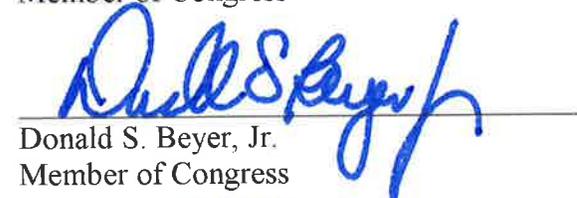

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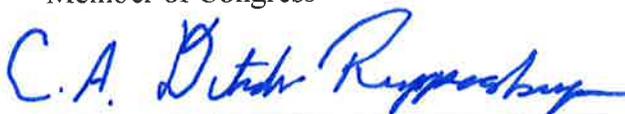

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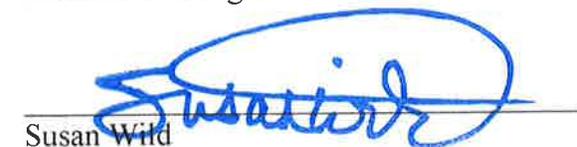

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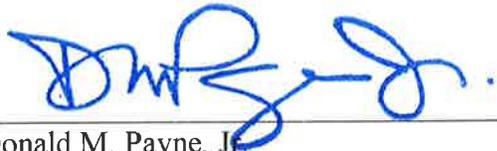

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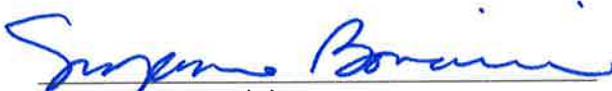
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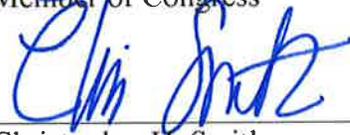
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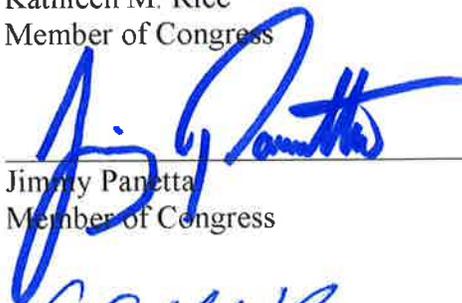
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