

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 8, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

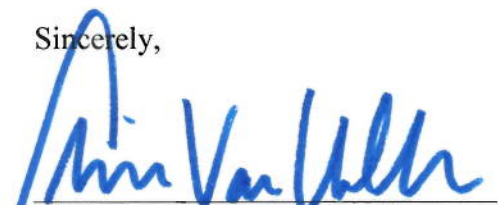
Dear Chairman Shelby and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As discussions proceed for upcoming appropriations bills, we urge you to include a provision to provide back pay to compensate federal contractor employees for the wages they lost as a result of not being able to report to work during the recent government shutdown.

Contractor workers and their families should not be penalized for a government shutdown that they did nothing to cause. While federal employees received back pay at the end of the shutdown, federal contractors did not. Contractor employees perform jobs that are critical to the operations of our government, such as food service, security, and custodial work. These are often low-wage jobs that require workers to live paycheck to paycheck. As a result, the shutdown has left contractors struggling with unpaid rent and other mounting bills that many of these workers still cannot afford without back pay.


There are bipartisan bills in both houses of Congress that would provide back pay to compensate contractor employees for their lost wages. As supporters of this effort, we urge you to include back pay for contractor employees in a supplemental appropriations bill for FY2019 or as part of the regular appropriations process for FY2020.

Sincerely,


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Susan M. Collins
United States Senator


Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Doug Jones

Doug Jones
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen

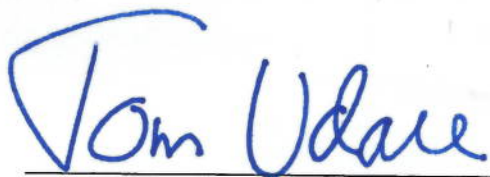
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

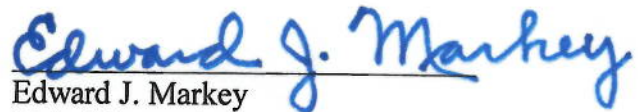
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



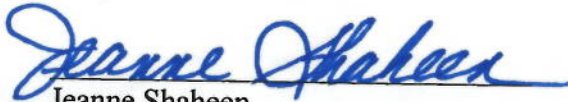
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



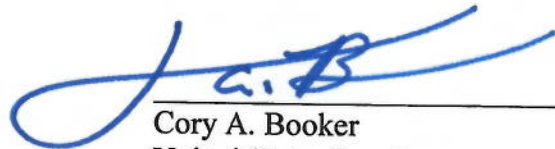
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



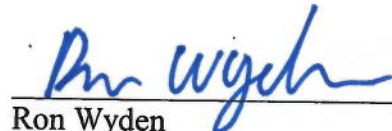
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



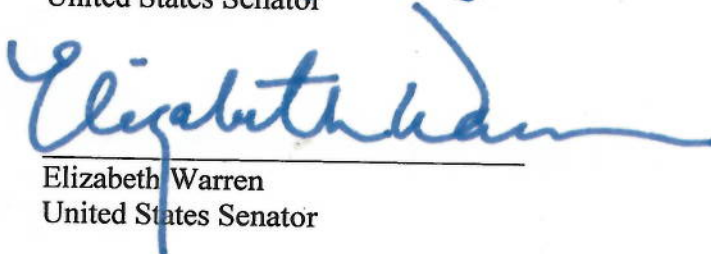
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



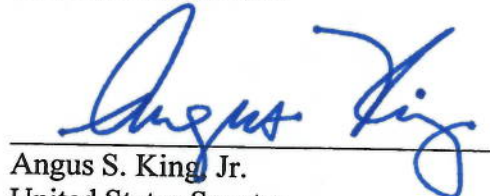
Robert Menendez
United States Senator




Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator