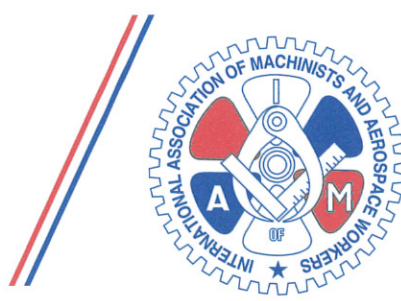


**International  
Association of  
Machinists and  
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301  
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

January 30, 2019

Dear Representative,

**On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), I strongly urge you to support our nation's federal contract workers by cosponsoring the Fairness for Federal Contractors Act, H.R. 824, introduced by Representatives Donald Norcross (D-NJ) and Chris Smith (R-NJ). In the wake of the longest government shutdown in United States history, this bipartisan legislation would provide back pay to government contract employees to compensate them for the wages they lost as a result of this needless government shutdown.**

The Machinists Union represents tens of thousands of federal contract workers who were furloughed or forced to work without pay during this recent, record breaking, 39-day shutdown. These men and women work side-by-side with federal workers performing jobs that are absolutely vital to the government and to the people of the United States. To many of these federal contract workers and their families, the impact of this pointless shutdown has been crippling. Through no fault of their own many of these families are facing the reality of missing payments on their mortgages, student loans, school tuition, car loans, health care premiums, daycare, interest fees, and so many other expenses. Contract workers and their families should not suffer the consequences of a shutdown they had no hand in creating.

We applaud Representatives Norcross and Smith for introducing this vital legislation to ensure that these workers are compensated for their lost wages. The IAM is proud to lead the fight and work with all motivated groups and elected officials to make certain that these contract workers are made whole. The legislation would instruct federal agencies to work with federal contractors to ensure that back pay is granted (up to a maximum of \$1,400 per week) to all impacted contract workers. After past shutdowns, contract employees have generally not received any back pay for lost wages. The Machinists Union will fight to ensure that these workers are not left out in the cold this time.

Congress recently passed legislation granting back pay to federal government workers impacted by the shutdown. The IAM commends Congress for this principled and just legislation. Now it is time to take these same steps on behalf of impacted government contract workers.

For all of these reasons, **I urge you to support federal contract workers by cosponsoring The Fairness for Federal Contractors Act, H.R. 824.** To cosponsor, please contact Vincent Sarubbi of Congressman Norcross's staff at [vincent.sarubbi@mail.house.gov](mailto:vincent.sarubbi@mail.house.gov) or Courtney Fellows of Congressman Smith's staff at [courtney.fellows@mail.house.gov](mailto:courtney.fellows@mail.house.gov).

For more information, please contact IAM Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301)967-4575 or [hsolomon@iamaw.org](mailto:hsolomon@iamaw.org).

Thank you,

Robert Martinez, Jr.  
International President