



IAM
UNION

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Office of the International President

September 30, 2025

Dear Senator:

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 Fair Pay for Federal Contractors Act, led by Senators Tina Smith (D-MN), Time Kaine (D-VA), Mark Warner (D-VA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD). In the event of a government shutdown in Fiscal Year 2026, this 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 IAM represents tens of thousands of federal contract workers who are often furloughed or forced to work without pay during government shutdowns. 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. Many of these federal contract workers and their families are still feeling the impact of the last full government shutdown in 2019 which lasted a record 35 days. Through no fault of their own many of these families faced 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. Today, they are looking down the barrel of a similar fate. Contract workers and their families should not suffer the consequences of a shutdown they had no hand in creating.

We applaud Senators Smith, Kaine, Warner, Van Hollen, and Alsobrooks for leading this vitally important legislation to ensure 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 these contract workers are made whole in the event of an FY26 shutdown. This legislation would instruct federal agencies to work with federal contractors to ensure that backpay is granted (up to a maximum of \$1,442 per week) to all impacted contract workers. After past shutdowns, contract employees have generally not received any backpay for lost wages. The Machinists Union will fight to ensure that these workers are not left out in the cold this time.

In the wake of the 2019 shutdown, Congress passed legislation granting back pay to federal government workers impacted by the shutdown. The IAM commends Congress for this principled and just legislation. Congress should now 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 Fair Pay for Federal Contractors Act.** To cosponsor, please contact Brennan Barber in Senator Smith's office at brennan_barber@smith.senate.gov.

For more information, please contact IAM National Legislative and Political Director Hasan Solomon at hsolomon@iamaw.org or 202-420-5902.

Sincerely,

Brian Bryant
IAM International President