

Support the Pay Federal Workers Act and Allow Unpaid Federal Workers to Receive Unemployment Assistance

Introduced by Rep. Debbie Dingell and Rep. Fred Upton

Across the country federal workers are going to work each day for which they aren't bringing home a paycheck. For many of these workers, even one missed paycheck can be financially catastrophic. Food, gas, childcare, healthcare and mortgage payments don't stop when the government is shutdown and asking our federal workforce to bear the brunt of these costs while they aren't getting paychecks is simply not the right.

- The Pay Federal Workers Act would allow states to make unemployment benefits immediately available to unpaid federal workers still required to work during the government shutdown.
- This exception would also be codified into the law permanently – so that any time the government is shutdown our federal workforce are not the ones paying the price.
- This same language was passed in to law during the 1996 government shutdown but expired at the end of that fiscal year.
- Governors across the country, including Governor Whitmer from my home state of Michigan, have asked Department of Labor Secretary Acosta to waive existing regulations that prohibit the payment of unemployment benefits to essential government employees, but the Department of Labor has failed to act.

Our federal workers are still showing up to their jobs – making sure our food, borders, airlines, and other essential government services are still open to help us. Right now, we need to do everything we can to help them during this government shutdown and ultimately we must come to the table and reopen the government.