



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 31, 2018

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IFPTE Statement on House Bill to Re-Open Government Union “applauds” new majority for putting workers above politics

Below is a joint statement from IFPTE President, Paul Shearon, and Secretary-Treasurer, Matt Biggs, in response to news reports that upon taking the gavel, House Democrats will quickly move a bill to reopen the government later this week:

It remains outrageous that the President continues to use working Americans as political pawns, going so far as to imply that the government shutdown is somehow ok because it takes pay checks away primarily from Democratic federal workers, spouses, and children to motivate Democratic representatives and Senators to vote for a wall he promised Mexico would pay for. This sad confession laid bare the Administration’s abhorrent plan to get a border wall enacted at all cost.

IFPTE applauds the incoming House Democratic majority, and Senate Democratic Leader Schumer, for their plan to put workers ahead of politics by moving swiftly later this week in putting a bill before the Congress to re-open federal government agencies and send locked-out federal workers, including more than ten thousand IFPTE represented employees, back to work. It is our understanding that the legislation will be very similar to the bill that was accepted by unanimous consent in the Senate and IFPTE urges all House members to speak up loudly in defense of this bill, and the Americans who have chosen to work for the public good. IFPTE also implores the Senate to follow the advice of Senator Schumer by quickly following the House’s lead in approving the spending measure.

In re-opening the government, IFPTE also urges Congress to approve Senate passed legislation authored by Maryland Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, ensuring that all workers impacted by this politically motivated shutdown are retroactively paid.

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