

Dear Colleagues,

During this week's conference call with our parent union IFPTE, NAIJ was informed that although a bill to end the shutdown and provide appropriations for the government agencies impacted by the closure was introduced and voted on by Congress, it was unlikely that it would be introduced in the Senate. IFPTE reported that "last night the House did pass the legislation by a vote of 241-190 to reopen government, with 7 Republicans joining all Democrats in voting for the bill. [Here is a link](#) to the vote tally. Senator McConnell continues to refuse to put the bill on the Senate floor (even though it likely could pass the Senate, and has already passed the Senate in Dec by voice vote) because President Trump continues to oppose it absent a package that includes \$5B for a border wall".

Today's national news provided little information as to resolution or cessation of the shutdown. IFPTE is working to ensure that retroactive pay is provided as well as to make sure that any appropriations bill includes the 1.9 percent increase for federal employees.

NAIJ has been proactive in speaking with the press to ensure that our message is heard. NAIJ is acutely aware of the many concerns and stress we face as to uncertainty when the furlough will end, when we will get paid after the furlough ends, retroactive pay, and the fact that many IJs are working as essential employees on the detained dockets without pay.

NAIJ remains committed in separating our immigration courts and proceedings from the influence of political policy discussions. The importance of having independent immigration courts in a neutral setting has never been more clear. NAIJ expects our government to function and stands in support of our fellow federal employees!

Remarks by Judge Dana Marks can be found at the links provided.

<https://www.wbur.org/news/2019/01/04/immigration-court-shutdown>;

<https://www.npr.org/2018/12/29/680950638/government-shutdown-stalls-backlog-of-immigration-cases>;

Judge Ashley Tabaddor can be heard on the NBC Nightly News broadcast for January 4, 2019. Please follow this link

<https://www.nbc.com/nightly-news/video/nbc-nightly-news-jan-4-2019/3850267>

Additional information can be found at

<https://wamu.org/story/19/01/02/despite-huge-backlogs-the-government-shutdown-halts-most-immigration-court-hearings/>;

<https://whyy.org/articles/federal-government-shutdown-halts-most-immigration-court-hearings/>;

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/03/politics/shutdown-immigration/index.html>

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/sd-federal-workers-rip-president-trump-s-false-claim-many-of-them-want-government-to-remain-shuttered-20181226-story.html>

Additionally as reported last week, IFPTE has informed us that Senators Cardin, Van Hollen and Collins introduced a bipartisan bill (S 24) to ensure that all furloughed workers get back pay as soon as possible after the government reopens. This is the same bill that passed the Senate by Unanimous Consent (UC) before the holidays. [Here is the press statement from Sen. Cardin's office on this.](#) See also <https://www.govexec.com/>

Please continue to provide us with updates and let us know if you are called in as essential employees, asked to cover detained dockets, or forgo your CWS day. Do not hesitate to reach out to NAIJ with any questions or concerns. As we get further information we will continue to update information and forward the news to you.

Regards,
Amiena Khan
Executive Vice President NAIJ