



Senate of Pennsylvania

January 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to request information on what your institution is doing, or can do, to help the more than 12,000 Pennsylvania federal workers, contractors and subcontractors throughout the Commonwealth who are not receiving a paycheck or are furloughed due to the partial federal government shutdown.

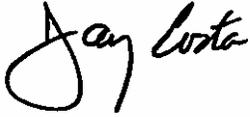
Unfortunately, the shutdown drags on and the financial strain placed on Pennsylvania's federal government employees, contractors and subcontractors and their families continues to grow. With employees virtually guaranteed to not receive their paychecks on Friday, January 11, 2019, these families will continue to struggle to meet their financial obligations and their situations will become direr. These individuals and families, many of whom are living paycheck to paycheck, are being forced to make the difficult decisions on how to buy food, pay their mortgage, or cover necessary medical expenses. The problem has the potential to get much worse as state level employees may soon be impacted if the shutdown continues.

Over the past several days I have heard from numerous constituents who are impacted by this situation. Their financial struggles and their fears are very real. While media reports have referenced steps taken by some banks to assist these federal employees, contractors and subcontractors, all banks have a responsibility to help save our taxpayers from financial hardship, just as the taxpayers saved the banking industry from financial calamity in 2008. I hope your institution shares that sentiment.

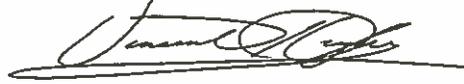
Based on the number of branch locations in the Commonwealth you are one of the ten largest banks. We are asking for you to provide us with information on the steps you have taken, or will take, to help Pennsylvania families navigate the financial hardship they are enduring through no fault of their own. It is my hope that we can work together to disseminate this information across Pennsylvania, so families impacted by the shutdown know that relief is available to them. At a time when thousands of federal workers, contractors and subcontractors in Pennsylvania, and hundreds of thousands across the nation, are suffering, we must all come together and lend a helping hand.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response and we are happy to discuss this matter with you further.

Sincerely,



Senator Jay Costa
Democratic Leader



Senator Vincent J. Hughes
Democratic Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee



Senator Shariff Street
Democratic Chair
Senate Banking and Insurance Committee



Senator Christine Tartaglione
Democratic Chair
Senate Labor and Industry Committee