

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

As the Congressman for Colorado's Eighth Congressional District, I am reaching out on behalf of my constituents to respectfully urge your members to refrain from penalizing federal employees and servicemembers whose paychecks are currently being withheld due to the federal government shutdown.

As you may know, on September 30th, 2025, Senate Democrats failed to join unified Republicans on voting in favor of the Continuing Resolution (CR). This decision, spearheaded by Senate Minority Leader Schumer, caused a lapse in appropriations and now hardworking civil servants and brave men and women in uniform are left to deal with the devastating financial implications.

I am proud to represent Northern Colorado, home to countless federal employees and National Guardsmen. Colorado's federal workforce employs approximately 40,000 individuals¹, of which at least 15% reside under my jurisdiction in my district — many of whom are your members' clients. As a veteran, I understand firsthand the impact a federal shutdown can have on families, especially military families. When I served as a Captain in the Army National Guard, the average junior enlisted guardsmen under my command were paid less than \$5,000² a year for hours of work and responsibilities critical to the safety of our nation and respective states. Similarly, federal employees earn an average salary of \$64,181 per year³. These are public servants working paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet and most cannot afford to miss one.

Unfortunately, these federal employees and military service members are already facing increased economic challenges because of bad policies from the governor and state legislature that have made our state more expensive. Colorado is experiencing a significant housing affordability crisis, with rising rents and home prices outpacing wage growth across much of the state. In fact, Colorado's cost-of-living is 9% higher than the national average with housing expenses leading at 24% compared to other states⁴. In metropolitan areas like Denver, fair market rents for typical apartments often exceed 30% of a moderate-income household's earnings, making it difficult to find stable, affordable housing. More specifically, 77% of renters

¹ [National Active and Retired Federal Employees Colorado Fact Sheet](#)

² [Army National Guard Pay Tables](#)

³ [Federal Employee Salary Average and Median](#)

⁴ [Cost of Living in Denver, CO](#)

in my district are severely burdened by their income levels meeting or falling below the 30% metric⁵.

If a funding agreement is not reached, many federal employees will not receive their hard-earned salary until funding is restored. While President Trump has directed unobligated funds from the Department of War be used to pay active duty servicemembers on October 15th, it is unclear if they will receive further pay if the shutdown continues. I fear that any delay in compensation will affect the ability of my constituents to meet on-time payment deadlines and will lead to adverse financial burdens. To help mitigate the economic hardship these individuals are experiencing through no fault of their own, I am respectfully asking that your members consider the following temporary financial relief⁶ measures, which many financial institutions are already implementing in support of their clients:

- Offer a temporary 0% interest line of credit
- Eliminate/waive subsequent fees, including overdraft fees and other related charges, for missed or delayed payments
- Suspend negative credit reporting relating to delayed payments
- Suspend payments of loans
- Provide access to hardship programs or short-term assistance

In closing, I respectfully urge and request that your members implement compassionate and proactive measures to support servicemembers and federal workers during this government shutdown. These temporary relief measures will enable families that are missing paychecks to financially recover and come out stronger, once Senate Democrats decide to join Republicans in protecting the working class. I also want to extend my gratitude to the financial institutions that have already taken the necessary steps to support the military and federal workforce. As contributors to our nation, federal employees and servicemembers deserve supportive solutions, not financial strains. Once again, I urge your members to be leaders in this matter and show strong commitment to community responsibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gabe Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Congressman Gabe Evans
Colorado's 8th Congressional District

⁵ [Congressional-District-Housing-Profile-CO.pdf](#)

⁶ [USAA Prepares Financial Assistance To Serve Members Impacted By Potential Government Shutdown](#)