

Brandy White – President
council33pres@gmail.com

Steve Markle – Secretary/Treasurer
cpl33.treasurer@gmail.com

Larry Nelson – Vice President WFP
cplnationalrep@gmail.com



COUNCIL OF PRISON
LOCALS 33
220 CLEVELAND
AVE
FORREST CITY, AR
72335
OFFICE: 870-633-0508
FAX: 870-633-0717

COUNCIL OF PRISON LOCALS 33

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Thune and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the 30,000 federal correctional employees represented by the Council of Prison Locals 33 (CPL-33), I am writing to express our strong support for the Shutdown Fairness Act (S. 3012) and to urge the Senate to immediately pass this legislation. This bill represents a commonsense and critically important measure to provide stability and fairness for the dedicated public servants who continue working during a lapse in appropriations.

Why the Bill Matters

Under current law, many employees must wait until funding is restored to receive their wages, even though a large portion of them are performing essential functions. S. 3012 would appropriate such sums as are necessary to provide standard rates of pay, allowances, benefits and related payments to these employees (including certain contractors and active-duty military) for the duration of any lapse in appropriations. By making this payment mechanism automatic (effective retroactive to September 30, 2025) for future lapses, the bill would reduce the financial uncertainty for those who are asked to serve in difficult circumstances.

The Impact

This legislation sends a clear signal: when the government asks people to show up, even when funding is delayed, we will honor their service and pay them the compensation they otherwise should receive. Moreover, it reduces the moral hazard of forcing essential workers into financial hardship simply because of a funding impasse. It also helps maintain operational readiness—when the paychecks of critical workers are on hold, morale and performance suffers.

With the current appropriations lapse and the unprecedented length of the shutdown, the weaknesses in the system have become particularly apparent. By adopting S. 3012, Congress would not only address the immediate consequences for those working without pay, but also reduce the likelihood of similar disruption in future funding standoffs.

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Conclusion

For these reasons, I respectfully urge every Member of the Senate to support S. 3012, the Shutdown Fairness Act. Ensuring that those who keep our government running, including those in CPL-33 who keep the public safe, do not go unpaid when the government is shut down is both just and prudent policy. Your leadership on this issue will make a real difference in the lives of dedicated public servants and in the continuity of our government's operations.

Thank you for your attention to this time sensitive matter and, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Brandy Moore White

National President, Council of Prison Locals 33



"Protecting those that protect America."