



SENIOR  
EXECUTIVES  
ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Adam Hughes

[ahughes@govnavigators.com](mailto:ahughes@govnavigators.com) | 202.320.3254

**Senior Executives Association Statement on the Administration's Interpretation of  
the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act**

**WASHINGTON, DC – October 7, 2025** – Reports that the Administration may be re-interpreting the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act in a way that could withhold back pay for furloughed federal employees are deeply concerning, and inconsistent with the plain language of the statute signed by President Trump in 2019. The law is clear: *"Each employee of the United States Government or of a District of Columbia public employer furloughed as a result of a covered lapse in appropriations shall be paid for the period of the lapse in appropriations."*

Congress and President Trump understood, in enacting this critical law, that SES and all federal employees who go without pay during a shutdown, through no fault of their own, must be paid what they are owed. Suggesting otherwise not only contradicts the statutory language, it also undermines fairness to all dedicated public servants who deliver for our nation every day.

*The Senior Executives Association (SEA) is a professional association representing Senior Executive Service members and other career federal executives. Founded in 1980, SEA's goals are to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity of the federal government; to advance the professionalism and advocate the interests of career federal executives; and to enhance public recognition of their contributions. For more information, visit [www.seniorexecs.org](http://www.seniorexecs.org).*

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