

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2019

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Alternative Plan for Pay Adjustments for Civilian Federal Employees Covered by the General Schedule
August 30, 2019

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2020.

Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative plans for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare," I view the increases that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 24.01 percent, costing \$24 billion in the first year alone, would go into effect in January 2020, in addition to a 2.6 percent across-the-board increase for the base General Schedule.

We must maintain efforts to put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course; Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such massive increases in locality pay. Accordingly, I have determined that it is appropriate to exercise my authority to set alternative locality pay adjustments for 2020 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5304a.

Specifically, I have determined that for 2020—while across-the-board base pay will increase by 2.6 percent, as prescribed under 5 U.S.C. 5303(a)—the locality pay percentages shown in Schedule 9 of Executive Order 13866 of March 28, 2019, will remain at their 2019 levels. This alternative pay plan decision will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well qualified Federal workforce.

As noted in my Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, our pay system must reform to align with mission-critical recruitment and retention goals, and to reward employees whose performance provides value for the American people. My Administration will continue to support reforms that advance these aims.

The adjustment described above shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2020.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Michael R. Pence, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Categories: Communications to Congress : Civilian Federal employees, alternative pay plan, letter transmitting.

Subjects: Budget, Federal : Congressional spending restraint; Government organization and employees : Civilian Federal employees, alternative pay plan; Government organizations and employees : Recruitment and retention, strengthening efforts.

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