



AIRLINE DISPATCHERS FEDERATION

2020 Pennsylvania Ave NW #821

Washington, DC 20006

 adfboard@dispatcher.org

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The Airline Dispatchers Federation (ADF) joins with the growing chorus of other industry stakeholders in calling for an end to the current government shutdown and to immediately restore pay to government employees. Our air transport system relies on these workers to perform their critical safety related jobs and our government must meet the basic expectation of paying them on time and in full. These essential workers have dutifully reported for work to serve the flying public while receiving zero dollar paychecks and struggling to pay rent, purchase gas and put food on the table for their families, ADF finds this wholly unacceptable. Wait times to clear security are now averaging 1.5 hours with many exceeding 2 hours and more at several airports in the United States. In order for airlines to continue normal operations to serve their passengers, this has necessitated leaving passengers behind, unable to attend meetings, go on vacations, meet family for weddings, births and even to say goodbye to loved ones — opportunities we don't get second chances to attend. Additionally, the economic impact of this shutdown mounts daily with air cargo unable to be screened and business unable to be transacted.

ADF members have a mandate to ensure the safety of the passengers and crew that fly on the aircraft we dispatch, we recognize the critical and irreplaceable role that DHS and TSA professionals play in helping to keep our skies safe. The first best time to end the shutdown was the day before it began, the next best time is now. ADF calls on Congress and the Administration to work together in a bipartisan way to quickly and responsibly resolve the impasse that is crippling air travel in the United States and, indeed by extension, the world. ADF stands ready to work with Members and Cabinet officials at any time and in any place to urgently end this shutdown and craft legislation and rules that ensure it never happens again. Safe air travel is critical to our economy and society; it cannot wait for our elected representatives to act any longer.

Please contact your elected representatives and tell them it's time to end the shutdown. Please use the link below to assist you in locating them.

<https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

Jim Starnes
President, ADF

About the Airline Dispatchers Federation (ADF)

The Airline Dispatchers Federation represents the professional interests of licensed aircraft dispatchers and operational control professionals from aerospace companies, cargo and regional airlines, and every major U.S. air carrier.

As of January 2026, ADF membership stood at 2,338 members. The vast majority of airline passengers traveling each day in the United States do so under the watchful eye of ADF members.

ADF is an all-volunteer organization, composed entirely of working dispatchers. In accordance with its bylaws, ADF is an ****advocacy organization—not a labor organization—****dedicated to promoting safety, professionalism, and recognition for the dispatch profession.

Media Contact:

Airline Dispatchers Federation

✉ adfboard@dispatcher.org

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