

## Loebsack, Bustos-Backed Initiative to Guarantee Back Pay for Furloughed Workers Passes House

Written by Vonnie Hampel  
Monday, 07 October 2013 09:16

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Bipartisan Bill Would Ensure All Federal Employees – Including Those At The Rock Island Arsenal & Iowa National Guard - Receive Retroactive Pay For Period of Government Shutdown

Washington, D.C. – Today, a bipartisan bill cosponsored by Congressman Dave Loebsack (IA-02) and Congresswoman Cheri Bustos (IL-17) that would protect local workers' pay jeopardized by the federal government shutdown unanimously passed the U.S. House of Representatives. The Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act, would ensure that all federal employees, including those at the Rock Island Arsenal in the Quad Cities region and the Iowa National Guard receive full compensation once the government shutdown has ended. This will not only help to make sure that local workers are able to put food on the table, gas in the car and pay their bills, but it will protect the local economy from a drop-off in consumer spending.

“Once again, the hardworking men and women at the Rock Island Arsenal and the Iowa National Guard are being forced to shoulder the effects of reckless political games. Politicians in Washington just don't get it – manufactured crises have real life impacts on families and our economy. This manufactured crisis must end and Washington must get these hardworking Iowans back on the job. I will continue to reach across the aisle to find a bipartisan way forward, and I continue to stand ready to work with anyone willing to put our economy and middle class families ahead of Washington politics,” said Congressman Dave Loebsack.

“Working families and small businesses across our region shouldn't be punished because some in Washington have forced us into a government shutdown,” said Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. “I was proud to help lead this bipartisan effort to secure back pay for the dedicated men and women across our region like those at the Rock Island Arsenal and the Peoria Air

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National Guard. Today's bill would ensure that furloughed workers and their families won't suffer at the hands of this reckless and irresponsible shutdown."

Earlier this week, Loebsack called on Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to ensure that all members of the National Guard receive pay during the government shutdown. Loebsack also joined World War II and Korean War veterans participating in a Quad Cities Honor Flight at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, which has been largely shuttered but now reopened to veterans during the government shutdown. In addition, Loebsack has cosponsored legislation to cut Members of Congress' pay for every day that the government is shut down and has asked that his own pay be withheld for every day that the shutdown lasts.

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