

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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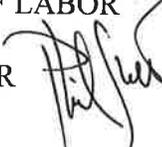
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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** LINDSAY KURRELE, COMMISSIONER  
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**FROM:** PHILIP B. SCOTT, GOVERNOR 

**SUBJECT:** UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

**DATE:** JANUARY 21, 2019

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### Purpose

Legislative leaders and I would like the Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL) to offer all affected federal employees the option of unemployment insurance compensation, due to the extended federal shutdown.

As you know, federal employees designated as non-essential have been furloughed and are not receiving pay. They are currently eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Those federal workers who are deemed essential, however, are required to work during the shutdown without collecting wages for an indefinite period. Both classifications of federal employees have been guaranteed retroactive payment of their back wages by an act of Congress that has been signed into law by the President.

Legislative leaders and I agree that Vermont can, and should, offer unemployment insurance benefits to the essential employees being required to work without pay as well. The impact and hardship of a month, and counting, without pay is making it difficult for some to put food on their tables and gas in their cars. This is a matter of commonsense and compassion, and I would like you to move as quickly as possible to carry out the following directions:

## Directives

1. Provide “excepted” federal workers, effectively immediately, the same unemployment compensation benefits available to furloughed federal workers.
2. Initiate an emergency rulemaking and work with legislative leaders to introduce legislation to clarify State law as necessary.

Finally, I appreciate the collaboration of Vermont’s legislative leaders on this matter and ask that VDOL continue to keep them informed.

I am also grateful for all the work you and your team have done and will do to help solve this problem.

Together, we’re doing our part and putting doing what’s right ahead of the divisive and destructive political posturing we’re seeing in Washington, DC.

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