



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20009 | (202) 986-2400 | Telefax (202) 986-2513

Statement of Support for Members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated Affected by Federal Government Shutdown

Greetings Sorors:

Our country is in the midst of a work stoppage crisis of epic proportions... the longest shut-down of the Federal Government in history. As of January 17, 2019, there are over 800,000 federal government employees and contractors from across the country who have not been paid since December 22, 2018. A number of those affected are members of our beloved sisterhood.

Although this is a “partial” shutdown, this action taken due to an impasse between our United States Congress and the Executive Office has caused not only frustration, but also a tremendous amount of stress and anxiety to those who will miss two paychecks after this week. Furthermore, services to our nation’s most vulnerable citizens, along with benefits and resources for those who risk their lives daily to protect this country, have also been impacted by this shutdown. Businesses who serve the government are also affected and may be forced to lay off employees or even close their doors the longer this shutdown continues. In addition, the economic impact of this shutdown especially in the birthplace of our sisterhood, Washington, D.C., and its surrounding communities – where the headquarters of most government agencies reside – could turn catastrophic if an agreement is not reached soon. This shutdown has had a domino effect on everyone, not just furloughed employees.

Our nation’s leadership must think about the families that this partial shutdown is affecting, and find a way to break this impasse, negotiate and allow these employees to get back to work, and most importantly to get paid. Lives are hanging in the balance all across this country. Congress and the Executive Office must act NOW.

Sorors, I am asking leaders of chapters to do the following to support our sisters who may be affected by this furlough: Please discreetly contact those sorors and offer moral, spiritual and financial support if resources exist. Also, if you have any recommendations for available resource materials and/or services that can help them to sustain their household during this trying time, please share that information. We are our sister’s keeper. We want every member of your chapter or members-at-large living in your service area who are furloughed to know that we are a loving and caring sisterhood, and we are here to provide support and assistance, if needed.

Finally, I am sure that most of you know persons within our ranks, our families and our communities who work for the Federal Government. My sorors, let’s keep ALL of the people that work for the Federal Government, those we may know and may not know, in continuous prayer. We should also pray for our nation, the leaders of this country – especially those who are a part of our ranks – and our sisters who are affected by this crisis.

With Joy in our Sisterhood, Power in Our Voice, Service in Our Heart...

Sisterly,

Beverly E. Smith

Beverly E. Smith
National President & CEO