

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Margaret Weichert
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management
1900 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Directors Mulvaney and Weichert:

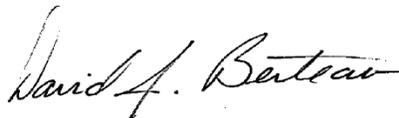
On behalf of the nearly 400 member companies of the Professional Services Council, I am writing to request that you issue immediate guidance to ensure that federal contractor employees do not have their security clearances jeopardized as a result of the government shutdown. It is our understanding that your Offices may be working to address this critical issue for certain government employees, and we respectfully request that any guidance issued specifically extends these remedial actions to federal contractor employees as well.

Tens of thousands of workers who support the government through contracts are currently losing their work and/or their pay. These include contractor employees in the departments of Justice, Homeland Security and other federal agencies, such as NASA, that are not receiving scheduled paychecks and who may hold security clearances. An employee's inability to cover their current bills could lead to changes in rent, mortgage, or credit card payments (or other debts) in accounts now monitored—or accounts that will be reviewed and considered—by adjudicators for security clearance determinations.

There is also an issue of immediacy during the current lapse in appropriations that was not present in previous shutdowns; more individuals are now participating in continuous evaluation programs. These individuals may have credit score changes or debt issues flagged immediately by the government, not in the months or years to come when the individual would be scheduled to undergo a periodic reinvestigation. Absent clear and public guidance by your Offices, these employees' access to the information required to do the jobs the government has contracted for—and therefore the national security missions they are supporting—may be in jeopardy. Action is needed now.

I greatly appreciate your time and attention. PSC stands ready to support you in this effort and would be happy to assist in the drafting of guidance.

Yours respectfully,



David J. Berteau
President & CEO

CC: Russell Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget