



FISE Fights Back: October 23, 2025

Read on for important information about the federal government shutdown and other important updates.

AFT Joins Litigation to Protect FISE Members from RIFs During Shutdown

Last night, AFT, our national union, joined a lawsuit to protect FISE members from being illegally RIFed during the government shutdown. FISE members are now protected by court order from RIFs during the shutdown. [The case is AFGE v. OMB, 3:25-cv-08302 \(N.D. Cal.\)](#). You can read the AFT's Press Release about joining the case [here](#). You read more reporting on this case [here](#).

Several days ago, the AFT learned that the Administration had a plan to engage in widespread RIFs at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and determined to seek to enter the case and protect FISE members from this threat. **The judge in this case has issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against further RIFs during the shutdown.**

Background & Next Steps

AFT determined to enter the case after the Administration took action on October 10th to illegally RIF approximately 4200 federal employees and union counsel became aware of a plan to engage in widespread RIFs at the Department of the Interior (DOI). **This plan represents an imminent threat to employees in DOI agencies, and AFT President Randi Weingarten took action in order to protect FISE members from the threat**

This litigation is moving very fast. There is a hearing scheduled for Oct 28 concerning plaintiffs Motion for Preliminary Injunction (PI). It is likely the government will oppose all the plaintiffs' motions, including the AFT's entry into the case. **We will share more updates as soon as we can.**

Key Shutdown Information

You can find information pertaining to the shutdown on the [AFT Government Shutdown Watch page](#).

Articles of Interest

- [Federal Worker Unions Hold Press Conference Demanding an End to Government Shutdown](#). Leaders from AFGE, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and other federal worker unions and labor allies gathered for a press conference on Wednesday calling on President Trump and members of Congress to reach a deal that will fund the government and end the shutdown.
- [State Resources for Shutdown-Impacted Federal Employees and Contractors](#). The AFL-CIO has published a page with state and national resources, background and research and a short list of pending legislation relevant to federal workers and contractors.

You are receiving this update at your personal email address as a member of the FISE bargaining unit. Federal workers and our unions under attack by this anti-worker administration, and FISE is adapting to the changing national landscape. **We can not sit on the sidelines.**

If members you work with are NOT receiving this communication, please encourage them to email Jackie Spencer to give her their personal email address. JSpencer@fise-aft.org We strengthen our union work by expanding our solidarity, and organizing a strong membership across the country, in the 26 states where our members work and live.

Please contact us in Albuquerque with questions or concerns. We will continue to update our website with news and will email you regularly as things unfold.

In Solidarity,

Sue Parton, FISE President

Jim Gertner, FISE Secretary Treasurer

Christina Bennett, FISE BIA Representative

Cameron Johnson, FISE BIE Representative

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